

MINUTES

TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, August 21, 2024

VIRTUAL MEETING

Members:

Phillip Graham	City of Concord
Phil Collins	Cabarrus County
Ed Muire	Rowan County & Town of Cleveland
Sean Epperson	NCDOT Div. 10
Fred Haith	NCDOT Div. 9
Teresa Barringer	Town of China Grove
Wendy Brindle	City of Salisbury
Craig Thomas	Town of Midland
Erin Burris	Town of Mt. Pleasant
Richard Smith	City of Kannapolis
Jason Hord	Town of Granite Quarry
Michael Ambrose	Town of Landis
Mallory Hodgson	Town of Harrisburg
Steve Blount	Town of Spencer
Chris Renfro	Town of Rockwell

Others:

Phil Conrad	CRMPO Director
Connie Cunningham	MPO Staff
Wendy Miller	MPO Staff
Scott Miller	NCDOT Div10
Emily Stupka	NCDOT TPD
Phillip Craver	NCDOT Div 9
Andy Christy	RIDER Transit
John Rhyne	NCDOT Div 9
Andy Bailey	NCDOT TPD
Brian Murphy	NCDOT
Loretta Barren	FHWA
Neda Fahim	NCDOT
Franklin Gover	Town of China Grove

The August 21, 2024 virtual meeting of the Cabarrus Rowan MPO TCC to order by TCC Chairman Ed Muire. TCC Chairman Muire called the roll of eligible TCC members and it was determined that a quorum had been met. TCC Chair Muire then asked if there were any adjustments to the meeting agenda. By consensus the members approved the agenda with no adjustments.

TCC Chair Muire continued by asking if there were any speakers from the floor. With no speakers being heard, TCC Chair Muire moved to the next item of business. CRMPO Director Phil Conrad welcomed the members in attendance and thanked them for attending.

Approval of Minutes

TCC Chair Muire called the members' attention to the minutes of the June 19, 2024 TCC meeting included in their packets. Chairman Muire asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes. Chairman Muire called attention to page 8 in the meeting packet and pointed out that a correction needed to be made in the year 2021 to 2024. With no additional corrections or additions heard, Chairman Muire made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Mr. Richard Smith seconded that motion and the TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

FY 2024-2033 MTIP Modification #6

Mrs. Wendy Miller, CRMPO Staff Planner reminded the TCC members that the CRMPO staff regularly brings amendments or modifications from recent NCDOT Board of Transportation agendas to the TCC/TAC for consideration. She explained that this modification was as a result of the July and August 2024 Board meetings. The first project modifications are statewide project additions: M0426-DIV, M-0426REG, M-0426SW, M-0460, M-0478, and M-0480. The second project modification is the cost increase for the Clarke Creek Greenway (BL-0060). The third project modification is the cost increase for the US 601/Flowe Store Road intersection project (C-5603I). The fourth project is to delay construction to FY 26 for the Morehead Road access management improvements (HL-0062). The fifth project is to delay construction to FY 26 for the Caldwell Road improvements (HL-0063). The sixth project is to add a project break for the Old Concord Road/Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue intersection project (HS-2409B). The seventh project is to add a project break for the Concord Parkway/Bruton Smith Boulevard intersection project (HS-2410D). The eighth project is to delay construction to FY 25 for the Old Concord Road sidewalk project (C-5603D). The ninth project is to delay right-of-way to FY 25 for the Bethpage Road sidewalk project (C-5603F). The tenth project is to increase the cost for the track improvements and pedestrian underpass Kannapolis Train Station (P-5725). The eleventh project is to delay construction to FY 28 for the NC 73 widening west of the county line (R-5706A). The twelfth and final project is to change funding source for the Poplar Tent Road widening from east of I-85 to Poplar Tent Road (U-3415A). Attachment 3 is a resolution modifying the MTIP for these projects. After she completed the review of the projects Mrs. Miller reported that the new STIP became effective on October 1, 2023.

Chairman Muire asked Mrs. Miller if all jurisdictions were aware of these changes to their projects and she stated they were all aware. Mr. Phillip Graham added that the changes to the Poplar Tent Road projects would allow for federal funding to be used as well. He asked NCDOT Division 10 representative Mr. Sean Epperson if this change would move the schedule forward for the project and Mr. Epperson responded that it would not.

With no further discussion or comments, Mr. Phillip Graham made a motion to recommend that the CRMPO TAC consider endorsing modification #6 to the FY 2024-2033 MTIP. Mrs. Wendy Brindle seconded that motion and the TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

TIP Priority Project STI Results

CRMPO Director reported to the TCC members that NCDOT has applied their methodology to rank transportation projects across the state and reported what funds are available for the next STIP. Director Conrad went on to state that the quantitative scores were recently released for all P7.0 projects in NC. NCDOT will incorporate the quantitative scores with the CRMPO input points and Division Engineer rankings/points to initiate the development of the FY 2026- 2035 TIP.

Director Conrad called members' attention to Attachment 4 which were the results for the top highway, aviation, rail, and sidewalk/greenway projects in the CRMPO area. He went on to say that CRMPO staff has applied the local methodology and provided options for allocating points to projects in the regional and division tiers which were released for public comment in June 2024.

Director Conrad reviewed and explained the point assignments with the members. Spreadsheets with the information was provided in the meeting packets. He concluded by telling members there is an August 30, 2024 deadline for final submittal. With no questions or comments and by

consensus, the CRMPO TCC members recommended that the CRMPO TAC consider endorsing the regional and division tier point assignment portion of the TIP Priority Project List.

TIP Priority Project Existing and Committed Projects

CRMPO Director Conrad called upon Mr. Sean Epperson, NCDOT Division 10 and Mr. John Rhyne, NCDOT Division 9 to explain this item. Mr. Epperson reported that the NCDOT-STIP Unit is seeking input from MPOs and NCDOT Divisions on priorities of existing and committed projects in the development of the 2026-2035 STIP. Existing and committed projects have previously been selected for funding in the current 2024-2033 STIP through NCDOT Prioritization 3.0 (P3.0; 2015), P4.0 (2017) or Prioritization 5.0 (2019) processes. He went on to say that the input will be used to assist the STIP Unit when adjusting schedules to meet federal and state fiscal constraint requirements.

He explained that the STIP Unit will use the Seniority Approach as the initial ranking of priorities for the Regional Impact and Division Needs STI funding categories. The Seniority Approach was recommended by the NCDOT Prioritization Workgroup and MPOs must submit any revisions to the rankings by August 30th. Mr. Epperson reviewed the Division 10 projects included in Attachment 5B. Mr. Rhyne reiterated the information about the need for this feedback and then proceeded to explain the Division 9 projects from Attachment 5B.

Director Conrad explained that the CRMPO staff is recommending changes in the Division tier (9 and 10) for only 2 projects. Director Conrad stated that the CRMPO would like to move the Division 9 Airport Parkway project to the top of the list. He then requested that the Poplar Tent Road widening and the Bruton Smith Blvd sidewalk project be moved to the top of the Division 10 list. Director Conrad closed by stating the CRMPO is asking NCDOT to take their recommendations on these projects.

Mr. Phillip Graham questioned Mr. Epperson on the status of the Union Cemetery Road project. Mr. Epperson said that this project is moving forward regardless of the funding situation because of the economic development interests. Director Conrad then called attention to an email on this process which was included as attachment 5A.

TCC Chairman Muire concluded by reaffirming that the information provided on page 26 of the packet had no changes and pages 27 and 28 did have changes made. Director Conrad confirmed that this statement was correct. With no additional questions or comments, Mr. Phillip Graham made a motion to recommend that the CRMPO TAC consider endorsing the existing and committed project priority order with the revisions requested by staff. Mr. Richard Smith seconded the motion and the CRMPO TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

CTP Amendment

Director Conrad reported to the TCC members that the Town of China Grove would like to add a new interchange at Mt. Hope Church Road to the CRMPO's CTP. Director Conrad explained that this addition would be in advance of P8.0 and the scoring for the NC 152 Bypass (H090764). He stated that the MPO is currently in the middle of P7.0 to update the STIP. A map showing the location is included as attachment 6A and a resolution amending the CTP is included as attachment 6B.

At this point, Mr. Franklin Gover connected to the meeting and reiterated what Director Conrad had presented. Mrs. Teresa Barringer also added that the Town of China Grove has seen a lot of growth in the area.

With no questions or comments heard, Mr. Franklin Gover made a motion to recommend that the CRMPO TAC consider adopting the CTP amendment as presented. Mr. Steve Blount seconded that motion and the TCC members followed with an unanimous vote of approval.

RIDER Transit System Program of Projects (POP)

Director Phil Conrad reminded the TCC members that the RIDER Transit System's Program of Projects is a list of proposed FTA grant requests to support the operations of RIDER Transit in Fiscal Year 2025. As in the past, RIDER Transit has elected to use the CRMPO's Public Involvement procedures to process this annual requirement. Phil reported that Attachment 7 is the POP. Mr. Andy Christy with the RIDER Transit System was on the call to answer any questions that anyone might have.

With no questions or comments heard, Mr. Phillip Graham made a motion to recommend that the CRMPO TAC consider releasing the RIDER Transit System's POP. Mrs. Teresa Barringer seconded that motion and the CRMPO TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

RIDER Transit System Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan

Director Conrad explained that the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) final rule (49 C.F.R. Part 673) requires certain operators of public transportation systems that are recipients or subrecipients of FTA grant funds to develop safety plans that include the processes and procedures necessary for implementing Safety Management Systems (SMS).

Mr. Andy Christy reported to the members that on 12/16/2019, Concord Kannapolis Area Transit/City of Concord notified NCDOT that they would not be drafting and certifying it's own Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan, choosing to draft and certify their Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan under NCDOT's framework and requirements as they are allowed by FTA to do as a small (less than 100 bus) public transportation provider.

The document will be approved by the Concord Kannapolis Area Transit Commission on August 22, 2024 and will go to the Concord City Council for approval following action by the CR MPO. A request for approval by the NCDOT is the last step prior to final certification. The PTASP (309 pages) can be found at: www.ckrider.com/resources/documents/. Director Phil Conrad added that these are administrative changes and Mr. Christy added there was a section on Operator Injury included.

With no comments or discussion heard, Mr. Philip Graham made a motion to recommend that the CRMPO TAC consider approving the RIDER Transit System Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan. Mr. Steve Blount seconded that motion and the CRMPO TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

Reports/CRMPO Business

1. Local Reports – MPO/NCDOT Division 9 and 10/PTD- Mr. John Rhyne, NCDOT Division 9 representative reviewed the updated Division 9 project spreadsheet which was included in the meeting packet. He reviewed some of the updates with the TCC members and noted any changes are highlighted on the spreadsheet.

Mr. Sean Epperson , NCDOT Division 10 representative reviewed the spreadsheet of Division 10 project updates and noted some of the ongoing projects in Division 10.

Ms. Emily Stupka, NCDOT TPD referenced the NCDOT newsletter in the TCC packets.

Mr. Alex Rotenberry, NCDOT IMD reminded members that there are quarterly webinars available to them through IMD and he provided the link. He also requested that jurisdictions provide updates on their trails to him. He also reported that the City of Salisbury was awarded a multi-model planning grant.

2. SS4A Planning Study – Director Phil Conrad introduced Mr. Brian Murphy with NCDOT. Mr. Murphy provided a power point presentation to the TCC members and explained the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan and funding opportunities. There were no questions when the presentation was concluded. Phil Conrad noted that he would followup with an email to the membership.

3. CMAQ Priority Submittal and Funding Request - Director Conrad called members' attention to an email from Heather Hildebrandt with NCDOT regarding CMAQ awards and future funding. He explained the funding information and requested that due to the time of day that this item be carried forward to a future meeting. There were some issues with members microphones. This item was subsequently addressed through email following the meeting.

4. Special Studies Update Town of China Grove - Director Conrad reminded the TCC members that this project is for the Highway 152 Corridor Study. Mrs. Teresa Barringer reported to the members that the study is still progressing nicely.

5. FY25 Special Studies – Director Conrad reported to members that requests have been made to jurisdictions to submit Special Studies projects but none have been received to date. He referenced a scope of work for the 2055 MTP Update and an example from the Winston-Salem/Forsyth MPO.

6. FY25 Bike and Ped Demonstration Planning Studies – Director Conrad reported that new projects can now be submitted for consideration. He indicated that the Town of Cleveland has expressed interest. The Town of Rockwell subsequently has indicated a desire to participate following the TCC meeting.

7. TCC Survey Results – Director Conrad reviewed the results of the survey from the TCC members regarding returning to in person meetings. After discussion, Mr. Phillip Graham made a motion to hold the October 16, 2024 meeting of the CRMPO TCC in person at

Kannapolis City Hall. Mr. Richard Smith seconded that motion and the TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

Informational Items

Director Conrad highlighted the following informational items included in the TCC packets:

RIDER Transit, Salisbury Transit and MTC Ridership
Western NC Rail Study Funding Request

Next scheduled meeting: September 18, 2024

With no further business to discuss, TCC Chair Muire made a motion to adjourn the meeting and by consensus the meeting was adjourned.