

MINUTES

TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

VIRTUAL MEETING

Members:

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

Others:

Phil Conrad	CRMPO Director
Connie Cunningham	MPO Staff
Loretta Barren	FHWA
Phillip Craver	NCDOT Div 9
Sean Epperson	NCDOT Div 10
Emily Stupka	NCDOT TPD
Alex Rotenberry	NCDOT IMD
Pate Butler	NCDOT TSU
Wendy Miller	MPO Staff
Brian Murphy	NCDOT TSS
Neda Fahim	NCDOT
Andy Bailey	NCDOT TPD
Andy Christy	RIDER Transit
Scott Miller	NCDOT Div10
Phil Collins	Cabarrus Co
Blake Bush	HDR
Jeffrey Dale	Kimley-Horn
Nat Heyward	Kimley-Horn
Andrew Babbs	Bolton & Menk
Natasha Henderson	NCDOT TSU

TCC Chairman Ed Muire called the January 17, 2024 meeting of the Cabarrus Rowan MPO TCC to order at approximately 10:00 am. Chairman Muire called the roll of eligible TCC members and determined that a quorum was met. Chairman Muire then asked if there were any adjustments to the meeting agenda. CRMPO Director Phil Conrad suggested that since so many new members and guests were present, an introduction of those present might be necessary. Chairman Muire agreed and those present went around the virtual table introducing themselves.

Chairman Muire continued by asking if there were any speakers from the floor. With no speakers being heard, TCC Chairman Muire moved to the next item of business. At that time TCC Chairman Muire asked if other member jurisdictions present would like to discuss returning to in person meetings. By consensus it was determined that this item would be discussed at the next CRMPO TCC meeting.

Approval of Minutes

TCC Chairman Muire called the members' attention to the minutes of the October 18, 2023 TCC meeting included in their meeting packets. TCC Chairman Muire asked if there were any

corrections or additions to the minutes. With no corrections or additions heard, Mr. Phillip Graham made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mrs. Susie Morris seconded the motion and the TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

Nomination and Election of TCC Vice-Chair

CRMPO Executive Director Phil Conrad reported that the Cabarrus Rowan MPO TCC Bylaws state that a new TCC Vice-Chair must be elected each year. Phil reported that the Vice-Chair will rotate to the Chair position in January 2025. He stated that the TCC would need to nominate and elect a Vice-Chair from Cabarrus County at today's meeting since the current Chair was from Rowan County. After discussion, Mrs. Wendy Brindle nominated Mrs. Susie Morris to become the 2024 Vice Chair of the CRMPO TCC. Mr. Phillip Graham made a motion to close the nominations and TCC Chairman Ed Muire seconded that motion. The TCC members voted unanimously to approve Mrs. Morris to the position.

FY 2024-2033 MTIP Modification #2

Mrs. Wendy Miller, CRMPO Staff Planner, explained to the TCC members that MPO staff typically brings amendments or modifications from recent NCDOT Board of Transportation agendas to the TCC/TAC for consideration.

The first project modifications she explained, are statewide project additions: ER5600, M-0563D, M-0563E, TC-0031, TC-0033, HS-2015DIV, HS-2015-REG, HS2015SW, M0552-ADIV, M0552-AREG, M0552-ASW, M0552-BDIV, M0552- BREG, M0552-BSW, M0553-ADIV, M0553-AREG, M0553-ASW, M0553-BDIV, M0553-BREG, and M0553-BSW. The second project modification is the delay of construction to FY 24 for the Old Concord Road sidewalk project (C-5603D). The third project modification is to delay construction to FY 24 for the Brenner Avenue intersection project (C-5603H). The fourth project modification is to accelerate construction to FY 24 for the RCI at NC 24/27 and Pine Bluff Road (HS-2010F). The fifth project modification is to delay construction to FY 27 for the NC 73 widening west of the county line (R-5706A). The sixth project modification is to add a project break for the Henderson Grove Church Road railroad crossing project (Y-5500AI). The seventh project modification is to delete the East Fisher Street bridge project at the request of the City of Salisbury (HM-0001). The eighth project is to add construction in FY 24 for the Division 10 ADA intersection improvements (R-5790). The ninth project is to delay right-of-way to FY 25 for the Jake Alexander Blvd sidewalk (BL-0034). The tenth project is to delay construction to FY 25 for the track improvements, pedestrian underpass, and second platform at the Kannapolis Amtrak Station (P-5725). The eleventh project is to delay construction to FY 25 for the second platform and pedestrian underpass at the Salisbury Amtrak Station (P-5726A). The twelfth project is to add preliminary engineering for the Division 9 ADA intersection improvements (BO-2409). The thirteenth project is to add preliminary engineering for the Division 10 ADA intersection improvements (BO-2410). The fourteenth project is to delay construction to FY 27 for the Bruton Smith Blvd sidewalk project (EB5732). The fifteenth project is to delay construction to FY 31 for the George Liles Pkwy extension (R-2246A). The sixteenth project is to delay construction to FY 29 for the Poplar Tent Road widening (U-3415A). The seventeenth project is to delay construction to FY 26 for the Union Cemetery Road realignment (U-5956). The eighteenth and final project is to delay construction to FY 27 for the Derita Road widening (U-6032).

CRMPO Staff Planner Miller called members' attention to Attachment 4 included in their packet which was a draft resolution modifying the MTIP for these projects. She closed by stating the new STIP was effective October 1, 2023.

TCC Chairman Ed Muire asked Staff Planner Miller how modifications are determined and how are they funneled down to the CRMPO TCC and TAC. CRMPO Director Phil Conrad reported that the modifications are provided to the CRMPO by NCDOT who has reviewed them with the NCDOT Board of Transportation. Mrs. Wendy Brindle from the City of Salisbury reported that her group meets with NCDOT frequently to stay current with their respective local administered projects. Mr. Theo Ghiea, NCDOT Division 10 reported that they currently are providing a lot of communications between all jurisdictions on project changes. Chairman Muire reported that he had some concerns and questions about project Y-5500AI. His opinion was that more information should be provided to the group before it is approved. Mr. Phillip Craver said he would get more information and provide it to Chairman Muire.

With no further questions or comments, TCC Chairman Muire made a motion to recommend that the CRMPO TAC consider endorsing modification #2 with the omission of project Y-5500AI from the FY 2024-2033 MTIP. Mr. Richard Smith seconded the motion and the TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

RIDER Transit Program of Projects

CRMPO Staff Planner Wendy Miller reminded the TCC members that the RIDER Transit System's Program of Projects (POP) is a list of proposed FTA grant requests to support the operations of Rider Transit in Fiscal Year 2024. She went on to state that RIDER Transit has elected to use the CRMPO Public Involvement procedures to process their annual requirement. Staff Planner Miller called members' attention to Attachment 5 in their packets which was a copy of the POP.

After Staff Planner Miller reviewed the attachment for members, she asked for any comments or questions. With none being heard, Mr. Phillip Graham made a motion to recommend that the CRMPO TAC consider adopting the RIDER Transit POP as presented. Mrs. Susie Morris seconded that motion and the TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

Performance Based Planning: Safety Targets

CRMPO Staff Planner Wendy Miller reported to the TCC members that the federal transportation legislation requires that State DOTs and MPOs adopt performance-based planning as a component of the metropolitan transportation planning process. She continued by stating that NCDOT has released the next round of safety targets for North Carolina and it is up to each MPO to either adopt these targets or devise their own targets. The proposed safety targets were published on the MPO's website and advertised for public comment.

Staff Planner Miller called members' attention to Attachment 6 which was a draft resolution in support of the new safety targets for 2024. After review, Staff Planner Miller asked for any questions or comments. TCC Chair Muire asked if the group was being asked to adopt something that would be administered by NCDOT. Mr. Andy Bailey with

NCDOT TPD responded to the question and stated yes, because the state has the data at their disposal. With no other questions or comments heard, Mr. Phillip Graham made a motion to recommend that the CRMPO TAC consider adopting the Safety Targets as presented. Mr. Steve Blount seconded that motion and the TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

2024 Draft Local Priority Methodology

CRMPO Director Conrad reported to the TCC members that NCDOT staff has indicated that Session Law 2012-84 requires the Department to develop a process for standardizing or approving MPO local input methodology. He went on to say that given recent changes in the way that points can be flexed between tiers. CRMPO staff will submit a draft of the Cabarrus-Rowan local input methodology to NCDOT for content review. After the content review, the NCDOT staff will grant conditional approval to the CRMPO's methodology subject to public input and CRMPO Board approval. Director Conrad called members' attention to Attachment #7 which was the local priority methodology and he reviewed it with the members.

Director Conrad asked for any questions or comments. TCC Chair Muire asked if there were any changes to the methodology. Director Conrad replied that there were no changes in the methodology but that there are some updates to the schedule. He continued by stating that he has submitted the methodology to NCDOT for comment but has heard nothing back so far.

With no additional questions or comments, Mrs. Susie Morris made a motion to recommend that the CRMPO TAC consider releasing the 2024 Draft Local Priority Methodology for public comment. Mrs. Wendy Brindle seconded the motion and the TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

FY 2024-2025 DRAFT UPWP

CRMPO Director Phil Conrad reminded the TCC members that each year the Cabarrus-Rowan MPO develops and adopts a unified planning work program (UPWP). The UPWP is the CRMPO's budget and follows the state fiscal year 2024-2025. Director Conrad called members attention to Attachment 8 in their meeting packet which was the *Draft* budget. Director Conrad explained the UPWP identifies the planning tasks, responsible agencies, and funding sources for regional transportation planning activities to be conducted within the planning area during the next fiscal year. These projects include CRMPO planning activities undertaken by local agencies, the N.C. Department of Transportation, and a line item for Regional Model and MTP Maintenance. Director Conrad closed by stating that in the fall of 2023, NCDOT indicated that the allocation in FY 25 to the CRMPO is \$471,775.

At this time, Mr. Alex Rotenberry addressed Director Conrad and made a request to make a correction to page 52 of the meeting packet to correct the acronym to IMD. Mr. Rotenberry also reported to the TCC members that information is available for Complete Streets projects if interested. Mrs. Loretta Barren also questioned the Federal Highway Administration funding on Attachment #8. Director Conrad replied that NCDOT provided the funding table and amounts in the table.

With no further questions or comments being heard Director Conrad moved on to the next item of business.

Functional Classification System Request

Director Conrad reported to the TCC members that functional classification is the process by which streets and highways are grouped into classes, or systems according to the character of service they are intended to provide. Director Conrad stated that as a general rule, highways fall into one of four broad categories: principal arterials, minor arterials, collector roads, and local roads and are based on whether the area is urban or rural. At this time Director Conrad called upon Mrs. Wendy Brindle to continue with the presentation. Mrs. Brindle with the City of Salisbury explained that it has been determined that the segment of Julian Road between US 601/Jake Alexander Blvd and I-85 at Exit 75 should be designated as a major collector in the federal functional classification system. Mrs. Brindle explained the need for the reclassification and then called members' attention to Attachment #9 in their packets. The attachment was a draft resolution in support of the proposed functional classification system change.

At that time, Mrs. Loretta Barren, FHWA questioned whether the reclassification was to a Major Collector or a Major Thoroughfare. Mr. Andy Bailey replied that it should be a Major Collector. With no further questions or comments, Mrs. Wendy Brindle made a motion to recommend that the CRMPO TAC consider adopting the proposed Functional Classification System change to Julian Road. TCC Chair Ed Muire seconded that motion and the TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

CTP Amendment

Mr. Steve Blount with the Town of Spencer reported to members that the Town would like to add a connection between Long Ferry Road and Hackett Street as a proposed minor thoroughfare to the CRMPO's Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP). Mr. Blount explained that the Town has already incorporated this connection as part of their locally adopted plans. Mr. Blount went on to call members' attention to Attachment 10 in their meeting packets which included a map of the area and a *Draft resolution for their review*.

Director Conrad reported to the members that the CRMPO's CTP was last amended in October 2021. A map and resolution for this new amendment was included as attachment 10. Mr. Andy Bailey asked if the road is a network road or local road to which Mr. Blount replied it is a network road. Mr. Bailey reminded CRMPO Staff that the road would also need to be added to the NCDOT CTP maps as well.

With no further questions or discussion, Mr. Steve Blount made a motion to recommend that the CRMPO TAC consider adopting the CTP amendment. Mr. Richard Smith seconded the motion and the TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

Reports/CRMPO Business

1. Local Reports – MPO/NCDOT Division 9 and 10/PTD- Mr. Phillip Craver, NCDOT Division 9 representative reported to TCC members that the updates spreadsheet was

included in today's meeting packet. He highlighted project B-4626 a bridge replacement 50% complete, U-5738 which was a project on Julian Road that is 50% complete and a project on Hannah Ferry Road which is 25% complete.

Mr. Theo Ghitea , NCDOT Division 10 representative called the TCC members' attention to a spreadsheet of Division 10 project updates and highlighted some of the ongoing projects in Division 10. His first highlight was in regard to NC 3 widening project. Mr. Ghitea reported that the crews were waiting for better weather to resume work. He also provided an update on the Rogers Lake Road Bridge project and the NC 73 bridge replacement in Mt. Pleasant.

Ms. Emily Stupka with NCDOT TPD reported that free bicycle helmets are available through NCDOT Bike and Ped Division. She also provided information on the Traffic Survey and Traffic Counts including a new mobile software called Traffic Viewer.

2. Regional ITS Study Update – Director Phil Conrad reported to the TCC members on the Regional ITS Study currently being done by Kimley-Horn. Mr. Jeff Dale with Kimley-Horn called members' attention to page 61 in their packets and reviewed the information for the members. Director Conrad thanked NCDOT-TPD for funding the study to update the regional plan. Phil also recognized Natasha Henderson with NCDOT's Senior Traffic Operations Engineer for her work on the project.

3. Bike and Ped Demonstration Planning Studies - Mr. Nat Heyward with Kimley-Horn addressed the TCC members and provided information on the Town of Landis Kimbal Road project and the Town of Faith's Main Street section between Brown Street and School Street.

4. CMAQ Program Update and Awards – Director Phil Conrad reported to the members that the CRMPO submitted six eligible CMAQ projects and are waiting to see which ones were awarded funding later this month.

5. Special Study Update – Town of China Grove - Mrs. Teresa Barringer with the Town of China Grove reported to the TCC members' that their project is in the consultant selection phase.

6. Pennies for Progress – Union County - CRMPO Director Phil Conrad called members' attention to information included in their packet on Union County's Critical Intersection Analysis Report. Director Conrad stated this was being brought to them as information. Mrs. Susie Morris asked if the CRMPO should adopt a similar list for future funding or grant opportunities. By consensus it was decided to discuss this topic at a subcommittee meeting.

7. 2020 Census Smoothed Planning Boundary – Director Conrad directed members to boundary map included in their packets. He stated that the map has now been updated with the UZA information. Director Conrad stated that the corrected map would need to be brought back before the CRMPO TAC before adoption. With no further discussion Mrs. Susie Morris made a motion to bring the corrected map back to the CRMPO TAC for their approval. Mr. Phillip Graham seconded the motion and the TCC members voted unanimously to approve.

8. 2055 TAZ Level Forecasts- Director Conrad reported to the members' that work has begun and will be completed by the deadline of June 30, 2024.

Informational Items

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

RIDER Transit, Salisbury Transit and MTC Ridership
CRAFT Meeting Minutes
NC MPO Conference April 17-19
2024 Meeting Calendar

Next scheduled meeting: February 21, 2024

With no further business to discuss, TCC Chairman Ed Muire thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting.