

**CRTPO TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE**  
**Summary Meeting Minutes**  
**Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center**  
**Room 267**  
**July 10, 2014**

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**Voting Members:** *Acting TCC Chair* - Bill Coxe (Huntersville), Norm Steinman – alt for Danny Pleasant (CDOT), Jonathan Wells - alt for Debra Campbell (C-M Planning), Andrew Grant (Cornelius), Adam McLamb – alt for Scott Kaufhold (Indian Trail), Andrew Ventresca (Iredell County), Erika Martin (Troutman), Ralph Messera (Matthews), John Rose – alt for David McDonald (CATS), Jim Loyd – alt for Lisa Stiwinter (Monroe), Kelsie Anderson ( Mooresville), Megan Green (Mecklenburg County – LUESA Air Quality), Louis Mitchell (NCDOT – Div. 10) David Keilson – alt for Reuben Chandler (NCDOT-Div. 12), Anil Panicker (NCDOT-TPB), Sherry Ashley – alt for Phil Collins (Statesville), Ken Tippet (Bicycle Focus Area Representative), Lynne Hair (Stallings)

**Staff:** Robert Cook (CRTPO), Curtis Bridges (CRTPO), Neil Burke (CRTPO), Loretta Barren (FHWA), Scott Cole (NCDOT-Div. 10) Stuart Basham (NCDOT – Div. 10), Patrick Norman (NCDOT – Div. 12), Geoff Sloop (NCDOT) Tim Gibbs (CDOT), James Lim (NCDOT-Public Transportation), Bjorn Hansen (Centralina COG), Andy Grzyski (CDOT), Jeff Derwort (Monroe)

**Guests:** Carl Gibilaro (Atkins), Todd Steiss (PB), Bill Thunberg (LNTC), David Wiggins (Steele Creek Residents Association); Meg Fencil (Sustain Charlotte)

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In absence of the TCC Chair and Vice Chair, Bill Coxe presided over the meeting. Mr. Coxe opened the meeting at 10:03 AM. TCC members and guests introduced themselves.

**1. Adoption of the Agenda**

Mr. Coxe asked if any changes to the agenda were necessary. Hearing none, the July agenda was adopted by acclamation. Mr. Coxe indicated that the TIP amendments that were proposed for the consent agenda will be shifted to the first business item to allow for discussion.

**2. Consideration of June Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Coxe asked if any changes to the minutes were necessary. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the June TCC meeting. Erika Martin made a motion to approve the June TCC meeting minutes. Sherry Ashley seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**TCC BUSINESS ITEMS**

**2b. TIP Amendments (relocated from the consent agenda)**

Presenter: Bill Coxe

Summary/Action Requested:

Mr. Coxe explained that ten of the TIP amendments were requested by NCDOT, with the second ten TIP amendments requested by project managers of the CRTPO member jurisdictions.

The list of projects can be viewed [here](#). He indicated that most of the TIP amendments were simply to move funding from one fiscal year to another, there was an issue of projects that may affect the designated horizon years in CRTPO's 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The US 21 and Gilead Road Intersection Improvement project and the Northcross Drive Extension have proposed TIP amendments that would extend beyond the December 31, 2015 completion date, which would trigger an amendment to the horizon years in the MTP as well as an air conformity determination. Mr. Coxe mentioned that FHWA will allow CRTPO to amend the MTP to account for the shifts in horizon years for these two projects at a later date; therefore the TIP amendments for the US 21 and Gilead Road Intersection Improvement and Northcross Drive Extension were considered by the TCC along with the other amendments.

Norm Steinman questioned the omission of a NCDOT-initiated TIP amendment to begin planning and environmental study on the I-77 South project from the Brookshire Freeway to the South Carolina State Line. This project was shown as partially funded in NCDOT's draft Statewide Funding Program that was released in May. He also indicated CDOT's desire is to have one, unified planning and environmental study undertaken for the corridor, instead of having the project segmented. Mr. Coxe directed CRTPO staff to inquire with NCDOT regarding the status of the planning and environmental study for the I-77 corridor.

Motion:

Mr. Steinman made a motion to approve the TIP amendments with conditions placed upon the projects that will require an amendment to the MTP. Andrew Grant seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**3a. TIP Amendments and Air Quality Determination**

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/Action Requested:

Mr. Cook indicated that a 30-day public comment period began on May 22, 2014 and ended on June 20, 2014, and no comments were submitted. A public meeting on the TIP Amendments was held on June 12 at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center, and there were no attendees.

Motion:

Andrew Ventresca made a motion to recommend to the MPO that it consider making a conformity determination and approve the TIP amendments for the Baucom Road Extension (U-2507AA) and the I-485/Oakdale Road interchange (R-2248G) projects. Jonathan Wells seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**3b. Strategic Transportation Corridors**

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/Action Requested:

Mr. Cook explained that the TCC is requested to consider endorsing a round of revised comments regarding NCDOT's development of Strategic Transportation Corridors (STCs). A series of minor revisions were made to the document at the July 9 Transportation Staff meeting. The preliminary comments were submitted to NCDOT to meet the deadline with the condition that the final version will be transmitted once the TCC has approved the changes and endorsed the comments.

Mr. Cook indicated that there was uncertainty regarding how the STCs will be used and how this may or

may not impact future rounds of project prioritization. Louis Mitchell mentioned previous NCDOT prioritization efforts did award bonus points to projects along the former Strategic Highway Corridors, but this was not used in Prioritization 3.0. He also indicated that the current NCDOT administration has a broader vision for corridors beyond the traditional vehicular transportation to include additional infrastructure such as utilities.

Motion:

Kelsie Anderson made a motion to endorse the STC comments. Sherry Ashley seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**3c. Regional Freight Mobility Plan Steering Committee**

Presenter: Bjorn Hansen, Centralina COG

Summary/Action Requested:

Mr. Hansen explained that Centralina COG is beginning the process to identify stakeholders for the Regional Freight Mobility Plan. He indicated that one representative from each of the area transportation planning organizations' technical and policy-level boards will be requested to serve on the steering committee. A letter has been mailed to all municipalities with at least 10,000 residents in the region as well as the participating counties to solicit additional stakeholders. Centralina COG will find out the results of the TIGER grant in September, and the planning effort would begin at the beginning of 2015. If Centralina COG receives the TIGER grant, it is anticipated to be a 24-month work effort. The alternative will have greater participation from MPOs and the RPO and will be a shorter work effort by several months. Mr. Hansen indicated that Centralina COG has requested that transportation planning organizations' name steering committee members by the end of August.

Mr. Steinman inquired if the stakeholders are required to have industry knowledge in freight transportation. Mr. Hansen said that there is a multi-tiered approach that Centralina COG is assuming with expertise desired in land use planning and economic development as well as the freight industry.

Mr. Coxe requested that the solicitation of steering committee membership is sent to the membership of this group and appointment of TCC and MPO members is deferred to a Wednesday Transportation Staff meeting for further discussion.

**TCC INFORMATION REPORTS**

**4a. Tolled Corridors Advisory Team**

Presenter: Bill Coxe

Summary:

Mr. Coxe provided an update on the development of the Tolled Corridors Advisory Team. A group of TCC members is developing the framework for the Tolled Corridors Advisory Team, and a request for action is anticipated at the August TCC meeting to formally establish the Team and identify members. There are several proposed tolled facility projects will require the CRTPO to develop new policies, and become actively engaged in project development, and design.

Mr. Coxe explained that this team would be limited to providing technical recommendations because the decision making capabilities are vested within CRTPO, NCDOT, and any financial

partners. A concept of operations document would unify the organization and operations of several tolled corridors within the region, and NCDOT has interest in identifying these principles. Mr. Coxe indicated that possible members of the advisory team could include NC Turnpike Authority staff, NCDOT Divisions and District staff, Private concessionaires, Public Communications team representatives, CRTPO staff, emergency responders, law enforcement, and local jurisdictions in the corridors.

Mr. Hansen inquired if the advisory team would provide technical assistance for tolled facilities proposed on Independence Boulevard, I-485 south in addition to the I-77 HOT lane facility. Mr. Coxe responded to indicate that this advisory team would provide assistance to any proposed tolled facility within the CRTPO planning area.

#### **4b. Tolled Facility Bonus Allocation Subcommittee**

Presenter: Bill Coxe

##### Summary:

Mr. Coxe gave an update on the development of toll facility bonus allocations that can be returned to MPOs in North Carolina that embrace tolling projects. He emphasized that source of the bonus allocation funds are derived from NCDOT's statewide program, and are not toll revenues. He indicated that the subcommittee has recommended that Division Needs and Regional Impact projects receive priority in the ranking of projects because these projects receive the least amount of funding respectively.

Mr. Coxe indicated that the subcommittee does not want the application of bonus allocation funds to count against a facility corridor cap of \$200 million as imposed by the NCDOT STI legislation. Mr. Mitchell explained that he has communicated with the NCDOT-Program Development Branch on this issue, and they do not have a ruling yet to determine if corridor bonus allocations will count towards the corridor cap. Mr. Mitchell also explained that following the financial close of the I-77 HOT lanes project, the Program Development Branch will send CRTPO a letter with the amount of bonus allocation funding available for the corridor, and a series of project timelines that will have to be met to ensure that projects using the bonus allocation funds can be funded in the TIP.

Mr. Steinman inquired if the I-77 corridor cap extents would run from the Virginia to the South Carolina State Line. Mr. Mitchell responded that the corridor cap is applied for the particular NCDOT Division or adjoining Division. Mr. Coxe indicated that the bonus revenue funds may only be spent in the same county as the project.

Mr. Grant asked if the bonus allocations could be used on the I-77 south corridor between Uptown and the South Carolina line. Mr. Steinman responded to indicate that the funds could be spent on the corridor area of impact to include I-77, portions of the Brookshire Freeway included in the project scope, and roadways within a reasonable distance of the project.

Mr. Grant inquired about the limit of bonus allocation funding to be programmed within each STI tier. Scott Cole responded that it is 10% of each Division's five-year allocation can be used for bonus allocation projects. This would cap the five-year Division Needs bonus allocation funds at \$12.5 million and Regional Impact projects at \$48 million, and would be in addition to the STI allocations.

The subcommittee will seek an endorsement of the principles for the tolled facility bonus allocation at the August TCC meeting.

#### **4c. CRTPO NCDOT P3.0 DRAFT Local Input Points Allocation**

Presenter: Neil Burke

##### Summary:

Mr. Burke provided information to the TCC via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes [here](#). The presentation covered the following points:

- The MPO endorsed the draft list of projects proposed for local point assignment, and approved the start of the 30-day public comment period at its June 18 meeting.
- The MPO and NCDOT-SPOT office have approved the amendment to CRTPO's local input point methodology to account for a pro-rata share assignment of points when a project crosses into an adjacent MPO.
- To date, 22 public comment submittals have been received during the public comment period, which will end on Monday, July 21.
  - The majority of the comments that have been received have been supportive of the proposed projects.
- The MPO meeting on July 16 will serve as an opportunity for the public to address the MPO board regarding the proposed allocation of local input points to CRTPO projects.
- The public comments will be presented to the TCC and MPO at the August meetings, along with a request to approve the final assignment of CRTPO's local input points.
- Mr. Burke reviewed the differences in local input assignment between CRTPO and Divisions 10 and 12. Overall, the points assignment matches up favorably, and CRTPO and the Divisions will continue to coordinate to ensure dual points assignment to projects whenever possible.

Mr. Coxe mentioned that members of the TCC have been discussing the appropriateness of assigning CRTPO's local input points to rail projects when the benefit to the public is unclear.

#### **4d. CRTPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee Update**

Presenter: Curtis Bridges

##### Summary:

Mr. Bridges provided information to the TCC via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes [here](#). The presentation covered the following points:

- Staff researched bicycle and pedestrian committee membership, committee tasks, organization, and experiences in peer MPOs throughout North Carolina;
- Staff consulted with local staff, peer MPOs, and NCDOT Bike-Ped Division in developing possible Work Group tasks;
- Informal group of potential committee members have met several times to discuss regional needs and Work Group tasks;
- Bicycle & Pedestrian Work Group would function as advisory committee to the TCC;
- Request for TCC and MPO action at August meetings.

Mr. Steinman inquired about the Transportation Choices Alliance and suggested that the issue of an advocacy group participating on the workgroup should be discussed at an upcoming Transportation Staff meeting.

Mr. Coxe expressed concern on initiating a subcommittee that is dedicated to a singular mode of transportation. He recognized the need for a group that would investigate bicycle and pedestrian issues and opportunities; however, this should not supplant the importance of participation on the key TCC activities.

#### **4e. CONNECT Update**

Presenter: Jonathan Wells, C-M Planning

##### Summary:

Jonathan Wells provided an overview of an update on the CONNECT regional study. He informed the TCC that CONNECT has released the preferred growth maps for the counties involved in the study. The maps can be viewed [here](#). There will be an upcoming CONNECT program forum held on July 18. There has been significant discussion about deliverables in addition to the final report and Mr. Wells reminded the group that the subcommittees will continue to work on content following the completion of the study. Mr. Wells mentioned that the Centralina COG staff involved with the CONNECT study will deliver a full presentation to the TCC at the August meeting.

Mr. Coxe mentioned that the socioeconomic data used in the CONNECT study will be incorporated into the development of the 2045 MTP. Mr. Wells is hopeful that an outcome from the CONNECT study is a transportation infrastructure affordability tool that can identify funding.

### **OTHER REPORTS**

#### **5a. NCDOT Report**

Mr. Mitchell indicated that Division 10 would like to combine the proposed Morris Field Drive grade separation, and the West Boulevard interchange projects due to proximity. The Division will meet with CDOT staff to gain an understanding of the City's vision for these projects. He also mentioned that the Division 10 public meeting on its draft allocation of local input points will be held on Tuesday, July 15 at the Metrolina Transportation Management Center in Charlotte. Mr. Mitchell also informed the TCC that the projected appropriations of federal funds for transportation projects are expected to rapidly decline in 2018.

David Keilson mentioned that there will be a bridge replacement project that will close Stephenson Farm Road for several months beginning in October. He indicated the new ramp from I-40 westbound to I-77 northbound has opened, and the ramp from I-77 northbound to I-40 eastbound should open within the next month. There will be a mill and seal project on I-77 southbound this fall in the Statesville area, and the same treatment will be applied to the northbound lanes in the spring of 2015.

Anil Panicker mentioned that NCDOT-Transportation Planning Branch staff will attend an upcoming Transportation Staff meeting to discuss the incorporation on the entire CRTPO planning area into the ongoing CTP work. Mr. Panicker strongly encouraged the staff members from the Iredell County

municipalities to attend this meeting. CRTPO staff will schedule this meeting and inform the appropriate TCC members.

**5b. Upcoming Issues**

Mr. Coxe informed the TCC that a workgroup of MPO staff has been identified to assist in the development of criteria for Prioritization 4.0, and the decision has been made by NCDOT to limit the attendance of alternates at these meetings unless there is an absence of a delegate. CRTPO staff and a staff member from the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (Raleigh area) are alternates to this workgroup.

Mr. Cook mentioned that interviews have begun for the Planning Coordinator/Transportation Engineer position within CRTPO, and he hopes to have the selected candidate on staff by Labor Day. CRTPO staff participated in a MTP best practices meeting with the consultants that assisted in the development of the plan, and a list of commitments was reviewed. This information will be presented at an upcoming Transportation Staff meeting.

**6. Adjourn:** Mr. Coxe determined that the agenda had been adequately completed and adjourned the meeting at 12:03 p.m.