

**CRTPO TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE**  
**Summary Meeting Minutes**  
**Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center**  
**Room 267**  
**June 4, 2015**

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**Voting Members:** *Chair* – Danny Pleasant (CDOT), *Vice-Chair* – Joe Lesch (Union County), David McDonald (CATS), Andrew Grant (Cornelius), Travis Johnson (Davidson), Bill Coxe (Huntersville), Adam McLamb – alt for Scott Kaufhold (Indian Trail), Barry Whitesides – alt for Matthew Todd (Iredell County), Fern Shubert (Marshville), Ralph Messera (Matthews), Megan Green (Mecklenburg County – LUESA Air Quality), Steve Frey (Mint Hill), Lisa Stiwinter (Monroe), Kelsie Anderson ( Mooresville), Louis Mitchell (NCDOT – Div. 10), David Keilson – alt for Reuben Chandler (NCDOT – Div. 12), Anil Panicker (NCDOT-TPB), Chris Easterly (Stallings), Sherry Ashley (Statesville), Erika Martin (Troutman), Ken Tippette (Bicycle Focus Area Representative), Gwen Cook (Greenway Area Representative), Scott Curry (Pedestrian Focus Area Representative), Dick Winters (Public Health Area Representative)

**Staff:** Robert Cook (CRTPO), Curtis Bridges (CRTPO), Neil Burke (CRTPO), Candice Leonard (CRTPO), Norm Steinman (CDOT), Andy Grzymski (CDOT), Brett Canipe (NCDOT-Div. 10), Jeff Sloop (NCDOT), Stuart Basham (NCDOT – Div. 10), Lee Ainsworth (NCDOT- Div. 10), Loretta Barren (FHWA), Jim Loyd (Monroe)

**Guests:** Bill Thunberg (LNTC), Roger Diedrich (Sierra Club), Meg Fencil (Sustain Charlotte), Billy Packer, Todd Steiss (PB), Justin Carroll (STV), Jeff Hess (HNTB)

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Danny Pleasant opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. TCC members and guests introduced themselves.

**1. Adoption of the Agenda**

Mr. Pleasant asked if any changes to the agenda are necessary. Hearing none, the June agenda was adopted by acclamation.

**2. Consideration of Consent Agenda**

Mr. Pleasant explained that the consent agenda for the June meeting contained the May TCC meeting minutes.

Motion:

Bill Coxe made a motion to adopt the consent agenda. Joe Lesch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**TCC BUSINESS ITEMS**

**3a. 2016-2025 Transportation Improvement Program**

Presenter: Neil Burke

Summary/Action Requested:

Mr. Pleasant explained that the TCC was to consider taking action to recommend that the MPO approve the start a 30-day public comment period on the DRAFT 2016-2025 Transportation Improvement Program, associated 2040 MTP amendments, and an air quality conformity determination.

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:

- An update on the integration of Bonus Allocation projects into the TIP was presented.
- Mr. Burke explained that it is anticipated that the Conformity Determination report would be sent by NCDOT-Transportation Planning Branch in late June, and the 30-day public involvement period could begin once the document is posted to the website.
- A series of TIP project schedule changes included in the final STIP were reviewed. Louis Mitchell added that the Board of Transportation has adopted the STIP today.
- A schedule of upcoming TIP tasks was presented.

Motion:

Mr. Coxe made a motion to recommend to the MPO that it approve the start of a 30-day public comment period on the DRAFT 2016-2025 Transportation Improvement Program, associated 2040 MTP amendments, and an air quality conformity determination. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**3b. July TCC Meeting Date**

Presenter: Neil Burke

Summary/Action Requested:

Mr. Burke explained that there were two reasons that the TCC should consider modifying the date of the July meeting. First, he explained that the Aviation Department will be conducting a presentation on the Charlotte-Douglas International Airport Master Plan at the July 9 Joint Use Task Force meeting, and the TCC has been invited to hold a joint meeting with this group. The second reason for re-scheduling the July TCC meeting would be that the initial date of July 2 is two days from the Independence Day Holiday, and obtaining a quorum may be an issue.

Motion:

Mr. Lesch made a motion to re-schedule the date of the July TCC meeting from July 2 to July 9, and hold a joint meeting with the Joint Use Task Force. Sherry Ashley seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**TCC Information Reports**

**4a. P4.0 Work Group Update**

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:

- Mr. Burke explained that the last P4.0 Work Group meeting was held on May 18, and this presentation is intended to provide an update on the final recommendations made to NCDOT.
- CRTPO will receive 20 new project submittals within each mode for P4.0. NCDOT Divisions will receive seven new submittals within each mode.
- The SPOT office has recommended reducing the number of highway projects in the database from 1,700 to 1,000 projects.

- The P4.0 Work Group has recommended that any project in the SPOT database that does not have the following criteria should be removed prior to P4.0:
  - Project is in years 6-10 of the DRAFT TIP.
  - Project is a sibling to a project in the DRAFT TIP.
  - Project has a completed NEPA document.
  - Project was assigned any amount of P3.0 Local Input Points.
  
- Mr. Burke explained that CRTPO has 29 committed highway projects in the first five years of the TIP, 32 projects that are subject to reprioritization (to be re-scored) in P4.0, and 46 projects that are subject to be removed from the SPOT database prior to P4.0. He reminded the TCC that some of the projects could be added back into the SPOT database by CRTPO using some of its new project submittal slots as previously discussed.
- Next, Mr. Burke reviewed the list of projects proposed for removal from the SPOT database prior to P4.0 indicating those projects that were included in the 2040 MTP Fiscally Constrained project list. He recommended that the TCC consider placing priority on adding those projects in the 2040 MTP back into the database because this has been the primary source for SPOT project submittals in the past.
- The P4.0 Work Group made a consensus-based recommendation that MPOs, RPOs and Division Engineers should have the same weight of local input points for P4.0.
- Mr. Burke concluded his presentation by reviewing the schedule for P4.0 by explaining that this process will begin for CRTPO this summer with modifications to existing projects in the SPOT database occurring in July and the submittal of new projects for P4.0 scoring in September.

Following Mr. Burke's presentation, TCC members and guests commented on the topic and asked questions.

Mr. Coxe inquired about the US 21 project (U-5767) in Cornelius that is proposed to be rescored. Specifically he mentioned that it is also recommended for Bonus Allocation funding. Mr. Burke explained that NCDOT-Program Development has indicated that the use of Bonus Allocation funds on this project will not accelerate the delivery schedule, but he suggested keeping these funds on this project and rescored it in P4.0 as a backup strategy.

Mr. Lesch inquired about a potential sibling project along NC 16 in Union County between Rea Road Extension and NC 75. Mr. Burke explained that there was an overlap between this project, and the U-5769 project along NC 16 which is in the TIP for right-of-way in 2022 and construction in 2024. He suggested that since this project is in the fiscally constrained project list, that the project limits could be adjusted to include the corridor between Cuthbertson and Waxhaw Parkway.

Ralph Messera suggested that the Eastern Circumferential Project should be considered a sibling project to the US 74 Corridor Improvement (U-2509) project because this project will construct a portion of this alignment. Mr. Burke responded that he will make this request to the SPOT office.

Mr. Coxe asked how the P4.0 Work Group recommendation on reducing the number of projects in the SPOT database will affect the non-highway modes. Mr. Burke explained that the SPOT office will use the same criteria as was recommended for the highway mode to reduce the number of projects in the database. Louis Mitchell added that a subcommittee that worked on the bicycle and pedestrian criteria

updates has recommended completely clearing out the database of projects because the criteria between P3.0 and P4.0 has changed significantly.

Mr. Mitchell also explained that the NCDOT Divisions will not hold separate public workshops regarding their proposed local input points assignments. Instead, the NCDOT Divisions will partner with MPOs and RPOs to hold joint meetings to limit the confusion to the public.

#### **4b. LYNX Blue Line Extension (TE-4901) TIP Amendment**

Presenter: David McDonald, CATS

##### Summary:

Mr. McDonald explained that in order to successfully apply for a Federal Transportation Infrastructure and Finance Innovation Act (TIFIA) loan for the LYNX Blue Line, the correct source of funds and corresponding years must be reflected in the Transportation Improvement Program. He explained that this TIP amendment would not change the cost of the project, rather it is to include the TIFIA portion of the funding in the TIP. He explained that this will be added to the consent agenda for the July 9 TCC meeting.

#### **4c. CMAQ Project Assessment**

Presenter: Robert Cook

##### Summary:

Mr. Cook 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:

- In 2011, NCDOT requested that MPOs identify CMAQ projects for fiscal years 2016 and 2017.
- In 2012, MUMPO issued a call for projects, with an estimated \$10 million annually available in 2016 and 2017
  - There were 28 projects submitted, and seven projects were approved for CMAQ funding.
- None of these projects advanced due to inaction by NCDOT.
- In 2015, NCDOT announces that it will work with MPOs to advance CMAQ projects in fiscal years 2016 and 2017.
  - Instead of \$10 million annually available for MUMPO, there was now \$7.5 million available.
  - This leaves CRTPO with an almost \$5 million shortfall in terms of approved CMAQ projects for these years relative to funding available.
- Mr. Cook then presented an assessment of the approved 2012 CMAQ projects and explained their current level of viability.
- Beginning in 2018, NCDOT will be moving from a bi-annual to an annual call for CMAQ projects.

Mr. Pleasant questioned the current process of distributing CMAQ funding in North Carolina where NCDOT distributes funds to the MPOs, and the cause of the delay and shortfall of funding. Mr. McDonald explained that NCDOT receives the CMAQ funds from FHWA based upon the size and severity of the non-attainment areas throughout the state. He then explained that NCDOT splits these funds, where 50% is distributed as discretionary CMAQ funding to MPOs and RPOs, with the remainder retained by the department to conduct a statewide call for projects in non-attainment areas.

Loretta Barren explained that NCDOT has the discretion from FHWA in terms of the frequency of the call for projects. She explained that the lack of a current Federal Transportation Bill may have affected the estimates of the 2012 funding appropriations.

Mr. Coxe suggested that the TCC reserve an appropriate portion of CRTPO's share of CMAQ funds during the 2018 call for projects to apply to the Blue Line Extension start-up cost project, since this project was relinquished of its funding from the 2017 fiscal year as requested by CATS staff.

#### **4d. Transportation Alternatives Program Public Comment 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:

- TCC endorsed the Draft TAP Methodology in May, and recommended that the MPO open a 21-day public comment period.
- Staff recommends formally opening the Draft TAP Methodology public comment period on June 8th, and closing on June 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Bicycle & Pedestrian Work Group will aid in identifying specific agencies/stakeholders to reach out to during call for projects phase.
- Staff will host a TAP Webinar for interested agencies/stakeholders to inform them of TAP funding opportunities.

#### **OTHER REPORTS**

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

David Keilson from NCDOT-Division 12 provided an update on the I-40 and I-77 (I-3819) project in Statesville. He also explained that construction on a new rest area along I-77 at Exit 57 has begun. It will be complete within a few years and will replace four existing rest areas along I-77.

Mr. Mitchell from NCDOT-Division 10 provided updates on the following ongoing projects:

- I-485 Final Segment between I-77 and I-85: This project will open to traffic on June 5, 2015.
- A contract has been awarded for the resurfacing of I-485 between Rea Road and US 74.
- Notice to proceed has been issued to begin construction activities on the US 74 Bypass (R-3329) project in Union County.

##### **5b. Bicycle and Pedestrian Work Group Report**

Mr. Bridges provided an update on recent Work Group initiatives and offered a preview of agenda topics for this afternoon's meeting. His PowerPoint presentation can be viewed [here](#).

He also announced that the Institute for Transportation Research will hold a Bicycle and Pedestrian Count Training Workshop at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center on Tuesday July 7.

##### **5c. Upcoming Issues**

Norm Steinman provided an update on the May 21 public meeting on the Mount Holly Road Thoroughfare Plan Amendment. He explained that there were 15-20 citizens that attended the meeting, and three letters have been received on the proposed amendment. Mr. Cook explained that the

recommended thoroughfare plan amendment will be considered for action at the July TCC and MPO meetings.

Candice Leonard stated that an agenda item will be added to the Joint TCC/Joint Use Task Force meeting agenda on July 9 regarding the Eastern Circumferential alignment in the vicinity of the Reedy Creek Nature Preserve. She explained that a proposed expansion of the nature preserve and a storm water restoration project are impacting the alignment for this segment of the Eastern Circumferential.

Ms. Ashley inquired about the \$9.4 million of STP-DA funds that was reserved for small operations projects. Mr. Burke explained that staff will start a process to develop a strategy for prioritizing and programming these funds in the near future. He explained that this process will begin as a topic on an upcoming Transportation Staff meeting.

**6. Adjourn:** Mr. Pleasant determined that the agenda had been adequately completed and adjourned the meeting at 11:17 a.m.