

CRTPO TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Summary Meeting Minutes
Combined Meeting with Joint Use Task Force
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center
Room CH-14
July 9, 2015

Voting Members: *Vice-Chair* – Joe Lesch (Union County), Norm Steinman – alt for Danny Pleasant (CDOT), David McDonald (CATS), Jack Christine (C-D International Airport), Becky Chambers – alt for Dan Leaver (Charlotte E+PM), Jonathan Wells – alt for Ed McKinney (C-M Planning), Andrew Grant (Cornelius), Travis Johnson (Davidson), Bill Coxe (Huntersville), Adam McLamb – alt for Scott Kaufhold (Indian Trail), Matthew Todd (Iredell County), Fern Shubert (Marshville), 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 Tippet (Bicycle Focus 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), Garet Johnson (C-M Planning), Bryman Suttle (C-M Planning), Andy Grzymiski (CDOT), Matt Magnasco (CDOT), Scott Cole (NCDOT – Div. 10), Brett Canipe (NCDOT-Div. 10), Jeff Sloop (NCDOT), Stuart Basham (NCDOT – Div. 10), Lee Ainsworth (NCDOT- Div. 10), Loretta Barren (FHWA), Sushil Nepal (Huntersville) Kathy Ingrish (Matthews), Jim Loyd (Monroe), John Ferguson (Statesville Airport)

Joint Use Task Force: Kevin Brickman (Mecklenburg County Park & Rec), Robert Drayton (Charlotte E+PM), Michael Hensley (County Manager’s Office), Peggy Hey (Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools), Mike Hoy (Charlotte E+PM), Jason Hunt (Stormwater), Peter Jareo (Charlotte-Mecklenburg Library), Lee Jones (Mecklenburg County Park & Rec), Greg Long (CPCC), Jennifer Morell (Mecklenburg County Real Estate), Kenneth Myers (Mecklenburg County Finance), Tim O’Brien (Charlotte E+PM), Erin Bayer Smith (Mecklenburg County Health)

Guests: Bill Thunberg (LNTC), Roger Diedrich (Sierra Club), Meg Fencil (Sustain Charlotte), Billy Packer, Todd Steiss (PB), Steve Blakley (Kimley-Horn), Anthony Tagliaferri (VHB), Radha Swayampakala (RS&H), Justin Carroll (STV), Nikki Honeycutt (STV)

1. Introductions and Overview

Joe Lesch opened the combined meeting at 10:00 a.m. TCC, Joint Use Task Force (JUTF) members and guests introduced themselves.

Mr. Lesch provided an overview of the TCC’s roles and responsibilities.

Bryman Suttle provided an overview of the JUTF roles and responsibilities, explaining that this group was established to evaluate the feasibility of joint opportunities to pursue capital projects throughout Mecklenburg County. Mr. Suttle explained that it is important for the TCC and JUTF to

understand the long-term transportation and land use implications of decisions throughout the region.

Combined TCC/JUTF Agenda

2a. Charlotte-Douglas International Airport Master Plan Update

Presenter: Jack Christine, C-D International Airport

Summary:

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

- The Charlotte Airport is conducting a Master Plan that evaluates current passenger levels and enplanements as well as a 20-year forecast to determine future facility needs.
- The objectives of the Master Plan Update are to define the airfield terminal development plan to meet forecast demand, quantify benefits and costs of additional development, and define the phases of development.
- In 2014, there were approximately 22 million enplanements at the airport, with approximately 75% transferring planes, and not exiting the airport.
- The operations within the terminal and on the airfield are currently at capacity. Delays will deter future airline operations expansions at the airport.
- A proposed parallel runway and the expansion of the taxiway system would require a realignment of West Boulevard. It is anticipated that this expansion would be undertaken within the next 10-12 years.
- An 8-10 gate expansion of Terminal A on the site of the old rental car lot is planned to begin next spring.
- A reconstruction of the double-decked terminal curb front from three lanes to eight lanes in each direction is anticipated to begin construction within the next two years.

Bill Coxe asked if local passenger growth would eventually outpace the rate of connecting passengers. Mr. Christine explained that local growth has outpaced connecting growth throughout the past four years, and he anticipates a steady increase in local enplanements as the metropolitan area continues to grow.

Mr. Coxe inquired about the surface transportation improvements that would be required to handle the additional growth. Mr. Christine explained that the new connector roadway from I-85 via Little Rock Road has provided immediate relief, and the next priority would be the grade separation of Little Rock Road and Wilkinson Boulevard. He added that additional improvements will be needed on the Wilkinson Boulevard corridor to accommodate additional freight volumes associated with the intermodal terminal.

Scott Cole inquired about the feasibility of advancing the two Billy Graham Parkway TIP projects at Morris Field Drive and West Boulevard given the expansion of the fifth runway. Mr. Christine explained that the fifth runway would be grade separated over West Boulevard, and the proposed interchange at Billy Graham Parkway would involve a significant change in elevation. He acknowledged that coordination will be needed between the airport, CDOT, and NCDOT to coordinate both projects. Mr. Christine explained that the runway expansion would terminate Morris Field Drive west of Billy Graham Parkway, and this area would then be served by Airport Drive, eliminating the need for a grade separation in this location.

Dick Winters inquired about the airport's planning for other modes of transportation. Mr. Christine explained that the airport has preserved the ability to include an intercity train station adjacent to the intermodal yard, however; he admitted this is a long range goal. Mr. Christine also mentioned that airport staff is discussion with CATS about a fixed guideway service between the airport and Uptown Charlotte. He explained that this is a long range goal as well with additional discussion and study required.

2b. Eastern Circumferential Discussion

Presenter: Candice Leonard

Summary:

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

- An “outer loop thoroughfare” was first proposed in 1977, and the Eastern Circumferential first appeared on a thoroughfare plan in 1983.
- In 1989, an alignment study was conducted for the Eastern Circumferential and recommendation was approved by the TCC.
- A detailed design study of the Eastern Circumferential was completed by CDOT and MUMPO in 2006.
- Ms. Leonard explained several of the issues that affect the current alignment of the Eastern Circumferential adjacent to Reedy Creek Park.
 - The Reedy Creek Stream Restoration Project by Charlotte Storm Water Services is currently obtaining storm water conservation easements along several branches of Reedy Creek within and surrounding the Reedy Creek Nature Preserve.
 - The Charlotte Engineering and Landscape Management Department are in the process of acquiring a series of parcels for dedicated tree save areas.
 - Mecklenburg Park and Recreation is considering the purchase of a parcel to expand the Reedy Creek Nature Preserve.

Ms. Leonard concluded her presentation by engaging the TCC and JUTF to discuss the methods in which alignment alternatives can be developed to minimize the conflict from this project, and for future endeavors.

Mr. Coxe emphasized the importance of the right-of-way reservation component of the thoroughfare plan/CTP and expressed concern property acquisitions occurring prior to the discussion of potential conflicts with the TCC and the JUTF. He added that the Eastern Circumferential alignment replaced a previous version of the old Outer Loop (I-485) alignment when a Final EIS concluded that the freeway should be moved to the other side of Mint Hill. The MPO took action on this modification twice.

David McDonald stated there is a need for regular updates to the TCC from the JUTF regarding significant capital infrastructure decisions that may impact future thoroughfare alignments. He added that when the thoroughfare planning process is subverted, alignment alternatives tend to have greater impacts on the existing built environment.

Chris Matthews stated that Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation is willing to work with the TCC and JUTF on alignment alternatives, but the effort also needs to consider the impact to natural resources and impacts to the Reedy Creek Park. He explained that Mecklenburg County acquired the property for the park expansion to allow for the expansion of this facility before residential and commercial growth makes this impossible. Mr. Coxe responded that Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation should be open to the opportunity to consider a roadway alignment to traverse through a park without having negative impacts to the parks use or the environment.

3. Adjourn Combined TCC/JUTF Meeting

Mr. Lesch adjourned the combined meeting at 10:55 and called the TCC meeting to order.

4. Adoption of the Agenda

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

5. Consideration of Consent Agenda

Mr. Lesch explained that the consent agenda for the July meeting contained two items. The first item was the June TCC meeting minutes, and the second item was the consideration of approval for the approval of LYNX Blue Line Extension (TE-4901) TIP Amendment that was presented to the TCC as an information report at the June meeting.

Motion:

Mr. Coxe made a motion to adopt the consent agenda. Anil Panicker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

TCC BUSINESS ITEM

6a. FY 2016 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/Action Requested:

Mr. Cook stated that an amendment to the FY 2016 UPWP was necessary because FHWA has allocated \$200,000 to NCDOT to support the Regional Freight Study. He explained that the FHWA North Carolina Division Office has requested that CRTPO be the recipient of the funds.

Motion:

Fern Shubert made the motion to approve the amendment to the FY 2016 UPWP to include \$200,000 from FHWA to support the Regional Freight Study. Sherry Ashley seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

TCC Information Reports

7a. CMAQ Project Assessment

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary:

Mr. Cook explained that NCDOT is seeking a call for new CMAQ projects. He then provided the following background information:

- In late 2011, NCDOT requested that the state's MPOs and RPOs identify CMAQ projects for fiscal years 2016 and 2017.
- Based on funding levels for fiscal years 2013-2015 and consultation with NCDOT, it was estimated that \$10 million would be available in both FY 2016 and 2017.
- A call for projects was issued in early 2012. Over 30 projects were submitted and six projects were approved for funding. The anticipated \$20 million expected to be available was allocated. None of the projects advanced due to inaction by NCDOT.
- NCDOT recently announced that it was again working with its partners to advance the CMAQ program and announced revised funding levels. The new level is \$4,974,130 less than anticipated in 2012, thus the CRTPO must determine how to eliminate the funding gap.
- Staff has undertaken an assessment of all projects submitted during the 2012 project call to determine their viability and found that there is \$2.8 million left to spend.
- The reason for the surplus is that projects were either pursued with other funding sources, or have been delayed.

Mr. Cook explained that the programming of the additional \$2.8 million in CMAQ funds should go to the 21 unfunded CMAQ projects. He explained that this will be an agenda item on an upcoming Transportation Staff Meeting.

7b. 2016-2025 Transportation Improvement Program

Presenter: Neil Burke

Summary:

Mr. Burke provided of a summary of the following ongoing activities associated with the DRAFT TIP:

- A quorum was not achieved for the June MPO meeting. However, those in attendance voted to approve a start of a 30-day public comment period for the DRAFT 2016-2025 Transportation Improvement Program, Amendments to the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, and DRAFT Air Quality Conformity Determination Report.
- The DRAFT Air Quality Conformity Determination Report was approved public/agency review by FHWA for on Tuesday, June 30, and can be viewed [here](#).
- The 30-day public comment period on the DRAFT TIP and associated documents began on Wednesday, July 1 and will end on Friday, July 31.
- A summary of public comments received to date was conducted, and Mr. Burke stated that 38 comments regarding the I-77 Managed Lanes project had been received.
- The July 15 MPO meeting will serve as an opportunity for residents to comment on the DRAFT TIP.

7c. Prioritization 4.0

Presenter: Neil Burke

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:

- A TCC work session will be held on Monday, July 13 to determine the highway projects to be evaluated during P4.0. This will be the first of three meetings.
- An overview of the bicycle and pedestrian projects that were evaluated during P3.0 was presented.
- The bicycle and pedestrian projects that are to be removed prior to P4.0 were reviewed.
- Mr. Burke presented two options to the TCC regarding the submission of bicycle and pedestrian projects in P4.0.
 - The first option was to re-submit the eight projects recommended for deletion, and submit 12 new projects.
 - The second option was to submit 20 new projects.
- He indicated that the Bicycle and Pedestrian Work Group would serve in an advisory role to the TCC in terms of developing a strategy and identifying the projects to submit in P4.0.

Mr. Lesch asked how the twenty new submittals for the highway mode would be determined for P4.0. Mr. Burke explained that it is a staff preference to consider those projects that are within the 2040 MTP fiscally constrained plan, but he indicated that a consensus-based decision will be needed by the TCC on this issue.

7d. Transportation Alternatives Program Public Comment Update

Presenter: Curtis Bridges

Summary:

Mr. Bridges explained that the 21-day public comment period on the TAP methodology began on June 8 and ended on June 29th. One formal public comment was received from a representative of the Sierra Club. Mr. Bridges stated that the CRTPO website has a new TAP webpage that can be viewed by clicking [here](#). He closed the presentation by reviewing a schedule, indicating that a tentative call for projects is anticipated in the August-September timeframe.

OTHER REPORTS

8a. NCDOT Report

Stuart Basham from NCDOT-Division 10 provided an update on the following projects:

- The signalization of the northbound I-77 off-ramp at Sunset Road has been completed, and operations have improved at this intersection.
- The contract for the I-485 and Oakdale Road interchange has been let and construction should begin in August, with an anticipated completion date in November of 2016.

David Keilson from NCDOT-Division 12 provided an update on the I-40 and I-77 (I-3819) project in Statesville.

8b. 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.

8c. Upcoming Issues

Megan Green announced that Mecklenburg County will host a Clean Commute Race to the Beach from July 13 through August 23. Additional information can be found [here](#).

Ms. Leonard stated that a public meeting will be held on Thursday, July 9 regarding the John Kirk Drive Thoroughfare Plan amendment at McKnight Hall on the UNC-Charlotte campus.

Mr. McDonald announced that the CityLynx Gold Line Phase one will begin regular service on July 14.

Mr. Lesch wished Louis Mitchell well in his deployment to military school for the next several months.

9. Adjourn: Mr. Lesch determined that the agenda had been adequately completed and adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.