

CRTPO TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Summary Meeting Minutes
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center
Room 886
October 1, 2015

Voting Members: *Chair* - Danny Pleasant (CDOT), *Vice-Chair* – Joe Lesch (Union County), David McDonald (CATS), Becky Chambers – alt for Dan Leaver (Charlotte E+PM), Andrew Grant (Cornelius), Travis Johnson (Davidson), Bill Coxe (Huntersville), Adam McLamb – alt for Scott Kaufhold (Indian Trail), Matthew Todd (Iredell County), Megan Green (Mecklenburg County – LUESA Air Quality), Steve Frey (Mint Hill), CJ O’Neill (Matthews), Lisa Stiwinter (Monroe), Kelsie Anderson (Mooresville), Stuart Basham – alt for Scott Cole (NCDOT – Div. 10), John Cook – alt for Reuben Chandler (NCDOT-Div. 12), Anil Panicker (NCDOT-TPB), Chris Easterly (Stallings), Sherry Ashley (Statesville), Erika Martin (Troutman), Julian Burton (Weddington), Ken Tippet (Bicycle Focus Area Representative), Scott Curry (Pedestrian Focus Area Representative), Gwen Cook (Greenway 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 Grzymiski (CDOT), Anna Gallup (CDOT), Wendy Taylor (NCDOT-Div. 10), Jeff Sloop (NCDOT), Lee Ainsworth (NCDOT- Div. 10), Loretta Barren (FHWA), Kathi Ingrish (Matthews), Jim Loyd (Monroe)

Guests: Bill Thunberg (LNTC), Meg Fencil (Sustain Charlotte), Kimberly Sanders (Sustain Charlotte), Todd Steiss (WSP/PB), Radha Swayampakala (RS&H), Steve Blakley (Kimley-Horn), Jessica Choi (Kimley-Horn), Yolanda DeLong (Parsons), Justin Carroll (STV), Ralph Messera, Billy Packer

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

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Mr. Pleasant explained that the Faith Church Road Thoroughfare Plan amendment would be deferred to a future TCC meeting. Mr. Pleasant asked if any additional changes to the agenda are necessary. Hearing none, the modified October agenda was adopted by acclamation.

2. Consideration of Consent Agenda

Mr. Pleasant explained that the consent agenda for the October meeting contained the September TCC meeting minutes.

Motion:

David McDonald made a motion to adopt the consent agenda. Ken Tippet seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

TCC BUSINESS ITEMS

3a. Prioritization 4.0

Presenter: Neil Burke

Summary/Action Requested:

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 MPO requested that the TCC evaluate and recommend alternatives to submitting a new project for general purpose lanes within a portion of the current limits of the I-77 Express Lanes project. He added that the MPO members had concerns about how the projects along the I-77 corridor would function with the HOT project.
- He explained that members of the TCC discussed alternatives during the September 23 Transportation Staff meeting and developed a recommendation during a special meeting on September 28.
- Mr. Burke reviewed the recommendation by explaining that the I-77 General Purpose lane projects from I-485 to Catawba Avenue and the I-77 projects from NC 150 to I-40 are not recommended to be submitted for P4.0 scoring. Members of the TCC recommended that the I-77 general purpose lane project from Catawba Avenue to NC 150, and the NC 115 widening project from NC 73 to Washam Potts Road are submitted for P4.0 because these projects are included in the 2040 MTP's fiscally constrained project list.
- He then reviewed the results of a media release announcing an opportunity for public comment on the TCC's recommended list of transportation projects to be submitted for P4.0. He indicated that 180 comments were received, all expressing support for the submission of an I-77 general purpose lane project for P4.0.
- Mr. Burke concluded his presentation by reviewing a series of modifications to the recommended P4.0 aviation project submittals provided by Statesville on September 28.

Following Mr. Burke's presentation, TCC members asked questions and made comments regarding this agenda item.

Joe Lesch asked about the next project on the MTP fiscally constrained project list should the MPO not approve of the TCC's recommended modification. Mr. Burke explained that there was consensus at the September 28 meeting that the US 21 widening project from Harris Boulevard to Gilead Road should be split into two sections at Hambright Road. This would use two of CRTPO's 22 project submittal slots.

Mr. Coxe stated that it will be important to explain to the MPO that the I-77 general purpose lane project between Catawba Avenue and NC 150 will not score well in P4.0 because of the corridor cap issues with competing projects on I-77 in Charlotte. He explained that this project is justified for P4.0 submittal because it is included in the MTP fiscal constrained plan, and it satisfies an element of the public comments.

Motion:

Mr. Coxe made a motion to modify the TCC's original submission of recommended projects to be scored in P4.0 to delete the following projects:

- The I-77 General Purpose Lanes Project (I-485 to Catawba Avenue)
- The I-77 General Purpose Lane projects (NC 150 to I-40)

In the place of the deleted projects it is recommended that the MPO consider adding the following projects:

- Add the I-77 General Purpose Lane project (Catawba Avenue to NC 150).

- Add the NC 115 widening project from NC 73 to Washam Potts Road.

It is also recommended that the MPO endorse the modifications to the Statesville Aviation projects.

Mr. Lesch seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

3b. December TCC Meeting Date

Presenter: Neil Burke

Summary/Action Requested:

Mr. Burke explained that the TCC is currently scheduled to meet on December 3. The following two regional conferences are also being held on this date:

- The Centralina Council of Governments is hosting a Creative Solutions for Thriving Communities Conference in Gastonia.
- The Carolina Thread Trail will host a Forum in Mooresville.

He explained that the TCC may have difficulty in achieving a quorum for the originally scheduled date of December 3. Mr. Burke suggested that re-scheduling the meeting date would allow TCC members to consider attending one of these conferences.

Motion:

Mr. McDonald made a motion to reschedule the meeting from the third to the tenth of December. Erika Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3c. 2016-2025 TIP & 2040 MTP Amendment List

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/Action Requested:

Mr. Cook explained that it is requested that the TCC consider recommending to the MPO that it consider endorsing the TIP and MTP amendments that have necessitated an air quality conformity determination. If the MPO endorses the amendments, he explained that it will be asked to approve the release of a draft conformity determination report for public review at its November 2015 meeting. Final action is anticipated for January 2016. Mr. Cook explained that the conformity determination has been triggered by the addition of HOT lane direct connect interchanges associated with the I-485 Express Lanes (I-5507) project.

Mr. Cook provided an overview on the other TIP amendments. The projects along Billy Graham Parkway are being recommended for deletion from the TIP because of conflict with future expansion plans at the Charlotte Douglas Airport. The STP-DA funds are being removed from the Monroe Northern Loop and allocated to the Old Monroe Road (U-4714) project. Mr. Cook explained that the influx of STP-DA funds and additional STI funds will allow the U-4714 project to be accelerated with an anticipated right-of-way date of 2020 and construction in 2022 for sections A through C.

Motion:

Mr. Coxe made a motion to recommend to the MPO that it consider endorsing the TIP and MTP amendments that have necessitated an air quality conformity determination. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

3d. Mount Holly Road Thoroughfare Plan Amendment

Presenter: Norm Steinman

Summary/Action Requested:

- Mr. Steinman provided an overview of how the Mount Holly Road extension was initially included on the Thoroughfare Plan by stating that this alignment was added to the plan in 1994.
- He stated that the City of Charlotte has ordinance requirements that have reserved the right-of-way for this thoroughfare, and this proposed alignment was also a key consideration in the City's Catawba Area Plan. A portion of the Mount Holly Road extension has been constructed as part of the City's Land Development Ordinance requirements.
- The Catawba River Plantation Subdivision has been developed around the proposed thoroughfare for approximately 15 years, with the proposed right-of-way being reserved.
- He explained that action is being requested today because the Gaston Cleveland Lincoln MPO had deleted its portion of the extension at the request of the City of Mount Holly in 2014.
- Mr. Steinman explained that future traffic projections have indicated that a new bridge in this location would handle approximately 6,500 vehicles per day, which could be served by a two-lane cross-section with bicycle lanes and sidewalks.
- The current NC 27 Bridge over the Catawba River does not have safe accommodations for bicyclists or pedestrians. This bridge was rehabbed in 2002 and did not include bicycle and pedestrian accommodations during this project. NCDOT-Division 12 had proposed a road diet to accommodate bicycles and pedestrians; however, CDOT had concerns about future vehicular capacity if travel lanes were removed.
- Mr. Steinman explained that a public meeting was held on the proposal to delete the Mount Holly Road Extension on May 21 and 16 residents attended. He explained that the majority of these residents reside within the Catawba River Plantation Subdivision. The twenty public comments that were received stated opposition to the proposed alignment and recommended that this connection is removed from the Thoroughfare Plan.
- He explained CDOT has met with GCLMPO and City of Mount Holly staff to evaluate alternatives if the proposed Mount Holly Road Extension Alignment was deleted. Mr. Steinman explained that there does not appear to be a suitable alternative connection on the Mecklenburg County side of the Catawba River.

Following Mr. Steinman's presentation TCC members discussed the requested action and other alternatives.

Mr. Lesch indicated that he was hesitant to approve the removal of the Mount Holly Road Extension without a thorough evaluation of potential alignment alternatives. Mr. Steinman explained that the GCLMPO is preparing to use PL funds to conduct an alignment alternatives study. He explained that the timeframe for this study is unclear at this time.

Scott Curry inquired about the status of the reserved right-of-way if this alignment is deleted from the Thoroughfare Plan. Mr. Pleasant explained that the removal of this segment from the Thoroughfare

Plan is a separate process from relinquishing the right-of-way reservation component. He explained if the property owners wanted to release the right-of-way reservation clause they would have to pursue a rezoning, and then file a petition to abandon the right-of-way.

Mr. Coxe stated that he will not support a motion to delete CRTPO's portion of the Mount Holly Road Extension from the Thoroughfare Plan until GCLMPO confirms that they will not pursue another crossing of the Catawba River between NC 27 and NC 16. If GCLMPO confirms that they are pursuing another river crossing, then the current corridor should be studied along with the other alternatives.

Gwen Cook explained that she is hesitant to support the removal of CRTPO's portion of the Mount Holly Road Extension from the Thoroughfare Plan because the reserved right-of-way could provide blueway access to the Catawba River or have some other use as a recreational amenity.

Mr. Pleasant stated that the removal of the Mount Holly Road extension by GCLMPO without consultation with NCDOT or the CRTPO is a colossal failure of regional planning. He added that the City of Charlotte and CRTPO have reserved the right-of-way for the Mount Holly Road extension and it has affected the layout of neighborhoods, and roadway alignments. He stated that a technical capacity analysis should be required when a proposed thoroughfare is removed from the plan. He also stated that following GCLMPO's action to remove their portion of the alignment, there is no purpose in CRTPO leaving its portion of the alignment on the Thoroughfare Plan.

Mr. Pleasant also recommended that CRTPO should consider refining its processes for amendments to the network as it transitions from the Thoroughfare Plan to the CTP. He suggested that CRTPO could bundle a series of Thoroughfare Plan amendments to be analyzed and then presented to the TCC and MPO, rather than the current process of amending the plan on an as-needed basis. Mr. Cook responded to explain that the CTP Work Group will develop a framework for this process amendment throughout the month of October.

Motion:

Mr. McDonald made a motion to delete the Mount Holly Road Extension from the Thoroughfare Plan. Ms. Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed by a margin of 16 (Yes) to 7 (No) with the TCC delegates from Town of Davidson, Town of Huntersville, Town of Indian Trail, City of Monroe, City of Statesville, Union County, and the Greenway Focus Area Representative voting in opposition.

TCC Information Reports

4a. I-485 Managed Lanes Project (I-5507) Update

Presenter: Radha Swayampakala, RS&H

Summary:

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

- Mr. Swayampakala explained that the Project Team is working on design details and is anticipated to complete environmental studies in February 2016.

- Prior to the completion of the environmental studies, the project team is in the process of scheduling another round of public meetings where this Power Point will be displayed. This presentation will also be given at the October 21 MPO meeting.
- Mr. Swayampakala proceeded to play a narrated and interactive Power Point that provided the TCC members with details regarding the purpose and need for the I-5507 project as well as information regarding the tolling component.

Mr. Coxe suggested that this presentation emphasize the benefit of long-term corridor management that managed lanes projects offer, and reduce the emphasis on the cost effectiveness benefit that is attributed to projects where toll revenue reduces the cost to NCDOT.

Mr. Pleasant stated that buses and carpools should not be tolled on any of the express lanes projects to encourage more efficient modes of transportation.

4b. Statesville CTP Update

Presenter: Steve Blakley and Jessica Choi, Kimley-Horn

Summary:

Mr. Blakley and Ms. Choi 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. Blakley explained that the City of Statesville will be finishing an update to its Comprehensive Transportation Plan in the next few months.
- He indicated that the CTP is one element of a larger planning effort that includes strategic corridor analysis and conceptual land use plans for four focus areas for Statesville.
- Ms. Choi provided an overview of the planning process that has been undertaken for the Statesville CTP.
- She indicated that the CTP has a robust land use component where strategic corridors are being evaluated against development suitability studies, market analyses, and conceptual land use scenario planning.
- The next steps involve a second round of public involvement this fall, the development of planning level cost estimates for high priority projects, and the completion of a collector street plan.

Following Ms. Choi's presentation, TCC members made comments regarding this agenda item.

Mr. Coxe asked how this effort relates to Statesville's portion of CRTPO's CTP maps that will have a separate round of public involvement. Sherry Ashley explained that the majority of the recommendations on the modal maps will be identical between the two plans. She explained that Statesville's CTP will identify a series of amendments that will need to be reconciled with the CRTPO CTP maps.

OTHER REPORTS

5a. NCDOT Report

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

- Work is continuing on the Monroe Bypass project east of US 601, with clearing complete and bridge structure work to begin shortly. Construction on this project in the Indian Trail/Stallings area is likely to begin next summer.
- Mr. Basham explained that Division 10 will receive \$31 million in additional STI funds. Division 10 staff has proposed to replace STP-DA funds with STI funds on the Old Monroe Road (U-4714) widening project. This reallocation of funds will help to accelerate the delivery of all three sections of this project. MPO action will be required to shift funding from the A to C section of U-4714.
- He also explained that the additional STI funding will replace Bonus Allocation funds on the US 21 widening project (U-5767) between Northcross Center Drive and Westmoreland Road. The Projects Oversight Subcommittee will be responsible for developing a recommendation to reallocate the Bonus Allocation funds to another eligible project.

John Cook from NCDOT-Division 12 provided an update on the following initiatives:

- The I-40 and I-77 Interchange (I-3819) project is scheduled for completion in the spring of 2017.
- Mr. Cook explained that an I-77 resurfacing project has recently been completed from Troutman to Statesville in the northbound travel lanes.
- Division 12 is preparing to initiate resurfacing projects on Williamson Road and US 21 in Mooresville this fall.
- A bridge replacement project on Cornelius Road in the Mooresville area will be let soon.

5b. Bicycle and Pedestrian Work Group Report

Curtis Bridges provided an update on recent Work Group initiatives and offered a preview of agenda topics for this afternoon's meeting. He explained that a 30-day call for TAP projects has begun today and will end on October 30. Applications can be submitted via the CRTPO website by clicking [here](#). The North Carolina Bicycle Summit will be held in Charlotte from October 15 through 17.

5c. Upcoming Issues

Mr. Cook provided updates on the following upcoming issues:

- A conformity letter was received from the US DOT approving the 2016-2019 TIP and conformity amendments.
- NCDOT-TPB has extended the deadline for MPOs to submit their FY 2017 UPWPs to March of 2016. Staff will be reaching out to member jurisdictions to start this process shortly.
- NCDOT is looking for input from MPOs regarding the ranking of the Strategic Transportation Corridors to prioritize the advancement of feasibility studies.
- FHWA will be conducting its certification review of CRTPO in December. This is the four year audit of an MPOs activities conducted by FHWA to ensure that work tasks are being conducted to federal standards.
- Centralina Council of Governments (COG) will be holding a right-of-way acquisition workshop on October 29 at the Gaston College Kimbrell Campus on Wilkinson Boulevard in Belmont.
- Centralina COG will also be hosting a freight planning workshop on Friday, November 13 at the CPCC Harris Campus in Charlotte.

6. Adjourn: Mr. Pleasant determined that the agenda had been adequately completed and adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.