

**CRTPO TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE**  
**Summary Meeting Minutes**  
**Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center**  
**Room 267**  
**November 5, 2015**

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**Voting Members:** *Chair* - Danny Pleasant (CDOT), *Vice-Chair* – Joe Lesch (Union County), Jonathan Wells – alt for Ed McKinney (C-M Planning), David McDonald (CATS), Dan Leaver (Charlotte E+PM), Andrew Grant (Cornelius), Travis Johnson (Davidson), Bill Coxe (Huntersville), Matthew Todd (Iredell County), Steve Frey (Mint Hill), CJ O’Neill (Matthews), Lisa Stiwinter (Monroe), Stuart Basham – alt for Scott Cole (NCDOT – Div. 10), John Cook – alt for Reuben Chandler (NCDOT-Div. 12), Anil Panicker (NCDOT-TPB), Travis Morgan (Pineville), 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 Grzynski (CDOT), Jason Lawrence (CATS), Brad Johnson (Iredell County Area Transit System), Jeff Sloop (NCDOT), Warren Cooksey (NCDOT – Div. 10), Loretta Barren (FHWA), Jim Loyd (Monroe)

**Guests:** Bill Thunberg (LNTC), Meg Fencil (Sustain Charlotte), Kimberly Sanders (Sustain Charlotte), Todd Steiss (WSP/PB), Brett Canipe (AMT), Roger Diedrich (Sierra Club), Paige Hunter (HNTB), Tony Tagliaferri (VHB)

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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 Neil Burke to explain two adjustments to the agenda. Mr. Burke explained that a new action item will be added on a series of TIP amendments required as part of an influx of additional STI funds. Mr. Pleasant asked if any additional changes to the agenda are necessary. Hearing none, the modified November agenda was adopted by acclamation.

**2. Consideration of Consent Agenda**

Mr. Pleasant explained that the consent agenda for the October meeting contained the following three items:

- a. Approval of October 1, 2015 TCC Minutes
- b. Approval of TIP Amendments to adjust STP-DA share on Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects
- c. Approval of TIP Amendment for CityLynx Gold Line (TE-4905) Project

**Motion:**

Anil Panicker made a motion to adopt the consent agenda. Erika Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## TCC BUSINESS ITEMS

### **3a. 2040 MTP Amendments/2016-2025 TIP Amendments**

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/Action Requested:

Mr. Cook explained that the requested action was to begin a public involvement period for a series of TIP and 2040 MTP amendments, as well as for the air quality conformity determination. A memorandum describing the attached amendments can be viewed [here](#).

The conformity determination is required for the two Billy Graham Parkway projects at West Boulevard (U-5712) and at Morris Field Drive (U-5714) since it has been requested that these projects are deleted from the TIP. The public involvement period will begin following the MPO's November meeting. He explained that final action is anticipated in January 2016.

Motion:

Bill Coxe made a motion recommend to the MPO that it consider starting a public comment period on the TIP and MTP amendments, as well as for the required air quality conformity determination. Erika Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **3c. NCDOT-Division 10 Requested TIP Amendments**

Presenter: Stuart Basham, Division 10

Summary/Action Requested:

Mr. Basham provided information to the TCC via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes [here](#).

- Mr. Basham explained that the NC General Assembly increased funding for transportation in their recent budget under House Bill 97.
- He explained that the funding is to be programmed based upon STI score. The funds will be allocated to projects that were not programmed in the 2016-2025 TIP but were "next in line."
- The increased funding provides STI funds to several projects in lieu of STP-DA or Bonus Allocation funds.
- The proposal would return approximately \$30 million in STP-DA and fully fund the following projects using STI funds:
  - U-4714A – John Street/Old Monroe Road. It is requested that CRTPO shift the STP-DA funds from U-4714A (John Street to I-485) to U-4714C (Old Monroe Road between Indian Trail Road and Wesley Chapel-Stouts Road) to make the entire project fully funded.
    - If approved, U-4714 would have right-of-way in 2020 and construction in 2022.
  - R-0211EC: I-485 & Weddington Road Interchange
  - U-4913: Idlewild Road Widening
- The proposal would fund the U-5767 project along US 21 in Cornelius from Northcross Center Drive to Westmoreland Road with STI funds and return \$23 million in Bonus Allocation funds to CRTPO.

Dick Winters inquired if all of the projects presented during this presentation will have complete streets elements. Mr. Basham explained that all of the projects will be designed with sidewalks and bicycle lanes.

Motions:

- (1) Mr. Coxe made a motion to recommend to the MPO that it consider approving the allocation of additional STI funds to the John Street/Old Monroe Road (U-4714A) project, and subsequently reallocate the \$12.3 million of STP-DA funds from U-4714A to U-4714C. Mr. Lesch seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.
- (2) Mr. Lesch made a motion to recommend to the MPO that it consider approving the allocation of additional STI funds for the I-485 and Weddington Road interchange (R-211EC), the Idlewild Road widening project (U-4913), and have the Projects Oversight Committee develop a recommendation to re-program the STP-DA funds that will be released from these projects. David McDonald seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- (3) Andrew Grant made a motion to recommend to the MPO that it consider approving the allocation of additional STI funds to the US 21 widening project (U-5767) in Cornelius. Mr. Coxe seconded the motion, and added that the Project Oversight Committee should develop a recommendation on the method in which the Bonus Allocation funds are reprogrammed. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**TCC Information Reports**

**4a. LYNX Silver Line/Southeast Corridor Transit Study**

Presenter: Jason Lawrence, CATS

Summary:

Mr. Lawrence 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. Lawrence explained that the Silver Line between Uptown Charlotte and Matthews is one of five transit corridors identified in the 2025 Transit and Land Use Plan.
- He stated that a series of studies undertaken throughout the past decade focused fixed guideway transit away from the US 74, and thus created the need to undertake a new study to identify a preferred alignment and determine the appropriate transit technology for the future corridor.
- Some of the other interim strategies from this study are to provide an interim transit strategy that utilizes the future managed lanes proposed on Independence Boulevard, and coordinate with land development strategies to protect and preserve the proposed fixed guideway alignment.
- The MTC will consider endorsing a fixed rail guideway recommendation in June of 2016, and CRTPO will consider adopting the alignment and amending the CTP Transit and Rail map.

**4b. Prioritization 4.0**

Presenter: Neil Burke

Summary:

Mr. Burke explained that entry of CRTPO's P4.0 projects into the SPOT database is in progress. He stated that two local contribution letters have been received from Mooresville for the I-77 & Cornelius Road

interchange conversion and from Charlotte for the Eastway Drive and Shamrock Drive intersection improvement project. Mr. Burke explained that discussions regarding the need for modifications to the local input points methodology and a strategy for P4.0 public involvement will begin at Transportation Staff meetings in December.

#### **4c. FY 2017 Unified Planning Work Program Update**

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:

- He reviewed CRTPO's proposed federal funding levels, indicating that the FY 16 amount for PL funds are currently being used since the FY 17 amount is unknown.
- Six planning projects were submitted by member jurisdictions with an estimated cost of \$403,000 for consideration of the FY 17 PL funds.
- Mr. Cook explained that the FY 2017 UPWP will be considered by the MPO for adoption at the March 2016 meeting.

Mr. Coxe suggested that if funding for local projects is short, then member jurisdictions should consider increasing their local matches above 20%.

#### **4d. CTP Work Group Update**

Presenter: Robert Cook

##### Summary:

Mr. Cook explained that the CTP Work Group has met four times throughout the past several months to determine a strategy for public engagement on the DRAFT CTP, and to determine how right-of-way will be addressed in the adoption process. He stated that the Work Group has recommended that the issue of right-of-way reservation should follow the CTP map adoption process.

Mr. Cook explained that the public engagement process for the CTP will begin in February of 2016. The Work Group is working on a frequently asked questions document that will form the basis for the public engagement effort. He explained that the public engagement effort will be an interactive process where stakeholders will be asked to participate in webinars on the CTP.

Mr. Pleasant stated that the CTP should be a "bottom up" approach where member jurisdictions plan documents and recommendations should be incorporated into the draft maps.

#### **4e. Metropolitan Transit Commission Representation**

Presenter: David McDonald

##### Summary:

Mr. McDonald explained that the MTC took action at its October 28 meeting to approve the appointment of the Executive Director of CATS (Chief Transit Officer) to serve on the MPO board. He explained that MTC members were concerned with the issue of overlapping membership between the MTC and the CRTPO Board creating potential conflicts of interest. The MTC directed CATS staff to pursue modifications to the MPO bylaws to allow the Executive Director of CATS to serve on the MPO,

and a revision to the TCC bylaws to identify the Transit Planning Manager of CATS as the delegate to the TCC. Mr. McDonald stated that he will present this request for action at the December TCC meeting.

Mr. Pleasant stated that he felt it was inappropriate to have a staff member serving on the MPO board. Mr. Lesch added that allowing a staff member to serve on the MPO board may incentivize elected officials not to attend or participate in the process on a regular basis. Mr. Coxe also expressed his concerns with the proposal, and he explained that he would be in favor of this proposal if CATS was a regional transit authority, and not a City of Charlotte Department.

## **OTHER REPORTS**

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

Warren Cooksey delivered a presentation on legislative changes at NCDOT. The contents of Mr. Cooksey's presentation are incorporated into the minutes [here](#). The presentation covered the following points:

- Mr. Cooksey explained that a combination of increases to DMV fees, an increase in the highway use tax, and funding the State Troopers and Drivers Education from the general fund has added an influx of additional STI funds to the highway trust fund to be used on projects throughout North Carolina.
- Throughout the next ten years, there will be an additional \$686 million for Statewide Mobility projects, and \$514 million for both the Regional Impact and Division Needs tiers.
- Other legislative changes that were highlighted in Mr. Cooksey's presentation are as follows:
  - The formula for Powell Bill funds has been repealed, and the legislature will approve the annual appropriation of funds, which means the amount of funding can vary between program years.
  - The cap on turnpike projects has been amended to allow construction of four additional projects, and removal of the cap on study and preliminary design work on future facilities.
  - There is a \$500,000 cap per project of NCDOT funds that can be used on light rail projects. Mr. Cooksey explained that this does not affect the Lynx Blue Line extension project. He also indicated that this cap does not apply to commuter rail projects.

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 work beginning on structures and interchanges.
- A project to enhance safety and operations at NC 16 and Mount Holly-Huntersville Road will conclude in December of 2016.
- He provided a series of updates on the US 74 freeway upgrade U-209B project.
  - Work continues on the US 74 & Idlewild Road interchange. This interchange is anticipated to be open to traffic by April of 2016.
  - Work has begun on the US 74 and Sharon Amity Road overpass. This project is anticipated to be complete in August of 2016.

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.

- Work on the I-77 Rest Area north of Statesville continues and this project should be complete in September of 2017.
- Work on the NC 150 bridge over Lake Norman between Iredell and Catawba Counties is 99% complete.

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

Curtis Bridges stated that 16 applications for Transportation Alternatives Program funding have been received. He explained that the Bicycle and Pedestrian Work Group will begin reviewing applications during their meeting this afternoon. He also announced that NCDOT will hold a Greenway Accommodation Training Webinar on Tuesday, November 10.

**5c. Upcoming Issues**

Mr. Burke provided updates on the following upcoming issues:

- CRTPO will have its FHWA/FTA Certification Review on December 15-16.
- CRTPO Orientation is scheduled for January 13, 2016. This event is held every two years for new and existing MPO delegates and alternates. TCC members and the general public are invited as well.
- Mr. Burke reminded TCC members to work with their jurisdiction's managers to name the MPO delegates for 2016.

Mr. McDonald announced that NCDOT-Division of Rail has been awarded a \$25 million TIGER grant for construction of the Charlotte Gateway Station.

**6. Adjourn:** Mr. Pleasant determined that the agenda had been adequately completed and adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.