

CHARLOTTE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center, Room 267
January 18, 2017 Meeting
Summary Minutes

Members Attending:

Vi Lyles (Charlotte), Michael Miltich (Cornelius), Brian Jenest (Davidson), Rob Kidwell (Huntersville), James Mallory (Iredell County), Norma Carpenter (Marshville), Jim Taylor (Matthews), Frederick Becker (Mineral Springs), Carl Ellington (Mint Hill), Surluta Anthony (Monroe), Eddie Dinger (Mooresville), Jack Edwards (Pineville), Michael Johnson (Statesville), Richard Helms (Union County), Steve Maher (Waxhaw), Scott Buzzard (Weddington), Tracy Dodson (NCBOT-Division 10)

Non-Voting Members Attending:

Jim Walker (NC Turnpike Authority), Elizabeth McMillan (Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission)

1. Call to Order

Chairman Jim Taylor called the January 2017 CRTPO meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

2. Election of Officers

Chairman Taylor opened the floor to nominations for 2017 MPO chair. Surluta Anthony nominated Chairman Taylor. No other nominations were put forth. Upon being put to a vote, Chairman Taylor was unanimously elected chairman for 2017.

Chairman Taylor then asked for nominations for vice-chair. Mayor Becker nominated Vice-Chairman Johnson. No other nominations were put forth. Upon being put to a vote, Vice-Chairman Johnson was unanimously elected vice-chairman for 2017.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

Summary:

Chairman Taylor asked if there were items to be added to the agenda or changed. Mr. Cook stated that an additional TIP amendment needed to be added to the agenda. The project was the Sam Newell multi-use path, TIP #EB-5783.

Motion-to add the Sam Newell Road (EB-5783) multi-use path to the agenda:

Ms. Anthony made a motion to add the Sam Newell Road multi-use path to the agenda. Michael Miltich seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion to add the Sam Newell Road multi-use path to the agenda was approved unanimously.

Motion-to adopt the agenda:

Mr. Miltich made a motion to adopt the agenda with the Sam Newell Road multi-use path item included. Carl Ellington seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion to adopt the agenda was approved unanimously.

4. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments

5. Ethics Awareness & Conflict of Interest Reminder

Mr. Cook read the ethics awareness and conflict of interest reminder. Tracy Dodson asked to be recused from agenda item 8, Comprehensive Transportation Plan, and Brian Jenest asked to be recused from agenda item 9 LYNX Silver Line. Chairman Taylor stated that formal votes to recuse the two members would be taken when those items were reached on the agenda.

6. **Approval of Minutes**

Summary:

Chairman Taylor requested action on the November 2016 meeting minutes.

Motion:

Mayor Becker made a motion to approve the November 2016 meeting minutes as presented. Ms. Anthony seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the November 2016 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

7. **2016-2025 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments**

Presenter:

Neil Burke

Summary:

Mr. Burke stated that the action requested concerned two Mecklenburg County greenway projects referenced in a memorandum included in the agenda packet, as well as the Sam Newell Road multi-use path that was added to the agenda earlier in the meeting. The two greenway projects, Stewart Creek Greenway (EB-5781) and McAlpine Creek Greenway (EB-5782), were proposed to be delayed from FY 2018 (EB-5781) and FY 2019 (EB-5782) to FY 2020 because Mecklenburg County cash flow policy does not allow for earlier construction. The proposal for the Sam Newell Road multi-use path (EB-5783) is to re-allocate \$320,000 in previously-allocated STP-DA funds to \$120,000 of Preliminary Engineering in FY 2017 and 2018, and \$200,000 for right-of-way acquisition in FY 2018. The corresponding local match is \$30,000 for preliminary engineering in FY 2017 and FY 2018 and \$50,000 for right-of-way acquisition in FY 2018.

Motion:

Vi Lyles made a motion to approve the TIP amendments as presented. Ms. Anthony seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion was adopted unanimously.

8. **Comprehensive Transportation Plan**

Presenter:

Robert Cook

Summary:

Chairman Taylor asked for a motion to recuse Tracy Dodson from participation on this item. Mr. Miltich made a motion to recuse Ms. Dodson which was seconded by Ms. Lyles. Upon being put to a vote, the motion was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Cook provided information to the MPO via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes. The presentation's purpose was to obtain approval of the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP). The following three actions were requested:

- a. Adopt the Highway, Bicycle, Pedestrian and Transit/Rail CTP maps.
- b. Acknowledge that the Thoroughfare Plan may continue to be recognized by member jurisdictions for right-of-way protection purposes and encourage all jurisdictions to move toward using the CTP for right-of-way protection. Mr. Cook stated that this was included because many jurisdictions reference the Thoroughfare Plan in their land development ordinances.
- c. Recommend to the NC Board of Transportation that it adopt the CTP maps. Mr. Cook stated that this was included because CTPs are mutually adopted by MPOs and the NCBOT.

Map changes resulting from public comments were reviewed. The agenda packet included a comprehensive list of changes. Additional corrections identified by Town of Huntersville staff were reviewed. CTP segments identified for further study by staff or member jurisdictions were reviewed. Mr. Cook stated that the TCC recommended that the board take the three actions noted above. The Charlotte Department of Transportation representative cast a dissenting vote due to the classification of a Highway map segment formerly known as the Garden Parkway, and now identified as Catawba Crossings. The segment was classified as Freeway, which matched the classification assigned by the Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln MPO on its CTP. TCC chairman Danny

Pleasant, representing Charlotte DOT, addressed the board. He asked that the board consider changing the segment's classification from Freeway to Boulevard, and explained that the City of Charlotte had worked with a developer on a large land development project (known as River One) in the segment's path that resulted in a land use vision conducive to a Boulevard designation. Ms. Lyles spoke to the Charlotte City Council's deliberations on the subject and noted that the City had received letters from the Gaston County cities of Gastonia, Mt. Holly and Belmont, as well as the Town of Cramerton, supporting the River One project and classification change to Boulevard.

Motion:

Ms. Lyles made a motion to a.) approve the Comprehensive Transportation Plan Highway, Pedestrian, Bicycle and Transit/ Rail maps, but with a change to the Highway map to change the classification of the project formerly known as the Garden Parkway from Freeway to Boulevard and remove the grade separations and interchanges associated with a Freeway; b.) acknowledge that the Thoroughfare Plan may continue to be recognized by member jurisdictions for right-of-way protection purposes and encourage all jurisdictions to move toward using the CTP for right-of-way protection; c.) recommend to the NC Board of Transportation that it adopt the CTP maps. Upon being put to a vote, the motion was adopted by a vote of 51 in support of the motion and 3 votes in opposition. The towns of Huntersville and Weddington cast the votes in opposition.

9. LYNX Silver Line/Southeast Corridor Transit Study

Presenter:

Jason Lawrence, CATS

Summary:

Chairman Taylor asked for a motion to recuse Brian Jenest from participation on this item. Mr. Kidwell made a motion to recuse Mr. Jenest which was seconded by Ms. Lyles. Upon being put to a vote, the motion was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Lawrence provided information to the MPO via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes. The presentation's purpose was to obtain the board's endorsement of the LYNX Silver Line/Southeast Corridor transit study. The study process was thoroughly described. The Metropolitan Transit Commission (MTC) approved the recommendations being presented at its November 2016 meeting. The action updated the 2030 Transit Corridor System Plan and replaced bus rapid transit with light rail as the long range rapid transit vision for the Southeast Corridor. At its January 2017 meeting, the TCC unanimously recommended that the board endorse the transit study's recommendation.

Motion:

Vice-Chairman Johnson made a motion to endorse the recommendations from the LYNX Silver Line/Southeast Corridor Transit Study. Ms. Anthony seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion was adopted unanimously.

10. STP-DA Criteria Modifications

Presenter:

Neil Burke

Summary:

Mr. Burke provided information to the MPO via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes. The presentation's purpose was to obtain the board's approval of proposed modifications to the STP-DA project selection criteria. The December 7, 2016 STP-DA workshop was discussed, and Mr. Burke thanked all those who were able to attend. He then reviewed the proposed changes to the criteria.

Motion:

Mr. Miltich made a motion to approve the proposed modifications to the STP-DA criteria. Mr. Kidwell seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion was adopted unanimously.

11. Review of Draft 2018-2027 State Transportation Improvement Program

Presenter:

Neil Burke

Summary:

Mr. Burke provided information to the MPO via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes. The presentation's purpose was to review the recently-released (January 4) draft 2018-2027 STIP. The draft document includes 532 projects throughout the state that are valued at \$9.6 billion. 42 of the projects are in the CRTPO planning area and are valued at over \$1 billion. The adoption timeline was discussed. The NC Board of Transportation is expected to adopt the STIP in June 2017, and the state's MPOs must adopt their TIPs by August 2017. The new TIP will go into effect on October 1, 2017. Highlights of the draft TIP were reviewed by the three STI tiers: Statewide Mobility, Regional Impacts and Division Needs. The presentation concluded with identifying several issues that will need to be addressed: scheduling/timing of multiple projects in North Mecklenburg/South Iredell and Matthews; coordination with adjacent MPOs; determining if the 2040 MTP will need to be amended; public involvement. When the board acts on the TIP in August, it will also need to make an air quality conformity determination.

12. Unified Planning Work Program

a. FY 2017 Amendments

Presenter:

Robert Cook

Summary:

Mr. Cook referred the board members to a memorandum that had been distributed that outlined proposed changes to the FY 2017 UPWP. The UPWP is the MPO's budget, and the changes were identified as a part of a midyear review of the FY 2017 budget. The adjustments were necessary to reallocate funds to task codes that were experiencing shortfalls. The reallocated funds will come from two funded local transportation planning projects that are not being pursued by the projects' sponsor, thus no existing project will experience a reduction in funds. Moreover, the proposed changes will not result in a change to CRTPO priorities. The potential changes were reviewed. Action on this matter will be requested at the February meeting.

b. Draft FY 2018 UPWP

Presenter:

Robert Cook

Summary:

Mr. Cook provided information to the MPO via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes. The presentation's purpose was to review the draft FY 18 UPWP, and to obtain the board's consensus that the UPWP's content was acceptable to the board at this stage in its development. Funding amounts were reviewed. Approximately \$2.7 million in federal funds are available for programming. A 20% local match is required. Draft allocations by task code were reviewed. It was emphasized that some work remains to be done to complete the allocation of all available funds. The proposed local transportation planning projects were reviewed. These projects are those implemented by CRTPO member jurisdictions. Eight proposals were submitted, and the UPWP Review Subcommittee has indicated its support for seven of the projects. It did not support one of two projects submitted by the Town of Huntersville because it was concerned with Town staff's ability to manage three complex projects simultaneously. (The Town recently began work on another local project.) The FY 2018 UPWP will be brought before the board for adoption at its March meeting.

13. Sharing of Federal Transit Administration Section 5307 Funds

Presenter:

David McDonald, CATS

Summary:

Mr. McDonald provided information to the MPO via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes. The presentation's purpose was to discuss how Federal Transit Administration

(FTA) Section 5307 funds are to be shared among the four local North Carolina agencies eligible to receive the funds: CATS, Iredell County Area Transportation System (ICATS), Union County Transportation and Mecklenburg Transportation System. Section 5307 funds can be used for capital and operating transit expenses. CATS is a direct recipient of the funds, and a new option for sharing the funds is to have the NCDOT-Public Transportation Division (NCDOT-PTD) serve as the direct recipient for the three other eligible systems in the Charlotte urbanized area. The next steps in the process are for CATS to work with the three other systems to finalize the Section 5307 FY 2016 allocation, and for it to work with the NCDOT-PTD to prepare a “split letter” to assign the funds to NCPTD as a Direct Recipient of the funds on the behalf of the three other systems.

14. I-485/Weddington Road Interchange AQ Conformity Determination

Presenter:

Robert Cook

Summary:

The purpose of this agenda item was to alert the board to an action item at the February meeting. At that time, the board will be asked to approve the release of a draft air quality conformity determination report for changes to the proposed I-485/Weddington Road interchange. Mr. Cook reported that NCDOT determined that the design of the I-485/Weddington Road interchange will affect the operations of the proposed managed lanes on I-485 between this interchange and the I-485/John Street interchange, and that the addition of one additional lane in each direction between the two interchanges will alleviate the problem. The addition of the lanes triggers the need for an air quality conformity determination.

15. 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

Presenter:

Robert Cook

Summary:

Mr. Cook provided information to the MPO via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes. The presentation’s purpose was to review the draft goals and objectives and a proposed change to the roadway ranking criteria in advance of seeking action on these two items at the February meeting. Public outreach plans were also discussed.

The timeline of the development of the proposed changes to the goals and objectives was discussed. The MTP Advisory Committee discussed the goals and objectives at two meetings, and a draft was presented to the TCC and the board at their November meetings at which time comments were solicited. No comments were received. The goals and objectives were recently modified to incorporate recent federal requirements for the implementation of performance-based planning. Goal 6 was revised to state as follows: Support economic competitiveness by making investment decisions for transportation modes that make the most efficient use of limited public resources and enhance system performance, as well as by pursuing sustainable funding possibilities, and a new objective was added under Goal 6: Identify investment priorities that advance established policies while achieving targets to improve overall system performance.

The roadway ranking criteria were reviewed. One minor change to the criteria is being considered. The Accessibility to Employment criterion is proposed to be modified to use data from the CONNECT Our Future initiative, specifically, the data that identified various types of employment centers in the region. It was emphasized that the criterion’s purpose (to identify how well a proposed road project serves existing jobs) will not change, instead, only the method of doing so is proposed to change.

An initial public outreach effort is scheduled to begin on January 16 and close on February 10, however, it was noted that outreach will be ongoing throughout the MTP’s development. A webinar was held on January 12 and another was scheduled for January 19. Both webinars were designed to provide an overview and schedule of the MTP development process. A special edition of the CRTPO quarterly newsletter was produced and distributed. A website has been created, www.2045mtp.org, at which can be found a variety of MTP-related information, including two videos. Other outreach events are being scheduled, including pop-up events and presentations to groups and organizations.

16. Upcoming Agenda Items

Presenter:

Robert Cook

Summary:

Mr. Cook stated that the February agenda will include action requests on the MTP's goals and objectives and roadway ranking criteria, as well as to start public involvement on the I-485/Weddington Road interchange air quality conformity determination.

17. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM.