

CHARLOTTE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center, Room 267
July 19, 2017 Meeting
Summary Minutes

Members Attending:

Vi Lyles (Charlotte), Woody Washam (Cornelius), Brian Jenest (Davidson), Mark Gibbons (Huntersville), Michael Alvarez (Indian Trail), Jeff McNeely (Iredell County), Norma Carpenter (Marshville), Joe Pollino (Marvin), Jim Taylor (Matthews), Jim Puckett (Mecklenburg County), Frederick Becker (Mineral Springs), Ted Biggers (Mint Hill), Eddie Dinger (Mooresville), Jack Edwards (Pineville), Wyatt Dunn (Stallings), Michael Johnson (Statesville), Richard Helms (Union County), Steve Maher (Waxhaw), Scott Buzzard (Weddington), Brent Moser (Wingate), Tracy Dodson (NCBOT-Division 10), Tony Lathrop (NCDOT-Division 12)

Non-Voting Members Attending:

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

1. Call to Order

Chairman Jim Taylor called the July 2017 CRTPO meeting to order at 6:07 PM.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Summary:

Chairman Taylor stated that he would like to move agenda item #6 (I-77 Express Lanes Contract) to be heard before the Public Comment Period in order to permit potential speakers present for that item to hear the presentation before commenting.

Motion:

Mayor Becker made a motion to adopt the agenda to move agenda item #6 to immediately before the Public Comment Period (agenda item #3). Woody Washam seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion to modify and adopt the agenda was approved unanimously.

3. I-77 Express Lanes Contract

Presenters:

Beau Memory, NC Turnpike Authority
James Taylor, Mercator Advisors

Summary:

Beau Memory, Executive Director of the NC Turnpike Authority stated that the purpose of the presentation was to keep the board updated on the progress of the review of the I-77 express lanes contract. James Taylor of Mercator Advisors was introduced by Mr. Memory. Mr. Taylor provided information via a Power Point presentation which is fully incorporated into the minutes and included as an attachment. There were no follow-up questions or comments.

4. Public Comment Period

The following individuals addressed the board:

- Sharon Hudson, representing Widen I-77.org: Ms. Hudson stated that the board should consider advocating for terminating the I-77 contract. She also mentioned a meeting the following night in Cornelius that will focus on the I-77 project.
- Dr. Michael Miltich, Cornelius Commissioner and CRTPO board alternate: Expressed concern about I-77 express lanes design issues, particularly about the transition from two express lanes to one express lane in the vicinity of exit 28. He has asked NCDOT for information, not just when the project opens, but for the life of the 50 year contract with I-77 Mobility Partners.
- Martin Oakes, Vice-Chairman of the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners and former member of the Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln MPO board: Spoke in opposition to the Catawba Crossings project because it

is a very expensive project. He stated it will account for 85% of funds available for programming by the GCLMPO over the next ten years.

- Michelle Ferlauto, representing LNKSTP: Ms. Ferlauto stated that nothing will be accomplished by the contract review. She also addressed funding by stating that the public-private partnership was proposed for the I-77 widening because of a lack of funds, yet the Greensboro Loop has \$2 billion in excess funds to be used for contractor incentives. She supported buying out the contract and converting the lanes to general purpose lanes.
- Bill Toole, Mecklenburg County resident and former Belmont city councilmember: Spoke against the Catawba Crossings project. The project will cost \$200 million and will divert \$80 million in the CRTPO region from much-needed projects. He also stated the project would shift jobs from North Carolina into South Carolina. He requested the board to reject the proposed resolution.
- Michael Peoples, City Manager, City of Gastonia: Requested support for the Catawba Crossings resolution. He discussed the development proposed for southeast Gaston County. The project is important locally and regionally because it will provide a much-needed connection between Gaston and Mecklenburg counties.
- Tracy Michaels Principe, Mooresville resident: Ms. Principe spoke in opposition to the I-77 express lanes project. Opposition to the Catawba Crossings project was also expressed.

5. Ethics Awareness & Conflict of Interest Reminder

Mr. Cook read the ethics awareness and conflict of interest reminder. No conflicts were identified.

6. Approval of Minutes

Summary:

Chairman Taylor requested action on the June 2017 meeting minutes.

Motion:

Mark Gibbons made a motion to approve the June 2017 meeting minutes as presented. Mayor Edwards seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the June 2017 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

7. Catawba Crossings NC Route Designation Resolution

Presenter:

Robert Cook

Summary:

Mr. Cook provided information to the board via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes. The presentation's purpose was to request the board's approval of a resolution that would designate the Catawba Crossings as a NC state highway. The Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln MPO requested that the CRTPO adopt the resolution. The TCC unanimously recommended that the board adopt the resolution at its July meeting. Catawba Crossings is a new road from I-85 in Gaston County to NC 160 in Mecklenburg County; however the GCLMPO's focus is on the portion from NC 279 in Gaston County to NC 160. The project is a component of the CTP and is classified as a Boulevard. Mr. Cook concluded the presentation by stating that approving the resolution does not: obligate the CRTPO to any further action; add the project to any CRTPO project priorities list; allocate funding to the Catawba Crossings.

A discussion among the board members followed the presentation. The discussion focused on the following issues: Why the TCC supported the request? What is the effect of supporting the resolution relative to the NCDOT Prioritization process, including if the project can move forward without CRTPO support? Are there benefits to the CRTPO adopting the resolution? Project cost was also discussed; board members were concerned with its effect of the ability of CRTPO to fund other priorities. The project from NC 160 to NC 279 is estimated to cost \$199 million, but members were also concerned about the cost of the project to I-85 (estimated to cost \$800 million). Kristy Crisp of the City of Gastonia addressed the board and stated that the project is a regional project and should be ranked at the Regional Impacts tier of the Prioritization process.

Jeff McNeely made a motion to turn down the request to adopt the resolution. Mr. Gibbons seconded the motion. Discussion followed the motion. The board discussed delaying action and requesting the TCC to present

additional information at the August meeting. Vi Lyles then made a substitute motion to send the issue back to the TCC for further discussion and to provide more information in August. Michael Johnson seconded the motion. The substitute motion was adopted as described below.

Motion:

Ms. Lyles made a motion to send the Catawba Crossings matter back to the TCC for further discussion and to provide more information at the board's August meeting. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion was approved by a vote of 38 to 23. The following jurisdictions voted in favor of the motion: Charlotte; Davidson; Matthews; Pineville; Statesville; NCDOT Division 12. The following jurisdictions voted in opposition to the motion: Cornelius; Huntersville; Indian Trail; Iredell County; Marshville; Marvin; Mecklenburg County; Mineral Springs; Mint Hill; Mooresville; Stallings; Union County; Waxhaw; Weddington; Wingate.

8. 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

Presenter:

Neil Burke

Summary:

Mr. Burke provided information to the board via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes. The presentation's purpose was to obtain the board's consent to release the 2045 MTP draft fiscally-constrained roadway project list for public comment. If approved, the comment period would be from July 20-August 3. The process to develop the project list was reviewed, including the role of the Roadway Ranking Review Committee that included membership from throughout the CRTPO planning area. The board-approved financial assumptions were reviewed, along with summaries of available funding at the three STI tiers: Statewide; Regional Impact; Division Needs. The fiscally-constrained roadway project list was reviewed. Non-roadway project lists were also reviewed. The TCC unanimously recommended that the board release the fiscally-constrained roadway project list for public comment.

Motion:

Mayor Becker made a motion to approve the release of the 2045 MTP draft fiscally-constrained project list for public comment as presented. Mayor Biggers seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

9. Critical Urban Freight Corridor (CUFC) Designation

Presenter:

Robert Cook

Summary:

Mr. Cook provided information to the board via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes. The presentation's purpose was to obtain the board's consent to designating US 74, from I-485 to US 601, as a critical urban freight corridor (CUFC). It was explained that NCDOT's Transportation Planning Branch made the recommendation as part of the preparation of the Statewide Freight Plan and that the recommendation is consistent with the recently-completed Regional Freight Mobility Plan. The designation will make this portion of US 74 eligible for funding already available to other area roadways such as I-77 and I-85 that are already designated as freight corridors. The TCC unanimously recommended that the board make the designation.

Motion:

Mr. McNeely made a motion to approve the designation of US 74, from I-485 to US 601, as a critical urban freight corridor (CUFC). Mr. Gibbons seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

10. FTA Section 5310 TIP Amendments

Presenter:

David McDonald, Charlotte Area Transit System

Summary:

Mr. McDonald provided information via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes. The presentation's purpose was to request that the board amend the TIP in order to provide funding for projects under the Section 5310 program which is identified as Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities. CATS is the designated recipient of Section 5310 funds allocated to the Charlotte urbanized area (UZA) and recently completed a project solicitation and selection process. An evaluation panel recommended projects for funding in March 2017, and the FTA requires that the TIP be amended to match the grant amounts for the three main categories: Capital; Operating; Administrative Oversight. Prior year funding will lapse if not encumbered in a grant by September 2017. The draft project was reviewed. It included nine projects from Iredell, Mecklenburg and Union counties, as well as funds to support general administration. The TCC unanimously recommended that the board approve the TIP amendment.

Motion:

Mayor Biggers made a motion to approve the TIP amendments as presented. Mr. McNeely seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

11. Independence Pointe Parkway CTP Alignment Modification

Presenter:

Kathi Ingrish, Town of Matthews

Summary:

Ms. Ingrish provided information via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes. The presentation's purpose was to update the board on the project's progress in advance of a request to amend the CTP at the August meeting. The public comment period was held from May 25 to June 25, and a public comment session was held at the Town board meeting on June 12. Comments received were reviewed. Ms. Ingrish stated that the Town board voted to support the Blue alignment. Scott Buzzard requested that the presentation be provided to all board members.

12. Transportation Improvement Program

a. 2018-2027 TIP Adoption Process Update

Presenter:

Neil Burke

Summary:

Mr. Burke provided information to the board via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes. The presentation's purpose was to update the board on the process to adopt the 2018-2027 TIP. NCDOT released a revised draft TIP on June 28 and the NCBOT delayed adopting the state TIP until August. The revised draft was necessary in order to reflect: additional STI revenue; project schedule accelerations; new projects. \$240 million in additional STI revenue for the CRTPO is shown in the revised draft TIP, and will result in 19 roadway project schedule accelerations. The complete list of revisions was reviewed. The delay in the draft TIP's release will result in the CRTPO's TIP comment period shifting to July 10-August 9 and a delay in adopting the TIP from August to September.

b. 2020-2029 TIP Development Process (NCDOT Prioritization 5.0)

Presenter:

Neil Burke

Summary:

Mr. Burke provided information to the board via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes. The presentation's purpose was to update the board on the efforts to prepare the 2020-2027 TIP through the Prioritization 5.0 process. The two upcoming board decisions were reviewed: August meeting-approve project adjustments for P5.0 or deletions from the database; September meeting-approve the lists of new candidate projects for P5.0. There are 46 submittal slots for roadway projects, plus ten "carryover" projects. The non-roadway projects were discussed. The Bicycle & Pedestrian Work Group identified 23 projects. CATS staff is assisting with the public transportation project list. Staff is consulting with the NCDOT

Rail Division and CATS on rail projects and with the region's three airports on aviation projects. The presentation concluded with a review of upcoming TIP-related actions.

13. Upcoming Agenda Items

Presenter:

Robert Cook

Summary:

Mr. Cook asked the board members to look at the master schedule of upcoming actions included in the agenda packet. The schedule was focused on activities associated with TIP and MTP development. He stated that August meeting will include requests for action on the following items: the 2045 MTP fiscally-constrained project list and the Independence Pointe Parkway alignment change. Prioritization 5.0-related action will also be on the agenda.

14. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.