

CHARLOTTE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center, Room 267
August 16, 2017 Meeting
Summary Minutes

Members Attending:

Vi Lyles (Charlotte), Woody Washam (Cornelius), Beth Cashion (Davidson), Mark Gibbons (Huntersville), Michael Alvarez (Indian Trail), Jeff McNeely (Iredell County), Jim Taylor (Matthews), Jim Puckett (Mecklenburg County), Frederick Becker (Mineral Springs), Eddie Dingle (Mooresville), Jack Edwards (Pineville), Michael Johnson (Statesville), Richard Helms (Union County), James Warner (Waxhaw), Tracy Dodson (NCBOT-Division 10), John Pope (NCBOT-Division 12)

Non-Voting Members Attending:

Jim Walker (NC Turnpike Authority), Tony Lathrop (NCBOT-At Large)

1. Call to Order

Chairman Jim Taylor called the August 2017 CRTPO meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Summary:

Chairman Taylor stated that he recommended that the agenda be modified to hear public comment on agenda item #6, I-77 Express Lanes Contract, and agenda item #7, Catawba Crossings NC State Route Designation Resolution, to be heard following presentations on those items. Public comment on any other agenda item or topic would be heard during the standard Public Comment Period on the agenda.

Motion:

Mayor Washam made a motion to modify the agenda to hear public comment on agenda items #6 and #7 following the presentations on those items. Surluta Anthony seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion to modify and adopt the agenda was approved unanimously.

3. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments other than those addressing agenda items #6 and #7.

4. Ethics Awareness & Conflict of Interest Reminder

Mr. Cook read the ethics awareness and conflict of interest reminder. Tracy Dodson and Tony Lathrop stated they would like to be recused from the discussion of agenda item #7, Catawba Crossings. Chairman Taylor stated that action to recuse them would be taken at the time that item is reached.

5. Approval of Minutes

Summary:

Chairman Taylor requested action on the July 2017 meeting minutes.

Motion:

Ms. Anthony made a motion to approve the July 2017 meeting minutes as presented. Mark Gibbons seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the July 2017 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

6. 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. The presentation reviewed the I-77 comprehensive agreement draft report. Board members posed questions following the presentation. Mark Gibbons asked how many amendments had been made to the comprehensive agreement. Mr. Taylor replied that seven amendments had been made. Chairman Taylor asked when the report will be complete and provided to the NC Secretary of Transportation for a decision. Mr. Memory replied that it is the NC Turnpike Authority's goal to have the report completed and provided to Secretary Trogon by September 22. Additional public engagement is likely after that date, but Mr. Memory did not speculate on Secretary Trogon's decision-making time frame.

Public Comment:

The following individuals addressed the board:

- Dr. Michael Miltich: Addressed design-related concerns associated with the project, specifically concerns associated with weave movements. Stated that citizens in northern Mecklenburg County would prefer no project to the one under construction. Asked that a minimum of three general purpose lanes be provided.
- Rick Monroe: Research that should have been done four or five years ago on the project needs to be completed, including an economic impact study.
- Sharon Hudson: Discussed the methods that Cintra uses to gain support for toll facilities.
- Julia Carr: Stated that the contract with I-77 Mobility Partners was flawed.

7. Catawba Crossings NC Route Designation Resolution

Presenter:

Bill Coxe, TCC Vice-Chairman

Summary:

Chairman Taylor asked for a motion to excuse Ms. Dodson and Mr. Lathrop from this agenda item. Michael Johnson made a motion to do so. Woody Washam seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Coxe 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 that the board consider adopting a resolution supporting a NC state highway route designation for the Catawba Crossings that had been requested by the Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln MPO (GCLMPO). The GCLMPO requested that the CRTPO adopt the resolution to assist in its request to have the Catawba Crossings STI tier elevated from Division Needs to Regional Impacts in the hope that doing so would result in a higher Prioritization score. The TCC's deliberations on the topic were discussed. In July, the TCC unanimously recommended that the board adopt a resolution in support of the designation for the entire corridor, from West Boulevard in Mecklenburg County to I-85 in Gaston County. In response to the board's discussion in July, the TCC reconsidered the matter at its August meeting but did not change its recommendation. Mr. Coxe then reviewed the key questions raised by the board in August and provided the TCC's responses. The board briefly discussed the issue and posed questions to Mr. Coxe, then moved to hear public comment (below).

The board discussed the matter further following the public comment period. Vi Lyles asked that Danny Pleasant, CDOT director and TCC chairman, to address the relationship of this project to the River District rezoning recently approved by the City of Charlotte. Mr. Gibbons asked if the GCLMPO's requested action was necessary to having the state highway designation approved. Division 10 Engineer Louis Mitchell replied that the support of both MPOs was important to state officials responsible for making the decision.

Public Comment:

The following individuals addressed the board in support of the Catawba Crossings project:

- Todd Piercell, City of Gastonia Mayor Pro Tem/GCLMPO chairman
- Ronnie Worley, Gaston County Commissioner
- Bryan Hough, Mayor, City of Mt. Holly
- Charlie Martin, Mayor, City of Belmont
- Demetrios Koutsoupas, Mayor Pro Tem, Town of Cramerton

- Bob Clay, Greater Gaston Development Corp.
- Martha Stowe, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Belmont
- Keith Kelly, Charlotte Chamber
- Jim Gallagher, Councilmember, City of Gastonia
- Will Neumann, Gaston County resident

The following individuals addressed the board in opposition to the Catawba Crossings project:

- Rep. Dana Bumgardner, NC House of Representatives
- Bill Toole, Charlotte resident
- Terry Lansdell, Clean Air Carolina

Motions:

A motion was made by Jeff McNeely to not support the resolution because it affects the 13 counties in Region F. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gibbons. Discussion followed, at which time Ms. Lyles noted her directed vote to support the resolution. Upon being put to a vote, 20 votes were cast in favor of the motion and 36 votes were cast in opposition. The motion failed. (Favor: Cornelius, Davidson, Huntersville, Indian Trail, Iredell County, Mecklenburg County, Mineral Springs, Mooresville, Pineville, Statesville, Union County, Waxhaw; Opposed: Charlotte, Matthews, Monroe, NCBOT-Division 12)

A second motion was made by Surluta Anthony to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lyles. Upon being put to a vote, 36 votes were cast in favor of the motion and 20 votes were cast in opposition. The motion passed. (Favor: Charlotte, Matthews, Monroe, NCBOT-Division 12; Opposed: Cornelius, Davidson, Huntersville, Indian Trail, Iredell County, Mecklenburg County, Mineral Springs, Mooresville, Pineville, Statesville, Union County, Waxhaw)

Following the above motion, Chairman Taylor requested a motion to allow Ms. Dodson and Mr. Lathrop to return to the meeting. Beth Cashion made a motion to do so. Mr. Washam seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

8. 2016-2025 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments

Presenter:

Curtis Bridges

Summary:

Mr. Bridges stated that there were two TIP amendments for the board’s consideration.

1. TIP project EB-5829, Four Mile Creek Greenway: Approve an amendment to shift 10% of the project’s funding from construction to preliminary engineering. Project details are as follows:

Project Description	Summary of TIP amendment	Reason
Construct Four Mile Creek Greenway Crossing Under S. Trade Street (EB-5829)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reallocate \$111,400 of STBG-DA for this project from construction to preliminary engineering. 	To allow for preliminary engineering to be considered a STBG-DA reimbursable expense for this project.

2. Add the SPBG-DA bicycle and pedestrian projects approved at the May 2017 meeting to the TIP. Project details are as follows:

Project Description	STBG-DA Funding Requested	Project Phases
Belk Greenway Connector Phase 1 in Charlotte (New Project)	\$1,716,000 (PE: \$97,000; RW: \$69,000; CON: \$1,550,000)	PE Complete: FY-19 ROW Begin: FY-20 Let Date: FY-21 Project Complete: FY-22
Downtown Troutman Sidewalk Package (New Project)	\$801,806 (PE: \$55,263 RW: \$71,858; CON: \$674,685)	PE Complete: FY-19 ROW Begin: FY-19 Let Date: FY-20 Project Complete: FY-21

Waxhaw Indian Trail Complete Street in Indian Trail (New Project)	\$2,509,650 (CON: \$2,509,650)	PE Complete: FY-18 ROW Begin: FY-18 Let Date: FY-19 Project Complete: FY-21
Sam Newell Rd Multi-Use Path in Matthews (EB-5723)	\$640,000 (CON: \$640,000)	PE Complete: FY-18 ROW Begin: FY-18 Let Date: FY-19 Project Complete: FY-20
Richardson Greenway South in Troutman (New Project)	\$791,986 (CON: \$791,986)	PE Complete: FY-19 ROW Begin: FY-19 Let Date: FY-20 Project Complete: FY-21
Kincaid Multi-Use Path in Davidson (New Project)	\$701,780 (CON: \$701,780)	PE Complete: FY-17 ROW Begin: FY-17 Let Date: FY-18 Project Complete: FY-19

Chairman Taylor asked if both amendments were unanimously recommended by the TCC. Mr. Bridges replied that both were unanimously recommended.

Motion:

Mr. Gibbons made a motion to approve both TIP amendment requests. Mayor Becker seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion was approved unanimously.

9. Independence Pointe Parkway CTP Alignment Modification

Presenter:

Kathi Ingrish, Town of Matthews

Summary:

Ms. Ingrish 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 that the board consider an amendment to the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) to modify the alignment of Independence Pointe Parkway in Matthews. The alignment options that had been considered were reviewed, along with issues and concerns identified during the public comment period. TCC and NCDOT concerns were also discussed. The TCC unanimously recommended that the "blue" option be approved by the board.

Motion:

Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the CTP alignment modification for the Independence Pointe Parkway "blue" option. Mr. Gibbons seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

10. Draft Public Involvement Plan

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 that the board consider opening a 45-day public comment period on a draft update to the Public Involvement Plan (PIP). Metropolitan planning regulations require 45 day comment periods for updates and modifications to PIPs. If approved, the comment period will run from August 17 through October 2. Mr. Cook discussed the focus of the update: strengthen CRTPO's ability to engage with residents; review the current PIP to evaluate its effectiveness; develop a promotion strategy to utilize the latest technology.

Motion:

Mayor Becker made a motion to approve opening a 45-day public comment period on the draft PIP. Mr. Gibbon seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

11. 2020-2029 TIP Development Process (NCDOT Prioritization 5.0)

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 approval of two requests:

1. Approve a change to the southern extent of the I-77 Express Lanes project to SC Line instead of I-485; and
2. Open a 14-day public comment period on the proposed P5.0 project submittals.

In addition to the requests, the presentation covered the following topics: Review the proposed P5.0 Highway project submittals; review the proposed P5.0 Non-Highway project submittals; review project submittal schedule. The proposed project lists for all modes were reviewed.

Motions:

Mr. Gibbons made a motion approve the modification to the southern project limit of the I-77 South project (I-5718A) to begin the project at the South Carolina state line instead of I-485. Mayor Becker seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Cashion made a motion to approve the opening of a public comment period on the draft P5.0 project lists for all modes. Mr. Washam seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

12. 2018-2027 Transportation Improvement Program Adoption Update

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 update the board on the process to adopt the 2018-2027 TIP. Topics covered included: public involvement update; financial plan update; information regarding the air quality conformity determination; adoption schedule.

The efforts to seek public comment were discussed. As of August 16, 91 comments had been received. The majority of the comments were in support of a proposed widening of NC 16 in Waxhaw. Other comments expressed opposition to the widening of John St./Old Monroe Road in Mecklenburg and Union counties. Staff is working on a financial plan that is currently in a draft stage (TIPs must be financially constrained). The board will be asked to adopt the 2018-2027 TIP in September.

13. 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

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 update the board on the development of the 2045 MTP. The original schedule had been for the board to adopt the fiscally-constrained project list at this meeting; however, the TCC delayed action on a recommendation due to a request from the Town of Cornelius to consider adding a project on NC 115 to the 2045 horizon year. The Roadway Ranking Review Committee will meet to consider the request and make a recommendation to the TCC, which will in turn act on its recommendation to the CRTPO board at its September meeting. Due to the delay, the public comment period was extended to August 30.

Public outreach efforts were discussed. One item of note was that the CRTPO for the first time paid for an ad on Facebook which reached close to 12,000 people and resulted in 500 people visiting the project website (www.2045MTP.org) and 30 new followers on the CRTPO Facebook page.

14. Ramp Metering Feasibility Study

The presenter on this item elected to defer the presentation to the September meeting.

15. Upcoming Agenda Items

Presenter:

Robert Cook

Summary:

Mr. Cook stated that the September meeting agenda will include three critical actions:

1. Adoption of the 2018-2027 TIP
2. Approval of the 2045 MTP fiscally-constrained roadway project list
3. Approval of the project lists for submittal to NCDOT's P5.0 database as part of the effort to prepare the 2020-2029 TIP

Action on all three items is time sensitive.

14. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.