

CHARLOTTE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center, Room 267
March 21, 2018 Meeting
Summary Minutes

Members Attending:

Greg Phipps (Charlotte), Michael Miltich (Cornelius), Jane Campbell (Davidson), Brian Hines (Huntersville), Jerry Morse (Indian Trail), James Mallory (Iredell County), Paul Bailey (Matthews), Jim Puckett (Mecklenburg County), Frederick Becker (Mineral Springs), Eddie Dinger (Mooresville), Jack Edwards (Pineville), Lynda Paxton (Stallings), Michael Johnson (Statesville), Frank Aikmus (Union County), Steve Maher (Waxhaw), Scott Buzzard (Weddington), Brad Horvath (Wesley Chapel), Tony Lathrop (NCBOT-Division 10)

Non-Voting Members Attending:

Victoria Nwasike (Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission), Jim Walker (NC Turnpike Authority), Russell Wing (Union County Planning Board)

1. Call to Order

Chairman Michael Johnson called the March 2018 CRTPO meeting to order at 6:10 PM.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Summary:

Chairman Johnson recommended that agenda item 10, I-485 & US 74 Express Lanes Project, be moved up on the agenda to follow the approval of the minutes (item 5). No other changes were identified.

Motion:

Michael Miltich made a motion to adopt the agenda with the modification noted above. Jane Campbell seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion to adopt the agenda as modified was approved unanimously.

Chairman Johnson encouraged all to attend a joint meeting with the Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln MPO on April 4.

3. Public Comment Period

Lawrence Kopf, representing the Charlotte Area Transit System, addressed the board about its Envision My Ride Initiative to redesign the current bus system. A handout about the initiative was provided.

4. Ethics Awareness & Conflict of Interest Reminder

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

5. Approval of Minutes

Summary:

Chairman Johnson requested action on the February 2018 meeting minutes.

Motion:

Dr. Miltich made a motion to approve the February 2018 meeting minutes as presented. Paul Bailey seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the February 2018 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

6. I-485 & US 74 Express Lanes Project

Presenter:

Beau Memory & Rodger Rochelle, NC Turnpike Authority

Summary:

Beau Memory, executive director of the NC Turnpike Authority, opened the discussion with introductory remarks about the NCTA. Rodger Rochelle then addressed the board with specifics about the I-485 and US 74 express lanes projects. The NCTA presentation is incorporated into the minutes. The presentation's primary purpose was

to update the board on the projects' status, specifically about the tolling scenarios being considered. Mr. Rochelle stated that the original concept for each project was an HOV 3+ arrangement for both projects in which carpools were self-declared (similar to I-77 North express lanes), but that there were revenue shortfalls for both for a number of years (the length of time was different for the two projects), thus resulting in significant financial risk of opening with self-declared carpools. A ride-share program in south Florida was proposed as an alternative to self-declared carpools which requires vanpools and carpools to pre-register. An entity known as South Florida Commuter Services (SFCS) was discussed. This agency verifies information provided on registration forms for one or all members of the 3+ carpool, and all participants must maintain and renew their carpool and vehicle registration with the SFCS in order to not be charged tolls. The NCTA's proposed approach was described as follows: 1) vehicles registered in the ride-share program and transit vehicles will travel toll free; 2) ride-share program registration details will be developed with transit operators; 3) the NCTA will commit to installing equipment and infrastructure to support a shift to self-declared carpools in future years; 4) project schedules are contingent on CRTPO feedback and addressing base case financial model shortfalls.

Board members posed questions to the NCTA representatives following the presentation. Dr. Miltich asked about the number of general purpose lanes associated with the projects. Mr. Rochelle replied that the number of general purpose lanes varies, but will generally remain unchanged; however, a general purpose lane will be added to the I-485 project, but only between exit 57 (Rea Road) and exit 59 (Providence Road). Mayor Vi Lyles stated that flexibility would be important to encourage people to use carpools. Dr. Miltich stated there were many potential loopholes in the program. Mayor Becker asked why there was a significant improvement in the shortfall levels when going from HOV 3+ to the HOV 3+ preregister concept. The response was that enforcement costs are lower and leakage rates (motorists using the facility improperly, motorists who cannot be billed, etc.) drop. Greg Phipps asked if there were enforcement costs associated with the HOV 3+ preregister concept. Mr. Rochelle replied that enforcement costs were still a factor. Chairman Johnson asked who pays for front end costs. Mr. Memory responded that NCDOT can front some costs, but that the NCTA must repay those costs with interest. Chairman Johnson asked if the funds to do so come out of STI funds. Mr. Memory stated that they come from Division maintenance funds. Mayor Lyles recommended that violators' fines be punitive to discourage violations and Ms. Campbell recommended leveraging technology to assist with violations. James Mallory expressed a concern that the community is not familiar with the various tolling policy, to which Mr. Memory replied that the NCTA must effectively communicate with the public.

Chairman Johnson stated that the region will soon have four active toll projects and all are dissimilar which is confusing to the public. He stated that the NCTA should work with the TCC to establish some type of committee relationship that can vet material regarding the tolling scenario the NCTA settles on, as well as effectively communicate the various tolling types with the public. Mr. Memory responded by stating that an operations committee could be formed as the projects move forward.

7. Transportation Improvement Program Amendment: McAlpine Creek Greenway

Presenter:

Neil Burke

Summary:

Mr. Burke stated that there was an error in the memorandum in the agenda packet. In addition to delaying the funding from FY 2019 to FY 2020, Mecklenburg County also requests that all funds be devoted to construction. Thus, two actions were requested: 1) delay project funding from FY 2019 to FY 2020 as correctly shown on the original memorandum, and 2) shift all funding to the construction category. The TCC unanimously recommended that the Board adopt the TIP amendment.

Motion:

Mayor Becker made a motion to approve the TIP amendment as requested. Lynda Paxton seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

8. 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 obtain the Board's adoption of the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Specifically, the following actions were requested:

1. Find that the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan and the 2018-2027 Transportation Improvement Program are in compliance with the provisions of the Clean Act Amendment of 1990 and the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act;
2. Adopt the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan; and
3. Amend the 2018-2027 Transportation Improvement Program.

The three TIP amendments were reviewed: Gilead Road widening in Huntersville, Bailey Road in Cornelius and Northcross Drive Extension in Cornelius and Huntersville. Mr. Cook then discussed some next steps to be taken, including upcoming amendments to implement performance-based planning requirements, conducting a lessons learned exercise, reviewing the roadway ranking methodology for improvements and reviewing the Emerging Strategies to determine what the CRTPO should be focused on between now and when the next MTP is adopted. Lastly, it was noted that at its March meeting, the TCC unanimously recommended that the Board take the three requested actions. Dr. Miltich stated that the plan assumes that the I-77 express lanes project will be completed in its current form, but urged the CRTPO to be flexible in addressing how the plan will have to change if the NCDOT contract with I-77 Mobility Partners is cancelled.

Motion:

Dr. Miltich made a motion to a) find that the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan and the 2018-2027 Transportation Improvement Program are in compliance with the provisions of the Clean Air Act amendments of 1990 and the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) act; b) adopt the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan; and c) amend the 2018-2027 Transportation Improvement Program. Mayor Becker seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

9. Unified Planning Work Program

a. FY 2018 Amendment

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 an amendment to the FY 2018 UPWP. The reason for the amendment was to reallocate funds to four task codes experiencing shortfalls. The reallocation will allow necessary work in those task codes to proceed until the end of the fiscal year. The amount of money to be reallocated was \$152,250. The amendment will not result in policy or priority changes, and new money is not being added to the program. The task codes affected by the amendment were reviewed. At its March meeting, the TCC unanimously recommended that the Board adopt the amendment.

Motion:

Mr. Mallory made a motion to approve the FY 2018 UPWP amendment as requested. Dr. Miltich seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

b. FY 2019 UPWP Adoption

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 adoption of the FY 2019 UPWP. A brief overview of the UPWP was provided. It was stated that \$300,000 in FY 18 funds will be carried over to FY 19 in order to assure that six local transportation planning projects will be able to be completed in the

next fiscal year. The projects are being conducted by Charlotte, Cornelius, Davidson, Huntersville, Mooresville and Union County. The funding levels were reviewed. The unobligated balance of unused past years' funds was only \$19,713 which will not allow the CRTPO to support local transportation planning projects in FY 2019. At its March meeting, the TCC unanimously recommended that the Board adopt the FY 2019 UPWP.

Motion:

Dr. Miltich made a motion to approve the FY 2019 UPWP as requested. Mr. Phipps seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

10. CRTPO Self-Certification

Presenter:

Robert Cook

Summary:

Mr. Cook stated that the action before Board was to adopt a resolution certifying the CRTPO's planning process for FY 2018. Federal regulations require MPOs to annually self-certify to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) that their planning processes address the major issues facing the planning area and are being conducted in accordance with all applicable requirements of the metropolitan planning process and related requirements. Mr. Cook stated that this issue was presented to the Board at its February meeting, at which time a checklist was reviewed that addressed all major regulations and statutes. The checklist was a part of the agenda packet. Staff's finding was that the CRTPO was meeting all requirements. At its March meeting, the TCC unanimously recommended that the Board adopt the resolution.

Motion:

Dr. Miltich made a motion to adopt the self-certification resolution. Mr. Phipps seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

11. STBG-DA Funding Reallocation

Presenter:

Dennis Rorie, Project Oversight Committee Chairman

Summary:

Mr. Rorie referred to a memorandum in the agenda packet. The purpose of the presentation was to provide information to the Board in advance of seeking action on this topic at the April meeting. The actions to be requested at that time will be to:

1. Approve the allocation of \$330,473 in STBG-DA funds to the S. Trade Street/Four Mile Creek Greenway Underpass bicycle and pedestrian project in Matthews; and
2. Approve the allocation of \$629,886 in STBG-DA funds for the NC 200 and Parkwood School Road roundabout in Union County.

The Project Oversight Committee developed the above recommendations which were presented to the TCC at its March meeting, at which time the TCC unanimously recommended that the Board approve the changes.

12. Monroe Expressway Update

Presenter:

Warren Cooksey, NC Turnpike Authority

Summary:

Mr. Cooksey 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 project's progress. The project's purpose and history were provided, followed by a series of aerial photographs demonstrating the progress that has been made on the project since February 2017.

13. Upcoming Agenda Items

Presenter:

Robert Cook

Summary:

Mr. Cook stated that the April agenda will include information on Prioritization 5.0 (project scores were expected to be released in early April). The agenda will also include a discussion of CMAQ-related performance measures and action on the STBG-DA funding allocations mentioned earlier.

14. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 PM.