

CHARLOTTE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center, Room 267
January 16, 2019 Meeting
Summary Minutes

Members Attending:

Greg Phipps (Charlotte), Michael Miltich (Cornelius), Jane Campbell (Davidson), Mark Gibbons (Huntersville), Jerry Morse (Indian Trail), Jeff McNeely (Iredell County), Norma Carpenter (Marshville), Paul Bailey (Matthews), George Dunlap (Mecklenburg County), Frederick Becker (Mineral Springs), Lynda Paxton (Stallings), Michael Johnson (Statesville), Richard Helms (Union County), Steve Maher (Waxhaw), Elizabeth Callis (Weddington), Brad Horvath (Wesley Chapel), Sam Bowles (NCBOT-Division 10)

Non-Voting Members Attending:

Victoria Nwasike (Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission), Chuck Travis (NC Turnpike Authority)

1. Call to Order

Chairman Michael Johnson called the January 2019 CRTPO meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Board members were asked to introduce themselves.

Robert Cook introduced Judy Dellert-O'Keef as the new public engagement and consultation planner for the CRTPO. Ms. Dellert-O'Keef started her new position on Monday. Mr. Cook also explained that Candice Rorie has taken a new position within the Charlotte Planning, Design, and Development Department as Strategic Initiatives Manager. Her previous position as Transportation Planning Engineer is open for applicants.

2. Election of Officers

Chairman Johnson directed Neil Burke to conduct the elections for the 2019 CRTPO Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Burke opened the floor for nominations for 2019 CRTPO board vice-chairman. Lynda Paxton nominated Paul Bailey. The nomination was seconded by Steve Maher. No additional nominations were put forth. Upon being put to a vote, Mayor Bailey was elected vice-chairman for 2019.

Mr. Burke opened the floor for nominations for 2019 CRTPO board chair. Mayor Mahar nominated Chairman Johnson for 2019 CRTPO board chair. Additional nominations were requested, however, no additional nominations were put forth. The nomination was seconded by Mayor Horvath. The motion was approved unanimously. Upon being put to a vote, Chairman Johnson was unanimously elected chairman for 2019.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

Summary:

Chairman Johnson asked if any changes to the agenda were necessary. No changes were identified.

Motion:

Mark Gibbons made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Jane Campbell seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion to adopt the agenda as presented was approved unanimously.

4. Public Comment Period

Louis Terrell of Charlotte expressed his concern regarding the L.E.D. freeway lighting upgrade project. Mr. Terrell stated that he is a driver for the Greyhound Bus company and he believed that the lack of functioning lights along the Charlotte-area freeway system is a safety issue. NCDOT staff has spoken with Mr. Terrell regarding his concerns.

5. Ethics Awareness & Conflict of Interest Reminder

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

6. Consent Agenda

Summary:

Chairman Johnson requested action on the sole consent agenda item: November 2018 meeting minutes.

Motion:

Michael Miltich made a motion to approve the consent agenda item. Mayor Becker seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the consent agenda item was unanimously approved.

7. CTP Alignment Amendment: Prosperity Ridge Road Extension

Presenter:

Andy Grzymski, Charlotte Dept. of Transportation

Summary:

Mr. Grzymski stated that the Board approved the opening of a comment period to receive public input on a proposed amendment to the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) to modify the alignment of the proposed Prosperity Ridge Road extension during the November 2018 meeting. The alignment is proposed to be changed in response to a rezoning request. Mr. Grzymski stated that over 130 postcards were mailed to residents within the affected area and no responses were received. The TCC unanimously recommended that the Board approve the request to amend the alignment within the CTP.

Motion:

Dr. Miltich made a motion to approve the opening of a comment period. Vice-chairman Bailey seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

8. CRTPO Draft Discretionary Policy

Presenter:

Erin Kinne

Summary:

Ms. Kinne 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 provide an update to the Board regarding the CRTPO's draft discretionary policy. Ms. Kinne stated that staff has worked throughout the past year to develop the draft policy and the document was well-received during a joint Board and TCC workshop held on December 18. Adoption of the CRTPO discretionary policy is requested at the February Board meeting.

Ms. Campbell explained that the Lake Norman Transportation Commission has expressed concern with the project contingency percentages and the affect that this provision may have on the smaller member jurisdictions. Ms. Kinne explained that this issue will be discussed during the January 24 Project Oversight Committee.

9. CRTPO Staffing Assessment

Presenter:

Rich Denbow, Cambridge Systematics

Summary:

Mr. Denbow provided information to the Board via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes. The purpose of this presentation is to review the findings of the CRTPO Staffing and Resources Study. The study's goal was to determine if the CRTPO is properly staffed and structured to meet and exceed requirements to ensure an effective transportation planning process. The study was undertaken in response to a recommendation of the 2017 Certification Review to evaluate staffing needs. Mr. Denbow reviewed the CRTPO's staffing levels in comparison with peer MPOs relative to the organizations ability to meet the

federal planning requirements. He concluded his presentation by stating that the assessment has determined that the CRTPO is adequately staffed to meet the federal planning requirements; however, additional staff would enable the organization to provide further technical assistance to its member jurisdictions.

Chuck Travis expressed the desire for the CRTPO to be engaged in regional transit planning throughout the region. Dr. Miltich stated that the CRTPO needs to be involved in the implementation of the regional freight plan. Mr. Gibbons inquired about the total number of additional staff recommended within this study. Mr. Denbow explained that a specific number of additional staff was not recommended as part of this effort, but the study provides recommendations for additional staff as it relates to desired areas of influence (i.e. a new position to support transit planning for CRTPO). Vice-Chairman Bailey stated that member jurisdictions should consider delegate continuity when appointing representatives to the Metropol and CRTPO Board since there are several issues that overlap between the two bodies.

10. US 74 Express Lanes Project Update

Presenter:

Rodger Rochelle, NC Turnpike Authority

Summary:

Mr. Rochelle provided information to the Board via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes. The purpose of this presentation is to discuss a preliminary strategy for delivering the Express Lanes projects along the US 74 corridor between I-277 in Charlotte and the I-485 in Matthews. There are three State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) projects along US-74: [1] convert busway to managed lanes, I-277 to Wallace Lane (U-5526A); [2] widen roadway for dual lane managed lane operation, I-277 to Albemarle Road (U-6103); and [3] upgrade roadway to expressway with managed lanes, Idlewild Road to I-485 (U-2509). Mr. Rochelle suggested the acceleration of U-6103 project and cancel the U-5526A project to minimize driver confusion and maximize project resources. A separate contract for the parallel network would also be accelerated to provide alternate route choices during the construction on US-74.

11. Metrolina Regional Travel Demand Model & Analysis

Presenter:

Anna Gallup, Charlotte Dept. of Transportation

Summary:

Ms. Gallup provided information to the Board via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes. An overview of the Metrolina Regional Travel Model (MRM) was provided and how it can be used by CRTPO member jurisdictions to conduct planning and other analyses. The MRM is housed within the Charlotte Dept. of Transportation, and provides travel demand forecast and analysis for the City of Charlotte, the CRTPO, and the three MPOs and RPO in the region through an interlocal agreement. The role of the MRM was described within the prioritization of roadway projects for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and identification of congested corridors in the Congestion Management Process (CMP). An overview of the Regional Integrated Information Systems (RITIS) software was provided in terms of its ability to measure corridor performance and evaluate the impact of an improvement project.

12. Draft 2020 Unified Planning Work Program

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 preparation of the FY 2020 UPWP. He stated that action was not being requested, but that consensus was being sought on draft funding allocations. An overview of the UPWP was provided. The UPWP is the CRTPO's budget. Funding levels were reviewed. Mr. Cook stated that he had very recently received a letter from NCDOT stating that, MPOs are no longer permitted to maintain unobligated balances, and any unused funding will be returned to NCDOT. The result is a substantial increase in funding from \$1,687,588 in FY 2019 to \$2,244,661 in FY 2020. Potential

allocations were reviewed. No concerns were identified by the Board. Funding allocations will be reviewed and adjusted (if necessary) in February and the final UPWP will be presented for adoption in March.

13. Review of Draft 2020-2029 State Transportation Improvement Program

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 review the recently-released (January 10) draft 2020-2029 STIP. The draft document includes 484 projects throughout the state that are valued at \$7.5 billion. 42 of the projects are in the CRTPO planning area and are valued at over \$920 million. Project shortfalls and diminished available revenues within the first several years of the TIP have led to 25 legacy CRTPO roadway projects that have been delayed at least one year within the draft 2020-2029 STIP. The adoption timeline was discussed. The NC Board of Transportation is expected to adopt the STIP in June 2019, and the state's MPOs must adopt their TIPs by August 2019. The new TIP will go into effect on October 1, 2019. 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: identification of amendments to the 2045 MTP, air quality conformity determination, financial plan; and, public involvement. When the board acts on the TIP in August, it will also need to make an air quality conformity determination.

14. Performance-Based Planning: 2019 Safety Targets

Presenter:

Robert Cook

Summary:

Mr. Cook stated that the presentation's purpose was to present information on 2019 safety targets as part of implementing performance-based planning requirements. No action was requested, but the Board will be asked to endorse updated targets in February. The Board was reminded that it first endorsed safety targets in November 2017. NCDOT released the proposed 2019 targets at the end of August, and based on rules established by the FHWA, the CRTPO has until February 27 to endorse the NCDOT targets or adopt its own targets. It was stated that the TCC reviewed the targets at its November meeting and had until November 21 to provide comments to staff. No comments were received. There were no objections raised to including the approval of the 2019 performance-based planning safety targets on the consent agenda for the February meeting.

15. Upcoming Agenda Items

Presenter:

Neil Burke

Summary:

An overview of the February agenda was provided. The consent agenda will likely include at least one TIP amendment as well as the approval of the 2019 performance-based safety targets. Action will be requested for the Board to adopt the discretionary policy and annual schedule. David Wasserman will conduct a presentation on NCDOT's role in developing the 2020-2029 STIP as an information report.

A joint meeting between the Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln MPO and CRTPO Boards will be held on March 13. The location of the meeting will likely be in Gaston County.

Planning is progressing on a retreat for CRTPO delegates and alternates to be held in April. The purpose would be to help set a strategic direction for the organization. The reasons for making the recommendation included following up on the staffing assessment (which included a recommendation that the CRTPO prepare a strategic plan), the need to soon begin work in the 2050 MTP, and the lead planning agency organizational changes that resulted in the CRTPO being established as a division within the Planning Dept.

Registration for the 2019 NC Association of MPO's annual conference in Charlotte will open next week. The date of the conference is April 24-26 at the Charlotte Convention Center.

Chairman Johnson thanked Mayor Lyles, Tony Lathrop, Secretary Trogdon and NCDOT staff for their work to develop an excellent program for the North Carolina Transportation Summit, held on January 9-10 in Raleigh.

16. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.