

CHARLOTTE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center, Room 267
April 17, 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), Paul Bailey (Matthews), Frederick Becker (Mineral Springs), Eddie Dinger (Mooresville), Jack Edwards (Pineville), Lynda Paxton (Stallings), Michael Johnson (Statesville), Richard Helms (Union County), Steve Maher (Waxhaw), Brad Horvath (Wesley Chapel), Sam Bowles (NCBOT-Division 10), Tony Lathrop (NCBOT-Division 12)

Non-Voting Members Attending:

Victoria Nwasike (Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission), Jerry Santoni (Iredell County Planning Board), Jim Walker (NC Turnpike Authority)

1. Call to Order

Chairman Michael Johnson called the April 2019 CRTPO meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Summary:

Chairman Johnson explained that NCDOT has requested that the agenda item 8 be modified to allow for the CRTPO to take action to make an endorsement for NCDOT to initiate air quality conformity modeling for the I-77 North Peak Period Shoulder Lanes project. No additional agenda modifications were identified.

Motion:

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

3. Public Comment Period

Two people provided public comments.

1. Kurt Naas. Mr. Naas stated that he was a commissioner with the Town of Cornelius and is the town's current alternate on the CRTPO Board. Mr. Naas referenced the memorandum that was prepared by CRTPO staff that highlighted questions and concerns regarding the I-77 Peak Period Shoulder Lanes concept. He explained that he was an active member of the I-77 Local Advisory Group (LAG) appointed by Governor Cooper. Mr. Naas referenced PowerPoint presentation slides from an LAG meeting where traffic volumes along similar interstate facilities throughout North Carolina were compared against the volumes along the I-77 north corridor. Mr. Naas recommended that the CRTPO Board endorse the concept of peak period shoulder use along the I-77 north corridor.
2. John Hettwer. Mr. Hettwer stated that he was the chairman of the I-77 Business Plan and a member of the LAG. He explained that the goal of the I-77 Express Lanes project is not to relieve congestion and that the project will create additional bottlenecks in future years. Mr. Hettwer explained that the contract between NCDOT and the I-77 Mobility Partners references hardened shoulders as an innovative transit solution. He stated that he had a conversation with Secretary Trogdon, and the Secretary recommended that the CRTPO endorse NCDOT moving forward with the air quality conformity determination.

4. Ethics Awareness & Conflict of Interest Reminder

Mr. Burke read the ethics awareness and conflict of interest reminder. Tony Lathrop recused himself from agenda item 8. No additional conflicts were identified.

5. **Consent Agenda**

Summary:

Chairman Johnson requested action on the sole consent agenda item: March 2019 meeting minutes.

Motion:

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

6. **Request to Delay Segment of Project U-4714**

Presenter:

Dana Stoogenke, Town of Matthews

Summary:

Ms. Stoogenke 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 endorsement of a resolution to delay the John Street widening project (U-4714A) from South Trade Street to I-485, as requested by the Town of Matthews. She explained that the Matthews Town Board wishes to safeguard its downtown core while recognizing the importance of mobility for the region. The Town Board requested that U-4714A is delayed until Fiscal Year 2025 to allow other roadway projects within the TIP to open to traffic, which may diminish the need for this project. Ms. Stoogenke concluded her presentation by stating that the Town will continue to work with NCDOT-Division 10 on an appropriate design for this section of the corridor.

CRTPO Board members asked questions regarding how the delay would impact the cost of the project and the functionality with the remaining segment of the U-4714 project from I-485 to Wesley Chapel-Stouts Road in Indian Trail. Scott Cole from NCDOT-Division 10 explained that the A section of this project has the lowest traffic volumes along the corridor, and the funding for this project will remain committed until the project resumes in 2025.

Mayor Bailey stated that the Town of Matthews was concerned about the impact of this project on affordable housing communities along the corridor as well as the impact to Downtown. He explained that Town Staff will continue to work with NCDOT to develop an amicable solution.

Motion:

Dr. Miltich made a motion to approve endorse a resolution to delay the John Street widening project from Trade Street to I-485 (U-4714A) as requested by the Town of Matthews. Jane Campbell seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

7. **2020-2029 Draft TIP & 2045 MTP Amendments**

Presenter:

Neil Burke

Summary:

Mr. Burke provided information via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes. The presentation's purpose was to review 2045 MTP amendments resulting from changes proposed in the 2020-2029 draft TIP, discuss project schedules, and review TIP adoption schedule. Three reasons for modifying the 2045 MTP were identified: change project horizon years; change project details; add projects to the MTP. The affected projects were reviewed by noting the change type(s) associated with each. Staff will likely request that the board approve the start of a public comment period at its May meeting, with TIP adoption likely to occur in August. Action to modify the 2045 MTP will be requested at that time.

Several CRTPO Board members from Union County expressed concern with the recommendation to move the U-4714AC (formerly B) section in Union County from the 2025 horizon year to the 2035 horizon year of the 2045 MTP. Mr. Burke explained that NCDOT-Division 10 staff had reviewed the project schedule for the U-4714AC project in the draft TIP and had concerns that this project would not be open to traffic by 2025. Chairman Johnson directed staff to revisit this discussion and update the CRTPO board during the May meeting.

8. **I-77 North Peak-Period Shoulder Lanes**

Presenters:

Radha Swayampakala, RS&H and Van Argabright, NCDOT

Summary:

Mr. Swayampakala and Mr. Argabright provided information to the Board via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes.

Mr. Argabright provided background on the topic by stating that NC Transportation Secretary Jim Trogdon approached the NCDOT STIP Unit, the NC Turnpike Authority, and NCDOT Division 10 about the feasibility of utilizing peak-period shoulder lanes on I-77 north of Charlotte, including funding and design options. This concept was a recommendation from the I-77 Local Advisory Group (LAG). Mr. Argabright affirmed that they are not requesting an endorsement of the project from the TCC at this time, but are looking for concurrence to move forward with air-quality conformity modeling which will help inform the design process.

Mr. Swayampakala defined peak-period shoulder lanes as the usage of the outside shoulder during peak traffic periods, in which the shoulders act as auxiliary lanes facilitate local travel between interchanges. He explained that the traffic operations analysis for this concept is in progress as part of the NEPA document.

Mr. Argabright then explained the funding proposal for the peak-period shoulder lanes concept. He explained that the funding source for this project includes STBG-DA and Bonus Allocation funds. NCDOT identified 19 projects in the CRTPO planning area, currently funded with STBG-DA or Bonus Allocation, potentially eligible for reallocation of CMAQ funds from a NCDOT-controlled pot of funding.

Mr. Swayampakala provided an overview of the schedule to move forward with this project. He explained that a second informational report has been requested during the May CRTPO meeting to answer any questions regarding the project and/or funding proposal. Action will be requested during the June CRTPO Board meeting to process the funding reallocations. Mr. Swayampakala stated that the goal of this effort is to have a completed NEPA document by the end of calendar year 2019.

Several CRTPO Board members expressed support to accelerate the project development process for this concept and expedite public involvement. Mr. Gibbons stated that the LAG meetings were open to the public, but he recognized the need to conduct additional public involvement.

Richard Helms asked if the project schedules for the projects affected by the funding swap would experience delays. Scott Cole of NCDOT-Division 10 confirmed that these projects will continue to move forward without delay as the funding swaps can be completed simultaneously with the project delivery.

Jeff McNeely expressed support for the use of the peak period shoulder lanes by heavy trucks. This would involve strengthening the shoulders for use by these vehicles.

Gregg Phipps asked if the questions posed within the memorandum by the TCC will be answered by NCDOT. Mr. Johnson confirmed that NCDOT will provide responses to these questions by the June CRTPO meeting.

Motion:

Mr. Gibbons made a motion to provide NCDOT with the consent to initiate air quality conformity modeling for the I-77 North Peak Period Shoulder Lanes project. Mr. McNeely seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

9. **CATS Updates**

Presenter: David McDonald, CATS

a. Performance-Based Planning: Transit Asset Management Targets

Summary:

Mr. McDonald explained that large transit systems are required to establish performance-based targets for their Transit Asset Management (TAM) plans. Performance-based planning requirements mandate MPOs to set their own TAM targets or endorse the transit system's targets. He explained that CATS has established performance targets that will need to be approved by the CRTPO. The TCC will be asked in May to make a recommendation to the Board on the TAM targets.

b. Metropolitan Planning Agreement

Summary:

Mr. McDonald stated that federal metropolitan planning regulations (23 CFR 450.314) require MPOs and transit agencies to establish written agreements that "cooperatively determine their mutual responsibilities in carrying out the metropolitan transportation planning process." He explained that the CRTPO and CATS currently lack such an agreement. This issue was identified in CATS's most recent triennial review with the Federal Transit Administration. Mr. McDonald concluded his presentation by stating that future action will be requested for CRTPO to approve a metropolitan planning agreement with CATS.

10. Regional Transportation Planning Coordination Initiatives

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary:

Mr. Cook stated that an executive summary of the joint meeting between CRTPO and Gaston Cleveland Lincoln MPO has been prepared and is included in tonight's agenda packet. He explained that staff from both organizations will meet in June to discuss how the recommendations within the executive summary can be implemented.

Mr. Cook explained that he served as a panelist in the inaugural transportation summit held by the South Charlotte Partners at the end of March.

Mr. Cook stated that Tony Lathrop delivered a presentation regarding regional collaboration at a CRAFT technical meeting several weeks ago, and there was an agreement that a meeting of the CRAFT executive committee should occur soon.

Mr. McNeely expressed support for organizing a joint meeting in the near future between the policy boards of the Cabarrus Rowan MPO and the CRTPO. Mr. Johnson explained that this initiative is in progress and he encouraged Mr. McNeely to contact members of the Cabarrus County Board of Commissioners to support this request.

11. Upcoming Agenda Items

Presenter:

Neil Burke

Summary:

An overview of the May agenda was provided. Action will be requested for the Board to approve a request to open a public comment period on the 2020-2029 TIP, 2045 MTP amendments and an air quality conformity determination. An amendment to the FY 2020 UPWP will be requested.

Mr. Burke reported that 19 of the 46 delegates and alternates have successfully submitted their SEI ethics requirements for the 2019 calendar year. The deadline is April 15.

The NCAMPO conference will occur next week at the Charlotte Convention Center.

Mr. Johnson welcomed Jerry Santoni of the Iredell Planning Board. This was Mr. Santoni's first CRTPO Board meeting serving as a representative from the Iredell County Planning Board.

Mr. Cook introduced the new CRTPO Transportation Planning Engineer, Agustin Rodriguez. Mr. Cook explained that Mr. Rodriguez most recently worked for the Charlotte Department of Engineering and Property Management.

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.