

CRTPO TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Summary Meeting Minutes
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center
Room 267
September 5, 2019

Voting Members: *Chair* – Sherry Ashley (Statesville), *Vice-Chair* – Wayne Herron (Cornelius), Liz Babson (CDOT), Dan Leaver (Charlotte E&PM), Candice Rorie – proxy for Taiwo Jaiyeoba (Charlotte PD&D), Travis Johnson (Davidson), Bill Coxe (Huntersville), Richard Hoffman – alt for Matthew Todd (Iredell County), Franklin Deese (Marshville), Dana Stoogenke (Matthews), Megan Green (Meck. Co. – LUESA Air Quality), David McDonald – (CATS), Nathan Farber – alt for Steve Frey (Mint Hill), Lisa Stiwinter (Monroe), Cami Weckerly – alt for Erika Martin (Mooresville), Brett Canipe (NCDOT – Div. 10), Anil Panicker – alt for Mark Stafford (NCDOT – Div. 12), Dominique Boyd (NCDOT-TPD), Travis Morgan (Pineville), Justin Russell – alt for Chris Easterly (Stallings), George Berger (Troutman), Richard Black – alt for Bjorn Hansen (Union County), Robyn Byers (Wesley Chapel), Jennifer Stafford (Focus Area Representative– Pedestrian), Laura Thomason (Focus Area Representative– Health)

Staff: Curtis Bridges (CRTPO), Neil Burke (CRTPO), Robert Cook (CRTPO), Erin Kinne (CRTPO), Catherine Mahoney (CRTPO), Agustin Rodriguez (CRTPO), Theo Thomson (CRTPO), Anna Gallup (CDOT), Andy Grzymiski (CDOT), Jason Lawrence (CATS), Charlie Menefee (CDOT), Alex Riemondy (CDOT), Dave Hill (Huntersville), Sarah McAllister (Monroe), Stuart Basham (NCDOT-Div. 10), Lee Ainsworth (NCDOT-Div. 10), Wendy Taylor (NCDOT-Div. 10), Warren Cooksey (NCTA), Mirza Rustemov (CLT Airport), Ron Shoultz (ICATS)

Guests: Bill Thunberg (LNTC), Todd Steiss (WSP), David Harris (HNTB), Richard Stogner (Jacobs Engineering Group), Tony Spacek (Kimley Horn)

Sherry Ashley opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. TCC members, staff, and guests introduced themselves.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Ms. Ashley asked if any changes to the agenda are necessary. Hearing none, the September agenda was adopted by acclamation.

Motion:

Wayne Herron made a motion to approve the agenda. Bill Coxe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Consideration of Consent Agenda

Ms. Ashley stated that the consent agenda for the September meeting contained the following four items:

1. Approval of the July 11, 2019 TCC Minutes;
2. Approval of the August 1, 2019 TCC Minutes;
3. Approval of the Discretionary Projects Policy Guide text revision;
4. Approval of the 2018-2027 TIP Amendments from the City of Statesville.

She noted two corrections to the July minutes: A second motion by Wayne Herron was added to agenda item 3.4 and a link to Bill Coxe's memo regarding the I-77 North Peak-Period Shoulder Lanes was added to agenda item 3.5.

Motion:

Mr. Herron made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Anil Panicker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

TCC BUSINESS ITEMS

3.1. Transportation Improvement Program

a. 2023-2032 TIP Development Process (NCDOT Prioritization 6.0)

Presenter: Neil Burke

Summary:

Mr. Burke provided information to the TCC via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes [here](#). The presentation covered the following points:

Mr. Burke began the presentation by stating he would cover one business item and one information report together due to the relationship between the items. He stated the requested action for the business item (3.1.a) is to recommend the CRTPO Board approve opening of a 30-day public comment period on the draft P6.0 project lists for all modes of transportation. If approved, the public comment period would begin on September 19 and conclude on October 19.

He stated the public engagement process will include: a media release to news outlets in Iredell, Mecklenburg, and Union Counties; social media promotion; and posting project lists and maps on the CRTPO website. Also, the October 16, 2019 CRTPO Board meeting will serve as an opportunity for public comment on the recommended P6.0 project lists.

Mr. Burke explained the state is moving to a one-time three-year STIP development cycle because NCDOT needs additional time to improve the cost estimating process. The additional time will extend the P6.0 scoring process and the 2023-2032 STIP will be released in January 2022.

Mr. Burke provided an overview of the number of proposed project submittals per mode and the methodology for developing the project lists. He explained CRTPO has 47 submittal slots for each mode due to the planning area's total population and number of roadway miles. The proposed roadway project list includes 48 projects because one carryover project was deleted from the P6.0 database which resulted in one additional project submittal slot.

He stated the P6.0 project lists were reviewed at the August 28 Transportation Staff Meeting (TSM). Group members were concerned with one rail project, the CSX Connector project (CSX SF & SG Line) in Monroe, because the railroad did not commit any local funding. Representatives from the NCDOT Rail Division attended the TSM and provided background information about the purpose of the project and its benefits for the City of Monroe and the regional transportation network. They also stated the City of Monroe supports the project. Beyond the CSX Connector project, no other concerns were identified for the P6.0 project lists.

Cami Weckerly asked if the extents of Langtree Road were updated to Pin Oak Road and NC 115 per her comment at the August 28 TSM. Mr. Burke confirmed the requested changes were made.

Mr. Burke reviewed the P6.0 project list submittal schedule and restated the requested action for today is to recommend the Board open a 30-day public comment period which would begin September 19 and conclude October 19. Mr. Burke reviewed the 2023-2032 STIP development schedule and stated the P6.0 project submittal phase is the first phase of the STIP development process.

Motion:

Mr. Herron made a motion to recommend the CRTPO Board approve the opening of a public comment period on the draft P6.0 project lists for all modes. Dana Stoogenke seconded the motion.

Mr. Coxe requested the TCC consider a substitute motion to recommend the CRTPO Board approve:

- the P6.0 project lists as show in the agenda packet, with the exception of the rail CSX Connector project in Monroe, for a 30-day public comment period.

George Berger seconded the request for the consideration of the substitute motion. Discussion on the substitute motion took place.

Mr. Coxe stated that he expressed concerns about the CSX Connector project during the P5.0 and P4.0 processes. He explained the proposed project would provide a better route for CSX to move trains from Atlanta to Charlotte by eliminating a detour to Monroe and the need to close several railroad crossings. He was told the project received zero points for safety during the P5.0 scoring process. Mr. Coxe stated that he is opposed to using 100% public funds to improve a private corporation's operations without a significant public benefit.

Lisa Stiwinter stated the City of Monroe does not support submitting the CSX Connector project in P6.0. Monroe staff met with the NCDOT Rail Division in April to review three potential alignments and had concerns about the impacts on surrounding properties. The city requested the Rail Division complete a feasibility study to better understand the needs, benefits, and costs associated with the proposed project.

Brett Canipe stated he was unaware of Monroe's opposition to the project and has not had an opportunity to speak with the Rail Division to understand their position. He recommended the committee move forward with the substitute motion.

The substitute motion passed unanimously.

b. 2020-2029 TIP Modification and Adoption Process

Mr. Burke stated that NCDOT released a revised 2020-2029 Draft STIP on August 7, and the NC Board of Transportation has delayed adoption of the 2020-2029 STIP from June to September 2019. CRTPO must adopt the 2020-2029 TIP, 2045 MTP Amendments, and make an air quality conformity determination prior to adopting the 2020-2029 STIP. However, to complete the required actions CRTPO must participate in FHWA's interagency consultation process which began in August. The MPOs in the region are tentatively scheduled to open a public comment period in Fall 2019 and CRTPO will adopt the 2020-2029 STIP in February 2020.

Mr. Burke explained the 2045 MTP Amendments are necessary to comply with FHWA's requirement that projects included in the MTP and STIP are consistent in terms of horizon year/project schedule, project limits, and project mileages. TIP projects that are programmed with federal funds and/or regionally significant must also be amended in the MTP. FHWA also requires a financial plan to demonstrate the first four years of the MTP are fiscally constrained.

He provided an overview of the number and type of MTP Amendments. The majority of amendments modify project horizon years. A quarter of amendments modify project details and another quarter of amendments add projects to the 2045 MTP. The I-77 Peak Period Shoulder Lanes (I-6065) project is included in the revised STIP as a new project in the 2025 horizon year of the 2045 MTP. The project limits are I-485 to NC 150. Right-of-way acquisition is scheduled in FY 2020 and construction is scheduled in FY 2020-2022.

Mr. Burke stated a request to approve a public comment period on the Draft TIP, MTP amendments, and air quality conformity determination will be brought before the TCC and Board in October. The public comment period would open November 18 and conclude December 18. An information report summarizing the public comments will be presented in January 2020, and the Board will be requested to adopt the 2020-2029 TIP, 2045 MTP Amendments, and the air quality conformity determination in February 2020.

3.2 CTP Amendments Public Engagement

Presenter: Curtis Bridges

Summary:

Mr. Bridges began the presentation stating the purpose of the CTP Amendments public engagement period is to seek resident input on proposed amendments and collect local feedback on projects that have not yet undergone a public engagement process. He stated the requested action is to recommend the Board open a 30-day public engagement period to open September 19 and conclude October 19.

Mr. Bridges stated the CTP was first adopted in January 2017, first amended in October 2018, and periodically amended at the request of local staff. The CTP serves as an ongoing needs assessment and Amendments ensure the plan is up-to-date.

The list of CTP amendments includes 41 procedural and 10 administrative amendments. Procedural amendments include major adjustments to an alignment or the addition/deletion of a facility and require public notification. Administrative amendments are minor changes and do not require public notification.

Mr. Bridges stated the public engagement process would include three public meetings throughout Iredell, Mecklenburg, and Union Counties, a media release to news outlets throughout the planning area, and an online mapping application. CRTPO staff will share received comments with local staff by the end of October so they may address any questions or concerns. An information report summarizing the final amendments will be presented to the TCC and Board in November. The Board will be requested to adopt the CTP Amendments in January 2020.

Mr. Panicker asked if the public engagement activities for Prioritization 6.0 and the CTP Amendments would be held concurrently. Mr. Bridges stated that while the public comment periods are the same the engagement efforts will occur separately to avoid public confusion.

Candice Rorie encouraged TCC members to promote the CRTPO public comment period on their agency's social media accounts.

Motion:

Mr. Herron made a motion to recommend the CRTPO Board open a public engagement period for CTP amendments currently being processed by CRTPO Staff. Mr. Coxe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3.3 LYNX System Update CTP Recommendation

Presenter: Jason Lawrence

Summary:

Mr. Lawrence provided information to the TCC via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes [here](#). The presentation covered the following points:

Mr. Lawrence began the presentation stating he would present the LYNX system updates adopted by the Metropolitan Transit Commission (MTC) in 2019. The LYNX System Update Study, initiated in July 2017, evaluated the North Corridor up to Mooresville, the West Corridor to Gaston County, a Center City System Integration, and identification of new transit corridors. Mr. Lawrence summarized staff recommendations for each component of the study and stated the recommendations were presented to the MTC in January 2019 and the TCC and Board in February 2019. The MTC adopted staff recommendations in February 2019. Mr. Lawrence then provided information about work that has been completed since the MTC action in February. Mr. Lawrence stated the requested action is to recommend the CRTPO Board approve the LYNX System Update North and West Corridor recommendations adopted by the MTC as amendments to the CTP.

Motion:

David McDonald made a motion to recommend the CRTPO Board approve the LYNX System Update North and West Corridor recommendations adopted by the MTC as amendments to the CTP. Mr. Herron seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION REPORTS

4.1 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Socioeconomic Data

Presenter: Curtis Bridges

Summary:

Mr. Bridges provided information to the TCC via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes [here](#). The presentation covered the following points:

Mr. Bridges stated today's presentation was for information purposes but the CRTPO Board will be asked in October or November to adopt county-level projections, also known as control totals, for

future population and employment in Iredell, Mecklenburg, and Union Counties for the 2050 MTP's four horizon years: 2025, 2035, 2045, and 2050.

Mr. Bridges provided information about how the control totals were used in the region's land use and travel demand models. He explained the control totals are a direct input into the Metrolina CommunityViz Model (MCM) which is a land use model. Outputs from the MCM are input into the Metrolina Regional Model (MRM) which is a travel demand model. The MRM estimates future travel behavior and demand. This information is important for updating the region's air quality conformity determination and developing the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

Mr. Bridges displayed the 2016 population and employment projections, and ended the presentation stating the county-level projections are expected to be complete in October. The Board will be asked to adopt population and employment projections in October or November 2019.

Dana Stoogenke asked for clarification about how the projections will play into the CommunityViz (MCM) model. Mr. Bridges stated projections are an input into the MCM which allocates growth to smaller geographies. The growth allocations are then input into the MRM. The updated projections are essential to updating the 2015 CommunityViz model.

4.2 Fall 2019 Call for Projects

Presenter: Erin Kinne

Summary:

Ms. Kinne began stating this presentation is an update to the August Fall Call information report. She stated the call for projects opened August 19 and will close October 31. An educational webinar to review the application will be held September 23. Applications will be reviewed and scores developed by December 2019. Recommendations will be presented to the TCC and CRTPO Board in the beginning of 2020.

Ms. Kinne stated that the TAP-DA, STBG-DA, comprise the available \$55 million. Applicants are encouraged to review the Discretionary Funds Policy Guide which is available on the CRTPO website.

4.3 Discretionary Projects & Federal Funds Rescission

Presenter: Erin Kinne

Summary:

Ms. Kinne started the presentation stating that this is a follow-up to previous presentations about the federal rescission of the CRTPO's CMAQ and TAP-DA funds in FY 2020.

Projects that have TAP-DA and CMAQ funding allocated must authorize funds by September 30, 2019 to avoid rescission. Bonus Allocation funds must be authorized by June 30, 2020 to avoid a rescission by the State of North Carolina.

Ms. Kinne reviewed the current state of unauthorized TAP and CMAQ funds. Approximately \$2.4M TAP-DA and \$1.8M CMAQ funds are actively in the process of authorization review. Approximately \$1 million TAP-DA and \$700,000 CMAQ funds have been authorized since August. She anticipates all funds currently in review will be authorized by the deadline.

4.4 Staffing and Resources Study: Next Steps

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary:

Mr. Cook stated the purpose of the report is to provide an update on efforts underway since the August 21 CRTPO Board meeting at which time the Board was asked for direction on staff recommendations for pursuing the staffing assessment and retreat outcomes.

Mr. Cook displayed a list of 11 recommendations and 8 unmet needs identified in the Staffing and Resources Study. The top five recommendations were prioritized during the staff retreat and presented to the Board for approval.

Staff proposed forming a Board subcommittee at the August 21 meeting to provide guidance and direction on implementation, potential funding, and the upcoming strategic organizational planning exercise.

The chairperson decided after the Board meeting he would appoint members to the proposed subcommittee and is currently in the process of contacting appointees. The CRTPO Chairperson is in the process of contacting Board members that are willing to serve on the subcommittee. Action will be requested to endorse the subcommittee during the September 18 Board meeting. Staff will request TCC member support as work progresses with the subcommittee.

Mr. Cook concluded with an update on 6 implementation recommendations:

- Staff has begun work on conducting a strategic organizational planning exercise;
- Staff has developed training plans;
- A job opening for a transit planner will be posted soon;
- Staff will discuss specialization and functional areas at the upcoming staff retreat;
- Modifications for the board agenda are underway;
- CRTPO has become actively involved in the AMPO.

OTHER REPORTS

Mr. Herron congratulated Brett Canipe on his new role as NC Division 10 Engineer and expressed his gratitude for Mr. Canipe's service to date.

5.1. NCDOT Report

Stuart Basham provided an update on behalf of NCDOT-Division 10:

- **US 74 Reduced Conflict Intersection Project in Indian Trail (W-5520)** – Work is complete on three of the four major intersections on US 74 in Indian Trail. Work continues on the last intersection at US 74 & Indian Trail Road. The project is expected to be complete later this Fall.
- **South Trade Street Widening in Matthews (U-5804B)** – The contractor is currently working on a culvert extension and sewerline installation necessary to complete the widening of the road. The project is expected to be complete in November 2019.
- **NC 16/Mount Holly-Huntersville Road Intersection (U-6084)** – Work continues on the Continuous Flow Intersection at the NC16/Mount Holly-Huntersville Road intersection. This project is behind schedule due to weather and other delays. Completion is expected later this fall.

- **NC 200/McWhorter Road Roundabout Project** – NCDOT will begin construction of a roundabout at the intersection of NC 200 and McWhorter road east of Waxhaw on Monday, September 9th. Signed detour routes will be in place. Construction is expected to take about six weeks.
- **I-485 Express Lanes Project (I-5507)** – This project will construct Express Lanes and other improvements along a 16.7 mile stretch of I-485 between I-77 and US 74 in south Charlotte. Construction is getting underway this week and is expected to be complete in late 2022.

Anil Panicker provided an update on behalf of NCDOT-Division 12. He stated he did not have project specific updates other than work on the I-3819B project has started. Mr. Panicker stated all NCDOT Divisions have been instructed to suspend work on preliminary engineering projects. Work may continue on projects funded by GARVEE and Build NC bonds or federal grants. The suspension affects over 900 projects throughout the state. 73 of the 900 suspended projects fall within in Division 12. 17 of the 73 projects in Division 12 are in Iredell County. In addition to the 17 projects within Iredell County, two projects fall within the CRTPO planning boundary: the NC 73 widening project beginning at Beatties Ford and the bridge replacement across the Catawba River at US 29 and US 74.

Mr. Canipe stated the divisions are slowing work on preliminary engineering projects. The first round of delayed projects were TIP projects. Generally, projects outside the 12 month let list will be delayed. NCDOT is in the process of notifying jurisdictions of the project delays but is hopeful work will resume shortly.

George Berger asked if NCDOT could distribute a list of all delayed projects so staff may update elected officials. Mr. Panicker stated a list will be distributed.

Mr. Warren Cooksey provided an update for the NC Turnpike Authority. He stated the Monroe Expressway opened nearly a year ago and weekday traffic has substantially increased from the third quarter of FY 2019 to the fourth quarter of FY 2019: there was a 25% increase in weekday traffic on the western end of the expressway near Stallings and a 36% in traffic on the eastern end near Marshville.

The I-77 Express Lanes partially opened in June 2019. Since the opening the Monroe Expressway and I-77 Express Lanes, NCTA has processed double the number of transactions per month. The number of new transponder accounts and invoices also quadrupled.

5.2. Bicycle and Pedestrian Work Group Report

Mr. Bridges stated the Bike and Pedestrian Work Group will meet this afternoon and NCDOT's new Complete Street policy will be discussed.

Ms. Ashley asked staff to distribute the Complete Street Policy to all TCC members. Mr. Coxe stated it was distributed in the September 4 TSM agenda. He stated the policy outlines changes for how NCDOT will fund bicycle and pedestrian facilities auxiliary to roadway projects.

Mr. Canipe added there is some conflicting language in the new policy and he anticipates NCDOT will provide clarification in the near future.

5.3. Upcoming Issues

Mr. Coxe stated the state has a budget surplus and may potentially issue refunds to taxpayers. He suggested CRTPO recommend the state use the surplus to offset expenses incurred during the 2019 hurricane season or fund, in part, NCDOT's project shortfalls.

Mr. Cook stated CRTPO is prohibited from lobbying elected state officials. He will consult the FHWA representative to determine if a letter of recommendation is permitted.

6. Adjourn: Ms. Ashley determined that the agenda had been adequately completed and adjourned the meeting at 11:16 a.m.