

CRTPO TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Summary Meeting Minutes
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center
Room 267
March 5, 2020

Voting Members: *Chair* – Liz Babson (Charlotte), *Vice-Chair* – Bjorn Hansen (Union County), Dan Leaver (Charlotte General Services), Aaron Tucker (Cornelius), Andrew Ventresca (Davidson), Dave Hill (Huntersville), Todd Huntsinger (Indian Trail), Matthew Todd (Iredell County), Rohit Ammanamanchi (Marvin), Dana Stoogenke (Matthews), David McDonald (CATS), Nathan Farber – alt for Steve Frey (Mint Hill), Sarah McAllister – alt for Lisa Stiwinter (Monroe), 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), Sherry Ashley (Statesville), George Berger (Troutman), Matt Hubert (Waxhaw), Robyn Byers (Wesley Chapel), Charlie Menefee – alt for Will Washam (Focus Area Representative – Bicycle), Gwen Cook (Focus Area Representative – Greenway), Kate Cavazza (Focus Area Representative – Health)

Staff: Curtis Bridges (CRTPO), Neil Burke (CRTPO), Bob Cook (CRTPO), Jerrell Leonard (CRTPO), Judy Dellert-O’Keef (CRTPO), Catherine Mahoney (CRTPO), Agustin Rodriguez (CRTPO), Lee Ainsworth (NCDOT-Div.10), Loretta Barren (FHWA), Stuart Basham (NCDOT-Div.10), Warren Cooksey (NCTA), Anna Gallup (CDOT), Andy Gryzmski (CDOT), Richard Hoffman (Iredell County), Kevin Parker (Waxhaw), Alex Riemondy (CDOT), Rodger Rochelle (NCTA), Ron Shoultz (ICATS), Wendy Taylor (NCDOT-Div.10),

Guests: David Hannon (I-77 Mobility Partners), Eric Keravuori (Summit Engineering), Joe Lesch (GSP), Frank Masterson (Kimley-Horn), Erin Musiol (RS&H), Todd Steiss (WSP), Radha Swayampakala (RS&H), Bill Thunberg (LNTC)

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

1. Adoption of the Agenda

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

2. Consideration of Consent Agenda

Ms. Babson stated that the consent agenda for the March meeting contained the following items:

- Approval of the February 6, 2020 TCC Minutes
- CRTPO Self-Certification
- NC 27 and US 29/NC 49 Routh Changes within the City of Charlotte

Motion:

David McDonald made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Sherry Ashley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

TCC BUSINESS ITEMS

3.1. FY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary:

Mr. Cook 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. Cook began his presentation by stating the requested action is to recommend that the CRTPO Board approve the FY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). He stated the UPWP is CRTPO's budget and guides the organization's work throughout the year.

Mr. Cook provided a summary of the funding allocations. He noted the FTA Transit Oriented Development Grant dollars were included in the FY 2020 UPWP but work is still underway so allocations must also be included in the FY 2021 UPWP. He also noted work on the three carryover projects, funded with the additional \$600,000 Planning funds received in 2019, is ongoing and therefore the unprogrammed funds are included in the FY 2021 UPWP.

Mr. Cook provided an overview of the Section 5303 allocations. These funds are reserved for transit planning and have historically been allocated to CATS and CDOT. However, a recommendation of the FHWA on-site certification review was to solicit a request for funds from all transit agencies in the planning area.

Mr. Cook stated five planning projects which were awarded funds in February from the 2019 Discretionary Call for Projects have been added to the UPWP. He concluded his presentation restating the requested action and asked for questions.

Motion:

Mr. McDonald made a motion to recommend that the CRTPO Board approve the FY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program. Ms. Ashley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3.2 East-West Connector Conformity Analysis and MTP/TIP Amendments

Presenter: Neil Burke

Summary:

Mr. Burke began his presentation by stating the requested action is to recommend that the CRTPO Board open a public comment period on an air quality conformity determination and amendments to the 2045 MTP and the 2020-2029 TIP for the East-West Connector project (U-6239) in Mooresville.

Mr. Burke stated the Town of Mooresville was awarded a \$13.6 million federal BUILD grant to construct the East-West Connector from Langtree Road to NC 115 in November 2019. The North Carolina Board of Transportation (BOT) approved 2018-2027 and 2020-2029 STIP amendments during its meeting on February 6 to program the funding for right-of-way and construction of East-West Connector project (U-6239) to the FY 2021 program year.

Mr. Burke stated the East-West Connector is included in the 2035 horizon year of the CRTPO's 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The project was classified as "not regionally significant" but "not exempt" from air quality conformity analysis in the 2045 MTP.

Mr. Burke explained an amendment to the 2045 MTP will be required to move the East-West Connector project from the 2035 horizon year to the 2025 horizon year as a result of the project schedule funding of FY 2021 in the STIP. He stated an amendment to the 2020-2029 TIP will be required to program the funding for the East-West Connector project in FY 2021.

Mr. Burke explained the project is not exempt from air quality conformity analysis therefore, a "short form" conformity determination report to ensure that the Metrolina State Implementation Plan (SIP) budget has an adequate emissions budget to incorporate the East-West Connector project within the 2025 horizon year of the 2045 MTP.

Mr. Burke provided an overview of the MTP and TIP Amendment and final conformity determination schedule. He restated the requested action and asked for questions.

Motion:

Erika Martin made a motion to recommend that the CRTPO Board open a public comment period on an air quality conformity determination and amendments to the 2045 MTP and the 2020-2029 TIP for the East-West Connector project (U-6239) in Mooresville. George Berger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3.3 Western Parkway CTP Amendment

Presenter: Andy Grzymiski

Summary:

Mr. Grzymiski began his presentation stating the item was presented to the TCC and Board in January and a 30-day public comment period for the recommended amendment was opened. He stated the requested action is to recommend that the CRTPO Board approve the recommended amendment within the City of Charlotte for the future Western Parkway alignment in the CRTPO's CTP.

Mr. Grzymiski displayed two maps highlighting the location of the proposed Western Parkway Alignment, from Billy Graham Parkway to the Catawba River, and the extents of the proposed amendment. He explained the Charlotte-Douglas International Airport's Master Plan Update identified the potential need for a fifth parallel runway which would impact the adopted Western Parkway alignment. Furthermore, a property rezoned in 2010 is now being developed and right-of-way was not designated for the corridor. Therefore, CDOT recommends realigning the Western Parkway along Yorkmont Road from Pine Oaks Drive to W. Tyvola Road.

Mr. Grzymiski stated notification letters were mailed to property owners along the recommended amendment and the public had 32 days to submit comments to CDOT. One comment was received from a property owner which resulted in an adjustment to the eastern end of the corridor. Mr. Grzymiski restated the requested action and opened the floor for questions.

Motion:

Brett Canipe made a motion to recommend that the CRTPO Board approve the recommended amendment within the City of Charlotte for the future Western Parkway alignment in the CRTPO's CTP. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3.4 I-77 Bonus Allocation Funding Authorization and TIP Amendment

Presenter: Bjorn Hansen

Summary:

Mr. Hansen began his presentation stating the requested action is in response to underestimated expenses for the I-77/Hambright Road & Lakeview Road direct connect facility as well as project schedule delays associated with the NC 150 widening project(R-2307B). He stated the requested action is to recommend the CRTPO Board approve the following two 2020-2029 TIP Amendments to ensure that all of the I-77 Bonus Allocation funds can be authorized by June 30, 2020:

- Allocate \$5 million of unallocated STBG-DA funds to bicycle and pedestrian enhancements along the NC 150 widening project on the bridge over Lake Norman (R-2307B).
- Allocate \$1.1 million of unallocated STBG-DA funds to cover remaining costs on the I-77/Hambright Rd & Lakeview Rd express lane direct connector interchange projects.

Mr. Hansen explained the CRTPO Board allocated \$144.5 million Bonus Allocation (BA) funds to a list of projects associated with the I-77 Express Lanes, including the I-77/Hambright Road & Lakeview Road express lane interchanges, on March 18, 2015. The two express lane interchanges are currently open to traffic and there are approximately \$7.9 million of underestimated costs associated with features such as lighting, noise walls and traffic signals. Mr. Hansen also explained the I-77 BA funds allocated to the bicycle and pedestrian enhancements along the NC 150 widening project have not yet been authorized due to a delay in the project. All I-77 BA funds must be authorized by June 30, 2020, or the unauthorized funds will be returned to the state general funds.

Mr. Hansen stated the Project Oversight Committee reviewed the I-77 BA funding and expenditures and recommends:

- Reallocate the \$5 million of unauthorized funds from the NC 150 project to the direct connect expenditures;
- Allocate \$1.1 million of future STBG-DA funds to cover the remaining costs of the direct connect facility;
- Allocate \$5 million of future STBG-DA funds to the bicycle and pedestrian enhancements along the NC 150 widening project.

Mr. Hansen noted NCDOT provided an update on the funding expenditures after the TCC agenda packet was distributed and the total overages for the direct connect facility are closer to \$6.1 million. Ms. Stoogenke asked if future DA dollars have ever been spent on a current project. Mr. Hansen stated future dollars have not been allocated to a current project but this is the first time CRTPO has received BA funds for a toll project and had to cover a shortfall related to an interstate project.

Ms. Ashley asked what amount of DA dollars are expected to be available at the next solicitation for projects and whether the allocation of future dollars would impact one or multiple rounds of solicitation. She also asked if the underestimated costs were known about during the 2019 Fall Call. Mr. Hansen stated the CRTPO receives approximately \$20 million of DA funds each year so allocation

of \$6.1 million future dollars will only impact one solicitation for projects. He stated the CRTPO was notified about the underestimated costs after the last call for projects.

Dave Hill asked if Highway Transportation Trust Fund dollars were available to cover the underestimated costs. Mr. Hansen stated the funds are not available because the I-77/Hambright Road & Lakeview Road express lane interchanges were not scored in NCDOT's Prioritization process.

Mr. Canipe stated BA funds do not have a source of funding to cover overages or shortfalls. This is the first time BA funds have been programmed to an interstate project and since there are no local municipal agreements to cover overages the CRTPO must allocate future STBG-DA dollars. As a lesson learned, the NCDOT will recommend a percentage of BA dollars programmed to interstate projects be reserved to cover potential shortfalls.

Ms. Martin stated BA funds could not be authorized for the bicycle and pedestrian enhancements along NC 150 because the project is two years behind schedule.

Motion:

Ms. Martin made a motion to recommend the CRTPO Board approve the two 2020-2029 TIP Amendments as noted in the memo to ensure that all the I-77 Bonus Allocation funds can be authorized by June 30, 2020. Anil Panicker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION REPORTS

4.1 NCTA Project Status Updates

Presenter: Rodger Rochelle and Warren Cooksey (NCTA) and Brett Canipe (NCDOT-Div. 10)

Summary:

Mr. Rochelle, Mr. Cooksey and Mr. Canipe 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. Cooksey provided an update about the performance of the Monroe Expressway which opened to traffic on November 27, 2018. He stated throughout the 2019 calendar year all segments along the expressway experienced increases in traffic during the summer months. Approximately 85% of vehicles traveling along the expressway are Class 1 vehicles, and the first year of service doubled the number of North Carolina Turnpike Authority (NCTA) transactions. Mr. Cooksey stated interactive pavement markings will be installed along the expressway to alert drivers who inadvertently attempt to enter the facility in the wrong direction.

Mr. Rochelle provided an update about on the I-77 Express Lanes (North) which fully opened in November 2019 and is at least 95% complete. Outstanding work along the facility includes repaving the general-purpose lanes, completing work on noise walls and lighting. Mr. Rochelle stated within the first six weeks of full operation, the express lanes increased the average travel speed in the general-purpose lanes along I-77 by 12% during the morning peak hours and 16% during the afternoon peak hours. The total number of transactions generated by the facility continue to increase each month.

Mr. Rochelle explained the NCTA will install Peak Period Should Lanes (PPSL) along a portion of I-77 and this improvement is outside of the contract of the I-77 Express Lane project. He stated the PPSL will be

open during the morning and potentially afternoon peak periods and allow motorists to travel between interchanges. The improvement will be implemented north of I-485, along 11 segments in the corridor. He stated one segment in the corridor, between exit 31 and 33, already has PPSL. Therefore, this segment will not be improved as a part of this project. Construction is expected to begin in late 2020 or early 2021.

Next, Mr. Rochelle provided an update on the I-77 Express Lanes (South) project which will extend express lanes from I-277 to North Carolina state border. The project team is coordinating planning work with the Beyond 77 Corridor Study. He stated construction was scheduled to begin in FY 2029 but preliminary engineering work is on hold due to NCDOT's project suspensions. The project schedule will be reviewed and revised once preliminary engineering work resumes. Mr. Rochelle stated NCDOT completed a feasibility study in 2015 but further study is underway to evaluate whether another general-purpose lane in each direction is feasible in addition to the express lanes.

Mr. Rochelle also provided an update on the construction of the I-485 Express Lanes project (I-5507) between I-77 and US 74. The scope of the I-5507 project includes the construction of one tolled express lane in each direction along I-485 between I-77 and Independence Boulevard (US 74), the addition of one general-purpose lane in each direction between Rea Road and Providence Road, and several express lane direct connect interchanges along the project corridor. He stated construction has begun on one of the bridges, barrier walls are being replaced, and utilities are being relocated. The general-purpose lanes are scheduled to open in Fall 2021 and the express lanes are scheduled to open Fall 2022. Mr. Rochelle stated the Traffic and Revenue Study has been completed and per state statute Mecklenburg County will receive approximately \$26 million of Bonus Allocation funds from the I-5507 project, which is half of the projected revenue for 10 years minus the cost of operations costs.

Mr. Canipe provided an update on the US 74 Express Lanes project between Idlewild Road and I-485 (U-2509). In addition to the express lanes, the US 74 corridor project will include a range of improvements such as parallel roadway connections, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and express lane direct connect interchanges. Mr. Canipe displayed several exhibits illustrating the configuration of various access points and reviewed the project schedule. He stated NCDOT expects to select a preferred alternative in March 2020 and approve the final environmental design by June 2020.

Next, Mr. Canipe provided an update about the US 74 Express Lanes project from I-277 to Idlewild Road. The project will extend the cross section south of Idlewild by converting the existing bus lanes into two-way express lanes. The project will also add access points and express lane direct connect interchanges. Mr. Canipe stated NCDOT will work on the concept analysis throughout Spring 2020 and begin engaging stakeholders in Summer 2020.

Mr. Berger asked if there are any incentives for Class 3 trucks to use the Monroe Expressway. Mr. Cooksey stated time savings is the primary incentive and there are no other planned incentive programs.

Ms. Ashley asked how much revenue the Monroe Expressway generated in its first year of operation. Mr. Cooksey stated the expressway is underbudget in terms of expenses but the first-year revenues are not finalized. Mr. Rochelle stated \$18.1 million in tolls were collected in the first year and this exceeds projections. Ms. Ashley encouraged the NCTA to share success stories about revenues exceeding projections and improvements in travel times.

Mr. Hansen asked which years of data were calculated in the analysis of travel times along I-77 north. Mr. Rochelle stated data from the previous three years (2017-2019) was used in the analysis. Mr. Hansen stated construction was underway during that time period and the NCTA should consider analyzing data from non-construction years for a more accurate comparison of travel times.

Ms. Stoogenke asked if truck traffic along US 74 was studied prior to converting the facility to a freeway. Mr. Rochelle stated a study was completed and a post-construction study is underway for comparison. He stated the NCTA expects to see an improvement in truck traffic along parallel routes post conversion of the facility.

Ms. Stoogenke also asked about the expected rideshare program along I-485 and US 74. Mr. Rochelle stated the financial projections for these facilities will not cover the maintenance and operation expenses of HOV +3. Therefore, a rideshare program provides incremental revenue and reduces enforcement costs. Rideshare programs require pre-registration which is less convenient than HOV +3, and NCTA is evaluating potential solutions to allow motorists to use all toll facilities within the Charlotte region as seamlessly as possible. Ms. Stoogenke suggested the NCTA/CRTPO Subcommittee quarterly meetings be reinstated.

4.2 Beyond 77 Update

Presenter: Agustin Rodriguez

Summary:

Mr. Rodriguez 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. Rodriguez stated the purpose of the planning effort is to develop a master planning document that capitalizes on prior planning efforts along the corridor and prioritizes improvements for the 2050 MTP. He stated the study is committed to conducting robust public engagement and over 15,000 survey responses were received in Phase I. The planning process will evaluate several strategies for improving the corridor including congestion management, connectivity within the network, and land use coordination. Mr. Rodriguez provided an overview of the planning process including key milestones and concluded the presentation highlighting next steps.

4.3 Staffing Assessment Recommendations

Summary: Due to limited time, the agenda item was deferred until April.

OTHER REPORTS

5.1. NCDOT Report

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

- **I-485 Express Lanes Project (I-5507)** – The contractor is working in the median along I-485. Construction between I-77 and US 74 in south Charlotte is expected to be complete in late 2022.
- **NC 160/Hamilton Road Intersection Improvements (U-5762)** – Work has recently slowed due to conflicts with utilities which were not previously identified. Utilities must be relocated before the project can proceed.
- **NC 16/Mt Holly Huntersville Rd Intersection Improvements (U-6084)** – The CFI intersection has been completed except for final surfacing and striping work. Surfacing work will begin as soon as spring weather permits and asphalt plants can be restarted.

Mr. Panicker did not provide an update on behalf of NCDOT-Division 12 and Dominique Boyd did not provide an update on behalf of NCDOT Transportation Planning Division.

5.2. Project Oversight Committee

Mr. Hansen stated the Spring Call for shortfall projects will open in March. Staff is currently working with the NCDOT-STIP unit to determine the amount of discretionary funds available for the spring and fall project calls this year. A fall project call for shortfall and new projects as well as the I-485 Bonus Allocation funds will open in August.

5.3. Bicycle and Pedestrian Work Group Report

Mr. Bridges stated the Bike and Pedestrian Work Group will meet this afternoon.

5.3. Upcoming Issues

Mr. Leonard provided several transit updates:

- The Regional Transit Study and LYNX Silver Line Design & Build project have begun.
- Mr. Leonard has met with several transit providers in the CRTPO planning area and will meet with the remaining providers soon to better understand their needs over the upcoming years.

Ms. Mahoney provided several announcements:

- The next Education Session is scheduled for Wednesday, March 18th at 5:00 pm (prior to the Board meeting). This education session will focus on Transportation Funding.
- Registration for the 2020 NCAMPO Conference is now open. This year's NCAMPO Conference will be held April 22-24 in Greenville, NC. Additional information about the conference can be found here: <http://www.ncampo.org/ncampo-2020-conference/>
- CRTPO will distribute a media release announcing the Fall 2019 Discretionary Project awards. The project sponsors are listed within the release and may be contacted by local media for more information.

ADJOURN: Ms. Babson determined that the agenda had been adequately completed and adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m.