

CRTPO TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Summary Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting
June 4, 2020

Voting Members: *Chair* – Liz Babson (CDOT), *Vice-Chair* – Bjorn Hansen (Union County), Dan Leaver (Charlotte General Services), Alysia Osbourne– alt for Taiwo Jaiyeoba (Charlotte Planning, Design & Development), Aaron Tucker (Cornelius), Andrew Ventresca (Davidson), Dave Hill (Huntersville), Todd Huntsinger (Indian Trail), Franklin Deese (Marshville), Rohit Ammanamanchi (Marvin), Dana Stoogenke (Matthews), Megan Green (Meck. Co. – LUESA Air Quality), David McDonald (CATS), Nathan Farber – alt for Steve Frey (Mint Hill), Sarah McAllister – alt for Lisa Stiwinter (Monroe), Erika Martin (Mooresville), Stuart Basham – alt for Brett Canipe (NCDOT – Div. 10), Dominique Boyd (NCDOT-TPD), Travis Morgan (Pineville), Chris Easterly (Stallings), Steve Bridges (Statesville), George Berger (Troutman), Matt Hubert (Waxhaw), Robyn Byers (Wesley Chapel), 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), Robert Cook (CRTPO), Jerrel Leonard (CRTPO), Judy Dellert-O’Keef (CRTPO), Catherine Mahoney (CRTPO), Agustin Rodriguez (CRTPO), Jennifer Stafford (CRTPO), Theo Thomson (CRTPO), Loretta Barren (FHWA), Hannah Cook (NCDOT), Warren Cooksey (NCTA), Anna Gallup (CDOT), Andy Grzymiski (CDOT), Orion Holtey (Waxhaw), CJ O’Neil (Matthews), Alex Riemondy (CDOT), Ron Shoultz (ICATS), Wendy Taylor (NCDOT-Div.10)

Guests: Andrew Babb (Pond + Co.), Elizabeth Callis (Weddington), Rob Hanson (SEPI), Jason Lawing (Kimley-Horn), Joe Lesch (Gresham Smith), Todd McAulliffe (AECOM), Trent Moody (STV), Frank Masterson (Kimley-Horn), Dr. Michael Miltich (Cornelius), Erin Musiol (RS&H), Radha Swayampakala (RS&H), Bill Thunberg (LNTC), Kevin Walsh (HDR), Matt Werder (HDR)

Liz Babson opened the virtual meeting at 10:00 a.m. Catherine Mahoney reviewed the virtual meeting guidelines and conducted a roll call to document attendance. Ms. Mahoney determined that a quorum was achieved.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Ms. Babson asked if changes to the agenda were necessary. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to approve today’s agenda.

Motion: Erika Martin made a motion to approve today’s agenda. David McDonald seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Consideration of Consent Agenda

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

- Approval of the May 7, 2020 TCC Minutes
- Recommend to the Board that it endorse a resolution of Support for the Town of Troutman application for the NCDOT Bicycle & Pedestrian Grant Initiative

Motion: George Berger made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Andrew Ventresca seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.

TCC BUSINESS ITEMS

4.1 Town of Davidson CTP Amendments

Presenter: Andrew Ventresca, Town of Davidson

Summary:

Mr. Ventresca began his presentation stating the requested action is to recommend that the CRTPO Board approve the recommended CTP amendments within the Town of Davidson.

Mr. Ventresca stated the Town of Davidson adopted the *Davidson Mobility Plan* in 2019, and the proposed CTP amendments reflect prioritized connections identified through the Town's planning process. Mr. Ventresca stated the proposed amendments were presented in detail for Information at the May TCC meeting, and no concerns were raised. He displayed a list and map of the proposed amendments which include one new roadway, two intersection improvements, nine multi-use path projects, and four on-road bicycle improvements.

Mr. Ventresca concluded his presentation restating the requested action and asking for questions.

Motion:

Mr. Berger made a motion to recommend that the CRTPO Board approve the recommended CTP amendments within the Town of Davidson. Mrs. Martin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.

4.2 2020 Discretionary Projects Program Funding Recommendation

Presenter: Bjorn Hansen

Summary:

Mr. Hansen began his presentation stating the requested action is to recommend that the CRTPO Board:

- Allocate \$5.5 million in discretionary funding for the spring 2020 existing discretionary project shortfall call;
- Allocate \$5.5 million in discretionary funding for the fall 2020 project call in addition to the \$26.7 million of Bonus Allocation (BA) funds from the I-5507 project;
- Approve a tiered buffer methodology to prioritize roadway project submittals that are adjacent to the I-485 Express Lanes (I-5507) project.

Mr. Hansen explained there is \$11 million STBG-DA funds available for programming through FFY 2025. The Project Oversight Committee (POC) recommends allocating 50% of the available funds during the spring project shortfall call. Any un-allocated funding in the spring will be made available during the fall project call. The POC recommends allocating at least 50% of the available funds during the fall 2020 project call in addition to the \$26.7 million BA funds from the I-5507 project.

The POC also recommends utilizing a concentric tier of corridor buffers to prioritize project submittals adjacent to the I-5507 project for consideration of BA funds. Projects within a 1-mile buffer are given the highest priority. Projects within a 2-mile and 3-mile buffer are given second and third priority.

Mr. Hansen concluded his presentation by restating the requested action and asking for questions.

Motion:

Mr. McDonald made a motion to recommend that the CRTPO Board approve the recommended 2020 discretionary funding allocations and the tiered buffer methodology to prioritized roadway project submittals adjacent to the I-5507 project. Steve Bridges seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION REPORTS

5.1 Supplemental Discretionary Funding Recommendation

Presenter: Bjorn Hansen

Summary:

Mr. Hansen stated the call for supplemental funds to address shortfalls for existing discretionary-funded projects opened March 27 and closed May 1. The source of funding is \$5.5 million unprogrammed STBG-DA funds through FY 2025. Mr. Hansen stated four applications were received, totaling \$2.9 million in requested funds. The applications were reviewed by the POC during the April 14 and 28 meetings.

Mr. Hansen displayed the following list of projects and requested funds. He stated all requests include contingencies required by the CRTPO Discretionary Projects Policy.

Existing CRTPO Discretionary Project	Jurisdiction & Project Limits	Requested STBG-DA funds
C-5534 – McKee and Providence Rd Int. Imps.	City of Charlotte – Ballantyne Commons Pkwy/McKee Road and Providence Road	\$640,100
U-6248 - NC 75 and Old Providence Rd Int. Imps.	Town of Waxhaw - NC 75 and Old Providence Road	\$1,350,400
EB-5930 - Downtown Sidewalk Improvements	Town of Troutman: Sidewalk improvements Rumble St (Main St-Thomas St); Wagner St (Main St-West Av); Talley St (Main St-West Av)	\$495,287
EB-5932 - Richardson Greenway South	Town of Troutman – South Main Street from Troutman Elementary School to Jacobs Woods Subdivision.	\$475,040
	Total	\$2,960,827

Mr. Hansen stated this information will be shared with the Board at the June 17 meeting. The TCC will be requested to make a recommendation to the Board to approve the supplemental discretionary funding recommendations during the July 2 meeting.

5.2 Mazeppa Road & NC 115/NS O Rail Line Grade Separation

Presenter: Erika Martin, Town of Mooresville

Summary:

Ms. Martin begin her presentation stating the Town of Mooresville, NCDOT Rail Division, and Norfolk Southern conducted a traffic separation study of the 27 railroad crossings along the NS O Rail Line in

2017. The study recommended a project to construct a grade separation of Mazeppa Road and NC 115 and the Norfolk-Southern O Rail Line. Residents expressed their support for a grade separation project at this location during the public engagement process for the traffic separation study. In 2019, an environmental assessment was completed for the recommended grade separation project and no significant impact to natural, ecological, cultural or scenic resources is anticipated. In February 2020, the Town of Mooresville received a \$4.5 million Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to improve the at-grade crossing.

Ms. Martin provided an overview of the scope of the project by stating that a four-lane overpass will be constructed along Mazeppa Road over NC 115 and the O Line rail. In addition, the scope includes a new two-way ramp between NC 115 and Mazeppa Road to maintain access to NGK Ceramics and McKenzie Road. She stated the project benefits include: improving east-west connectivity in Mooresville, reduction in Emergency Management Service response times, reduction in traffic congestion, and modernization of the current roadway network.

Ms. Martin provided an overview of the engagement efforts conducted since the 2017 railroad crossing study. The town has held multiple stakeholder meetings, public hearings, contacted property owners, and obtained 15 letters of support for the project.

Ms. Martin stated the \$4.5 million federal and \$4.5 million local funds must be programmed in the 2020-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) before the Town of Mooresville may begin spending funds on engineering and environmental work. Ms. Martin stated that the TCC is requested to make a recommendation that the Board approve the TIP amendment during the July 2 meeting.

OTHER REPORTS

6.1. NCDOT Report

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

- There are no Division Project Updates on construction activities as many projects within the division are not able to proceed with construction activities at this time.
- The department continues to experience revenue losses associated with COVID-19. Those losses are in the range of \$40-50 million dollars per month.
- NCDOT has a \$292.5 million cash floor. As of last Friday, NCDOT is still about \$53 million dollars below the cash floor. As a result, the department is not able to let any projects at this time. In addition, the department cannot concur with bid awards for any projects that municipalities may let which have NCDOT funding involved in the funding structure. While NCDOT is below the cash floor it is not able to authorize additional or future phases for projects if those phases involve funding from the department. In addition, NCDOT is unable to enter into any municipal or supplemental agreements that will commit the department financially in any way.
- As stated, the department is being forced to suspend work on most projects across the state including most Locally Administered Projects (LAP). Division 10 is in the process of sending out letters notifying individual municipalities about project suspensions. As the revenue losses from COVID-19 stabilize later in the year, the department will begin the process of adjusting schedules for individual projects. There is no timetable at this time for when projects may begin to be released from suspension and move forward.
- Most Rail Division projects are able to proceed because they have different funding sources that are not as heavily impacted as funding streams for highway projects.

Mr. McDonald asked if NCDOT will stop work on active projects in construction. Mr. Basham stated projects in construction or with a notice to proceed prior to May 4 are allowed to proceed.

Mr. McDonald asked if municipalities may advance funding in order to proceed with a project. Mr. Basham stated NCDOT has received so many municipal requests, similar to the "Cary Model," that the department is no longer able to employ the project delivery method and has declined requests because the level of financial commitment is overwhelming for the department.

Ms. Martin asked for more information about the Cary Model. Mr. Basham stated the model allows a municipality to advance funds in order to deliver a project before state funds are programmed the STIP. NCDOT will reimburse the municipality after the programmed date.

Dana Stoogenke asked if the McKee Road project, included on the "Move Forward" list and scheduled to be Let in 2021, is still on schedule. Mr. Basham replied projects on the Move Forward list may complete work in the current phase. He will look into whether projects on the Move Forward list are able to advance to the next phase.

Gwen Cook requested a copy of the Move Forward list and asked how projects recently awarded STBG-DA funds will be impacted by NCDOT's financial status. Mr. Basham stated he would provide a copy of the list and follow up regarding STBG-DA funded projects because the department is still discussing the issue.

Bill Thunberg requested more details about LAP suspensions. Mr. Basham stated nearly all LAP projects are suspended at this time. Projects will be allowed to complete the current phase of work but the department will not be able to authorize future phases if it is responsible for any portion of the funding. Mr. Basham stated the division completed and mailed LAP suspension letters for roadway projects and are now working on non-roadway suspension letters.

Warren Cooksey provided an update on behalf of the North Carolina Turnpike Authority:

- Since stay-at-home measures went into effect in mid-March, Turnpike Projects have seen significantly decreased traffic. However, there was less of a decline on the Monroe Expressway (40%-50%) than on the Triangle Expressway (60%-70%). The Turnpike Authority won't see the full financial impact of the traffic decline for several months: NCTA's accounting is on a cash basis, and bill-by-mail revenue typically lags actual travel by a month or two.
- NCTA closed its three customer service centers on March 18, shifting all customer service to the website and call center. Planning is underway for reopening the customer service centers this summer, though the specific date has not yet been confirmed.

No reports were provided from Division 12 the Transportation Planning Division.

6.2. Project Oversight Committee

Jennifer Stafford stated the POC has been testing the draft shortfall matrix presented by Mr. Hansen at the June TCC meeting. The matrix is intended to help determine which projects should or shouldn't have additional funds awarded. Currently, there is no criteria to evaluate shortfall applications. The POC tested the draft Matrix on the 2020 Shortfall applications and the results were reasonable. The POC will test the matrix on the 2019 shortfall applications at the next POC meeting on June 25.

6.3. Bicycle and Pedestrian Work Group Report

Mr. Bridges stated the Bicycle and Pedestrian Work Group will meet virtually this afternoon from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

6.4. Upcoming Issues

Agustin Rodriguez provided an update on the Beyond 77 Study. He stated the majority of the study's deliverables are on schedule. However, Phase II of Public Engagement and Participation is being amended due to impacts from COVID-19. A detailed report about Phase I, Existing and Future Conditions, is available on the project website.

Mr. Cook provided an update about the Charlotte Regional Alliance for Transportation (CRAFT), membership includes the four metropolitan planning organizations and two rural planning organizations in the region. The CRAFT Technical Coordinating Committee met in May to share updates about:

- NCDOT CMAQ targets;
- Regional Transit Plan;
- BUILD Grant Application submitted by Centralina Council of Governments on behalf of the region for preparing a strategic action plan for intelligent transportation systems.

CRAFT also discussed opportunities to coordinate Metropolitan Transportation Planning efforts. The three NC MPOs are on the same schedule for developing their 2050 MTPs so efforts will be made to coordinate policies related to issues such as connected autonomous vehicles, performance-based planning, and financial plans. The Technical Coordinating Committee will continue conversations at the July meeting.

Ms. Mahoney provided several announcements:

- The Charlotte City Council approved the contract with RS&H to assist with the 2050 MTP. The planning process is expected to kick off in July.
- Sean Langley with the CPD&D Community Planning Division will reach out to each jurisdiction to identify Environmental Justice contacts for the 2050 MTP planning process.
- The 2020 NCAMPO conference is cancelled. It will be rescheduled in Greenville, NC in April of 2021.

ADJOURN: Ms. Babson determined that the agenda had been adequately completed and adjourned the meeting at 10:52 a.m.