

**CHARLOTTE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

**Remote Participation Only  
January 20, 2021 Meeting  
Summary Minutes**

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**Members Attending (via remote participation):**

Larken Egleston (Charlotte), Michael Miltich (Cornelius), Jane Campbell (Davidson), Brian Hines (Huntersville), Michael Alvarez (Indian Trail), Melissa Neader (Iredell County), Joe Pollino (Marvin), John Higdon (Matthews), John Aneralla (Metropolitan Transit Commission), Frederick Becker (Mineral Springs), Brad Simmons (Mint Hill), Lisa Qualls (Mooresville), Jack Edwards (Pineville), Linda Paxton (Stallings), William Morgan (Statesville), David Williams (Union County), Ron Pappas (Waxhaw), Elizabeth Callis (Weddington), Lori Bailey (Wesley Chapel), Tony Lathrop (NCBOT – Division 10), Brad Lail (NCBOT – Division 12)

**Non-Voting Members Attending (via remote participation):**

Victoria Nwasike (Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission), Jim Walker (NC Turnpike Authority), Loretta Barren (FHWA)

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**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Michael Miltich called the January 2021 CRTPO meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He explained that this meeting would be conducted virtually, and then he reviewed the virtual meeting guidelines and etiquette. CRTPO Delegates and Alternates as well as residents were able to participate in the virtual meeting by using a combination of online meeting software, conference call, and live stream from the CRTPO’s Facebook Page.

Chairman Miltich reminded the Board that usage of the chat box function within the online meeting software is part of the Board public record.

Chairman Miltich directed Mr. Burke to conduct a roll-call to determine if the following Bylaw requirements had been met for a quorum:

*Section 3 – Quorums*

*A quorum of the MPO shall be constituted by the presence of:*

- *at least ten (10) of the eligible voting members at the beginning of the meeting; and*
- *who together represent a minimum of 51% of the weighted votes; and*
- *that qualified voting members from jurisdictions representing at least two counties must be present.*
- ~~*Only members physically present shall count toward establishing a quorum. (Suspended by CRTPO Board chairman due to North Carolina State of Emergency Declaration)*~~

Mr. Burke conducted the roll-call and determined that a quorum of the Board had been met based upon the bylaws, and with the Chairman’s omission of the clause for members to be physically present due to the State of Emergency declaration.

Chairman Miltich polled the Board to determine if votes can be cast by acclamation unless opposition (“nay” vote) from at least one Board member is made. The purpose of the vote by acclamation would be to minimize confusion if the votes were unanimous and to run the virtual meeting as efficiently as possible.

If an opposing vote to approve the particular vote by acclamation was cast, then the Chairman would direct the Secretary to conduct a roll call vote of each attending jurisdiction. If no opposing vote is cast a second time, then the motion will be recorded as “approved unanimously by acclamation.” No opposition was voiced with this voting method from the Board for the meeting tonight.

## **2. Election of Officers**

Chairman Miltich directed Neil Burke to conduct the elections for the 2021 CRTPO Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Mr. Burke stated that if there is only one nomination for a position, he would ask for approval by acclamation. If more than one nominee is motioned for a position, a roll call vote will be conducted.

Mr. Burke opened the floor for nominations for 2021 CRTPO board chair. Mayor Higdon nominated Chairman Miltich for 2021 CRTPO board chair. Additional nominations were requested; however, no additional nominations were put forth. The nomination was seconded by Mayor Simmons. The motion was approved unanimously. Upon being put to a vote, Chairman Miltich was unanimously elected chairman for 2021.

Mr. Burke opened the floor for nominations for 2021 CRTPO board vice-chair. Brian Hines nominated Lynda Paxton for 2021 CRTPO Board vice-chair. The nomination was seconded by Mayor Becker. No additional nominations were put forth. Upon being put to a vote, Ms. Paxton was elected vice-chairwoman for 2021.

## **3. Adoption of the Agenda**

### Summary:

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

### Motion:

Chairman Miltich made a motion to the Board to adopt the revised agenda by acclamation unless at least one opposing vote is cast. No opposing vote was cast. Upon being put to a vote, the motion to adopt the agenda as presented was approved by acclamation.

## **4. Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments.

## **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 Miltich requested action on the consent agenda item:

1. December 16, 2020 CRTPO Board Meeting minutes

### Motion:

Chairman Miltich made a motion to the Board to approve the consent agenda item by acclamation unless at least one opposing vote is cast. No opposing vote was cast. Upon being put to a vote, the motion to adopt the consent agenda was approved by acclamation.

## **7. Transit Education Initiative Task Force Update**

### Presenter:

Michael Johnson, Task Force Chair & Jerrel Leonard

### Summary:

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

Mr. Johnson began the presentation by explaining the purpose of convening the Transit Education Initiative Task Force (TEI) in 2020. Mr. Leonard explained the purpose of the task force is to provide a common understanding of the parameters for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding within the CRTPO and determine the feasibility of recommending a modification of the CRTPO formula for allocation of FTA 5307 funding to eligible CRTPO recipients.

Mr. Johnson explained the task force's data collection process began with a series of stakeholder interviews. Mr. Leonard provided a summary of the feedback received in the interviews and explained the interview summaries provided direction for the subsequent task force meetings which covered the following topics:

- Overview of transit providers within CRTPO;
- Review of federal, state, local rules and regulations for transit funding;
- Detailed review of the CRTPO FTA 5307 formula.

Mr. Leonard explained the FTA 5307 funds are allocated for transit capital expenses and operating assistance within the urbanized area as well as for transit planning initiatives. He provided examples of eligible activities for FTA 5307 funding and reviewed local match requirements. Mr. Johnson stated CRTPO approved the current formula in 2014 and the key factors that influenced its development were:

- Utilize readily available data;
- Accommodate potential CRTPO planning area expansion as a result of the 2020 Census;
- Accommodate new transit agencies without amendment;
- Recognize operating and capital needs; and
- Promote transit growth and improved performance.

Mr. Leonard stated the current allocation formula is based on expenses and service: equal shares are based on annual vehicle revenue miles, fleet size, and ridership. He then displayed the 2020 CRTPO FTA 5307 allocations to transit agencies within the CRTPO.

Mr. Leonard concluded his presentation by explaining that the TEI will meet in February to review peer MPO FTA 5307 funding distribution methodologies and develop a recommendation for modifications to the CRTPO's FTA 5307 funding formula if the task force has determined that modifications are warranted.

## **8. Charlotte Moves Task Force**

Presenter: Taiwo Jaiyeoba, City of Charlotte

### Summary:

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

Mr. Jaiyeoba stated that the purpose of his presentation is to provide a summary of the Charlotte Moves Task Force recommendations which were presented to Charlotte City Council on December 14, 2020. While the task force's initial charge was to identify mobility solutions within the City of Charlotte, he explained that the multimodal facet of the effort evaluated the adopted transit and greenway networks throughout Mecklenburg County. Mr. Jaiyeoba added that the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners has expressed support for a multimodal transportation network throughout the county. Therefore, the task force's recommendations are aimed at creating a transformational mobility network throughout Mecklenburg County.

Mr. Jaiyeoba stated the task force ultimately recommends a "One Cent for Mobility" countywide referendum for Fall 2021 in order to:

- Create a \$4-6 billion mobility investment program (TMN) to achieve a "safe and equitable" network;
- Align the TMN with the goals and strategies of the City's 2040 Comprehensive Plan and priorities of affordable housing and upward mobility;

- Fund the TMN with a clear and straightforward “single source” funding strategy that will be detailed in a financing plan.

He explained that the task force’s funding strategy contains two major components. The first component is the one cent referendum, which would generate \$4-6 billion dollars in local funds. The second component of the funding strategy would require a partnership with the state and federal government to match local funds, which would generate a TMN of approximately \$8-12 billion. The TMN program would build out the recommended network in 10 years and finance the debt over 30 years.

Mr. Jaiyeoba stated the current light rail, streetcar, and bus services have been funded by a half cent sales tax. He explained Charlotte’s sale tax is significantly less than comparable cities throughout the nation and lower than the ten largest cities within North Carolina. Despite the city’s low sales tax, Charlotte has constructed a more robust and connected transit system than peer cities. As such, the city has proven itself to be a good steward of public dollars.

Mr. Jaiyeoba provided an overview of next steps for the task force’s recommendations:

- Obtain state legislative approval for a one cent referendum in November 2021;
- Refine the transformational network of multi-modal projects;
- Refine the TMN funding strategy;
- Coordinate with countywide and regional planning efforts.

He concluded his presentation and solicited questions and comments from the Board.

Mayor Higdon stated that there is a perception amongst the public that the proposed referendum would only fund capital fixed guideway transit projects, while a significant portion of the scope would provide funding for roadways, bicycle and pedestrian projects. He requested that Mr. Jaiyeoba conduct an additional presentation to the Board when modal funding allocations have been identified for the proposed referendum.

Ms. Campbell explained that the Mayors from Cornelius, Davidson and Huntersville have submitted a letter to Mayor Lyles expressing concern with lack of transit investment in Northern Mecklenburg County from the half-cent sales tax, and the Towns cannot support the proposed referendum until their issues have been addressed. Mr. Jaiyeoba stated that he has met with Mayor Lyles to discuss the letter and plans on addressing the issues identified during the January 27 Metropolitan Transit Commission meeting.

Chairman Miltich added that support for commuter rail in Northern Mecklenburg County has waned in favor of light rail along the Red Line corridor following additional outreach to the Towns that was conducted by CATS.

Mayor Aneralla expressed concerns with an additional tax increase for Huntersville residents. He recommended that future surveys specifically quantify the potential tax increase to ensure residents will understand the implications of the proposed referendum.

## **9. 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan**

**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.

Mr. Burke began the presentation with an overview of the project schedule and ongoing activities. Efforts scheduled throughout 2021, such as project prioritization and air quality conformity, are on track and the plan is scheduled to be adopted by the Board in March 2022.

He provided a summary of public comments received regarding the update to the goals and objectives for the 2050 MTP. Approximately ninety percent of the feedback received agrees that the proposed objectives support the goals. Action will be requested for the Board to adopt the updates to the goals and objectives in February.

Mr. Burke reviewed a proposed modification to the roadway project ranking criteria to add a measure of Equitable Access to Environmental Justice communities. The proposed new criteria would improve a roadway project's score when access to census-defined EJ communities was improved. The Advisory Committee recommendation was presented to the TCC during its meeting on January 7 and no concerns were raised. The Board will be requested to adopt the revised roadway ranking criteria in February.

He provided an overview of the roadway candidate project submission process for the 2050 MTP. A project submittal workshop was held for TCC members on January 19, and the project window will open on January 25 and will close on February 12.

## **10. FY 2022 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 2022 UPWP. He stated that action to approve the FY 2022 will be requested of the Board during the March meeting. An overview of the UPWP was provided. The UPWP is the CRTPO's budget. Funding levels by source were reviewed.

Mr. Cook reviewed the FTA Section 5303 fund requests by transit agency. The CRTPO anticipates having \$980,352 in FTA 5303 funds for FY 2022, and a call for projects/initiatives was conducted to allocate the funds. Three of the CRTPO's four transit agencies (CATS, ICATS, Union County) applied for FTA 5303 allocations for the FY 2022 UPWP. MTS did not apply for FTA 5303 funds in consideration of the FY 2022 UPWP. Mr. Cook reviewed major projects and initiatives that would require funding task code allocations in FY 2022. He concluded his presentation by reviewing the anticipated allocations and tasks within the FY 2022 UPWP.

Chairman Miltich requested an overview for the Board during the February meeting regarding the tasks within the FY 2022 UPWP that are discretionary funds as opposed to funding task orders that are essential to meet the federal MPO requirements. In addition, he requested a percentage break down of the funds assigned to discretionary initiatives vs. mandatory tasks. Mr. Cook agreed to provide the requested information during the February presentation.

## **11. Upcoming Agenda Items**

### Presenter:

Neil Burke

### Summary:

An overview of the February 17, 2021 agenda was provided. The February 2021 CRTPO Board agenda will include the following action items:

- 2050 MTP: Approval of updated goals and objectives and revisions to the roadway ranking criteria
- 2021 Federal Performance Based Planning Safety Targets

Information reports will be provided on the following issues:

- Draft FY 2022 UPWP
- CATS Planning Initiatives
- US 74 Corridor Implementation Strategy Stakeholder Update
- CRTPO Strategic Plan

Mr. Burke provided the following announcements:

- Information was provided to the Board (via email on January 11) regarding the filing requirement for delegates and alternates with the state ethics commission. Elected officials that serve as delegates or alternates on an MPO Board must fill out the appropriate documents with the North Carolina State Ethics Commission prior to April 15 each year.
- The TCC elected officers for the 2021 calendar year during the January 7 meeting. Liz Babson, Director of the Charlotte DOT was re-elected Chair; and Andrew Ventresca, Senior Planner with the Town of Davidson was elected Vice-Chair.

Mr. Cook provided the following announcements:

- The Technical Team for the Charlotte Regional Alliance for Transportation (CRAFT) will meet on Tuesday, January 26. The Regional ITS plan will be discussed.
- A first draft of the CRTPO Strategic Plan will be presented to the steering committee on February 4.

## **12. Board Member Comments**

Presenter:

Michael Miltich

There were no comments.

## **13. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.