

CHARLOTTE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Remote Participation Only

March 17, 2021 Meeting

Revised Summary Minutes

Members Attending (via remote participation):

Julie Eiselt (Charlotte), Michael Miltich (Cornelius), Jane Campbell (Davidson), Brian Hines (Huntersville), Marcus McIntyre (Indian Trail), Melissa Neader (Iredell County), Ernestine Staton (Marshville), Renee Garner (Matthews), Pat Cotham (Mecklenburg County), John Higdon (Metropolitan Transit Commission), Frederick Becker (Mineral Springs), Bobby Kilgore (Monroe), Brad Simmons (Mint Hill), Lisa Qualls (Mooresville), Jack Edwards (Pineville), Linda Paxton (Stallings), William Morgan (Statesville), Teross Young (Troutman), David Williams (Union County), Ron Pappas (Waxhaw), 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)

1. Call to Order

Chairman Michael Miltich called the March 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. 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 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.

3. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

4. Ethics Awareness & Conflict of Interest Reminder

Mr. Burke read the ethics awareness and conflict of interest reminder. No conflicts were identified.

5. Consent Agenda

Summary:

Chairman Miltich requested action on the following four consent agenda items:

1. February 17, 2021 CRTPO Board Meeting minutes
2. CRTPO Self-Certification
3. 2020-2029 TIP Amendments
4. FY 2022 CMAQ Application Endorsement for the Hambright Road Park and Ride lot in Huntersville

Motion:

Chairman Miltich made a motion to the Board to approve the consent agenda items 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.

6. 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.

The presentation’s purpose was to obtain the board’s approval of financial assumptions to be used in the roadway ranking process, as well as the development of the MTP’s financial plan. Financial plan requirements were reviewed, as was the concept of fiscal constraint. An MTP’s financial plan must demonstrate that sufficient funds are available to implement transportation improvements through a comparison of revenues and costs. Two basic components were discussed: population share and revenue escalation. Population share was used as the indicator of future revenue. CRTPO’s population share for each STI geography was reviewed. This approach is consistent with the approach taken during the preparation of the 2045 MTP. Mr. Burke reviewed each STI geography and provided the revenue estimates for each. Regarding revenue escalation, a 2% annual rate was used to determine revenues from 2033 to 2050. The 2% rate is consistent with what was assumed as part of the 2045 MTP, and was verified as a reasonable approach by NCDOT’s TIP Unit staff. It was stated that the assumptions were reviewed and endorsed by the MTP Advisory Committee and were unanimously recommended for adoption by the TCC.

A summary was provided 2050 MTP call for candidate roadway projects by summarizing the project types, number, and geographic dispersion of candidate projects submitted for prioritization in the 2050 MTP. In total, 240 candidate roadway projects were submitted from the CRTPO member jurisdictions. The Roadway Ranking Review Committee has begun the review of the candidate projects according to the two-tier roadway ranking methodology. Fiscal constraint will be applied to the highest ranked projects in May. A draft fiscally constrained project list will open for public comment on June 17 and conclude July 14, 2021.

Motion:

Chairman Miltich made a motion to the Board to approve the financial assumptions to be used in the roadway ranking process for the 2050 MTP. The motion would be approved by acclamation unless at least one opposing vote was cast. No opposing vote was cast. Upon being put to a vote, the motion to approve the financial assumptions to be used in the roadway ranking process for the 2050 MTP was approved by acclamation.

7. 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 approve the FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The TCC unanimously recommended the approval of the FY 2022 UPWP during the March 4 meeting. Funding levels by source were reviewed.

He stated the local cost share funding levels are unchanged in FY 2022, the task code allocations are similar to FY 2021, and all Section 5303 requests were fully funded. The FY 2022 UPWP will need to be amended after work is complete with several planning initiatives including Beyond 77, CRTPO Strategic Plan and CONNECT Beyond.

Mr. Cook stated CRTPO received an additional \$475,644 Planning (PL) funds for FY 2022 due to the redistribution of unallocated PL funds across the state. These additional funds will be programmed to four planning projects approved through the Discretionary Program in December 2020. The STBG-DA funds originally programmed to these planning projects will be available for programming in the Fall 2021 discretionary project call.

He then displayed the total funding levels per funding source and the reviewed major projects and initiatives that would require funding task code allocations in FY 2022.

Motion:

Chairman Miltich made a motion to the Board to approve the FY 2022 UPWP. The motion would be approved by acclamation unless at least one opposing vote was cast. No opposing vote was cast. Upon being put to a vote, the motion to approve the FY 2022 UPWP was approved by acclamation.

8. US 74 Corridor Implementation Strategy

Presenters:

Neil Burke

Andy Grzymiski, Charlotte DOT

Brett Canipe, NCDOT-Division 10

David Wasserman, NCDOT-STIP Unit

Summary:

Mr. Burke began the presentation by stating that NCDOT's financial hardship necessitated a reprogramming of the 2020-2029 STIP to maintain fiscal constraint, and subsequently requiring a strategy for phasing improvements along US 74. A work group was comprised of staff from the Town of Matthews, Charlotte DOT,

CATS, NCDOT and CRTPO to develop recommendations to bundle and sequence adjacent segments of the US 74 Corridor improvements beyond the 2020-2029 STIP.

Mr. Grzynski provided an historical overview of the conversion of Independence Boulevard to a freeway. When conversion of the corridor began in the 1980s, it impacted surrounding neighborhoods and identified the need for a parallel street network to provide access to development and connectivity to neighborhoods. As growth continued throughout the 1990s and early 2000s, multiple planning efforts identified the need for additional corridor improvements such as express bus lanes and managed lanes. The review of lessons learned confirms that future US 74 Corridor Improvements must:

- Preserve the level-of-service on the mainline by using a parallel network of multimodal transportation segments to access development;
- Extend the functional life of the mainline by providing an increased capacity in the parallel network;
- Develop a parallel network in a multimodal pattern and allow the mainline to carry regional traffic;
- Accommodate regional transit without affecting the level-of-service on the mainline.

Mr. Canipe provided background information about the project limits, scope of work and estimated costs for the US 74 corridor improvements (U-6103 and U-2509). He explained project costs have significantly increased due to updated cost estimates and an increase in right-of-way expenses. Mr. Canipe explained the role of the workgroup to establish the projects priorities segments given NCDOT's financial limitations. The workgroup prioritized proposed segmentation of projects along the corridor by reviewing traffic volume data, cost estimates, and constructability issues. The workgroup identified their connectivity segment priorities and then developed an implementation plan.

He then presented cost estimates for the 18 segments included in the two corridor projects. He explained complimentary interchange improvements and parallel street improvements were combined into packages. He explained NCDOT will continue to review and update cost estimates as well as examine available funding. After the timeline and implementation details of the US 74 Corridor Implementation Strategy are finalized, the strategy will be brought before the TCC and CRTPO Board for approval in within the next several months.

Mayor Edwards expressed concerns regarding the cost of the project and asked Mr. Canipe for assurances that there would not be any additional cost increases. David Wasserman responded to explain that the cost of construction materials is variable and right-of-way acquisition costs along the corridor are costly. He did explain that this project cost has increased because of the completion of the environmental document which has informed NCDOT of the needs for the project and determined the number of properties that would need to be acquired.

Stephen Rosenburgh estimated that the project cost estimates for the Independence Boulevard project could reach \$2 billion before it would be let for construction. He cited the rapid population growth within the Charlotte region is creating additional sources of need in terms of multiple capital transportation projects such as the widening of I-77 from Uptown to the South Carolina state line and the construction of fixed guideway light rail corridors. Mr. Rosenburgh emphasized that projects should be prioritized to strategically relieve congestion because NCDOT's traditional funding sources will not be sufficient to deliver several billion-dollar transportation projects in the Charlotte region at the same time.

David Williams asked what the CRTPO's role will be in terms of moving forward with the project. Mr. Canipe explained that NCDOT is still in the process of finalizing the cost estimates for the individual project segments, but he anticipated that the CRTPO would be asked to endorse the revised project schedule and segment cost estimates.

Renee Garner expressed support for the project by stating that an improved US 74 corridor through Matthews will relieve congestion when other corridors are being reconstructed.

Mayor Higdon expressed support for the project citing the traffic volumes as one of the most heavily travelled corridors in the state.

Marcus McIntyre asked how the US 74 corridor improvements will be coordinated with the LYNX Silver Line project. Mr. Canipe responded to explain that NCDOT has coordinated with CATS regarding both projects and they are being designed to work together.

Brian Hines expressed concern with the amount of funding that is currently allocated to the US 74 project relative to the NC 73 project in Huntersville and asked if funding could be reallocated from the US 74 project to accelerate the project schedule of other projects in the region. Mr. Canipe responded to explain that the US 74 project is in the Statewide Mobility tier of STI and if the funds were reallocated, they would go to other Statewide Mobility projects throughout the state.

9. Upcoming Agenda Items

Presenter:

Neil Burke

Summary:

An overview of the April 21, 2021 agenda was provided. The April 2021 Board agenda will include the following agenda items:

- 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan
- CRTPO Strategic Plan
- Beyond 77 Corridor Study

Mr. Burke provided the following announcements:

- The third phase of public engagement for the Beyond 77 corridor study will begin on April 1 and conclude on May 15. Board members are encouraged to visit the Beyond 77 project website: <https://www.beyond77.com/>
- 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.
 - As of the Board meeting date, 11 of the 45 CRTPO delegates and alternates had successfully completed their SEI filings for 2021.

10. Board Member Comments

Presenter:

Michael Miltich

Chairman Miltich encouraged better attendance of the CRTPO Board during Beyond 77 meetings. He will contact Board members to ensure that upcoming meetings have good representation from the CRTPO member jurisdictions.

11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.