

CHARLOTTE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Remote Participation Only
May 19, 2021 Meeting
Summary Minutes

Members Attending (via remote participation):

Larken Egleston (Charlotte), Michael Miltich (Cornelius), Jane Campbell (Davidson), Dan Boone (Huntersville), Melissa Neader (Iredell County), Ernestine Staton (Marshville), Renee Garner (Matthews), Pat Cotham (Mecklenburg County), John Higdon (Metropolitan Transit Commission), Jack Edwards (Pineville), 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), Jerry Santoni (Iredell County Planning Board), Jim Walker (NC Turnpike Authority), Loretta Barren (FHWA)

1. Call to Order

Chairman Michael Miltich called the May 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 consent agenda item:

1. Revised April 21, 2021 CRTPO Board Meeting minutes
2. 2020-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments

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.

6. Fred D. Alexander Boulevard Alignment Comprehensive Transportation Plan Amendment

Presenter: Andy Grzymski, Charlotte DOT

Summary:

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

He began his presentation by stating that City of Charlotte staff are requesting that the future alignment of Fred D. Alexander Boulevard be amended within the CTP due to a development proposal submitted for a property impacted by the potential alignment. The developer will dedicate the right-of-way for Fred D. Alexander Boulevard along their property.

Mr. Grzymski provided an overview of the Charlotte DOT’s public engagement effort for the CTP alignment amendment. The public comment period would begin on May 20 and conclude on June 23. Letters would be sent to parcel owners within 500 feet of the existing and proposed alignments. CRTPO would issue a media release, the public engagement information would be posted on the website, and on the CRTPO’s social media accounts. Residents can submit public comments prior to the July Board meeting. Mr. Grzymski concluded his presentation by stating that action will be requested by the Board to approve the CTP alignment amendment during the July meeting.

Motion:

Chairman Miltich made a motion to the Board to open a public comment period on the proposed Fred D. Alexander Boulevard alignment CTP amendment 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 open a public comment period on the proposed Fred D. Alexander Boulevard alignment CTP amendment was approved by acclamation.

7. 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 update the Board regarding the activities of the Roadway Ranking Review Committee's (RRRC) effort to develop the draft fiscally constrained roadway project list. The RRRC has completed its review of the Tier II qualitative measure scoring process. The RRRC will meet again on May 24 to finalize the Tier II scores with the addition of the quantitative data and begin the process of applying fiscal constraint to develop the recommended roadway project list.

He then provided an update on the Active Transportation element of the plan by stating that TCC members provided feedback on priority bicycle and pedestrian corridors within their communities and the evaluation process has been updated to reflect the local priorities.

Mr. Burke provided an update on the transit component of the 2050 MTP. Financial projections were requested from the four transit agencies as part of the financial plan development. Projections were received from the three county-based transit agencies. CATS is in the process of developing its financial projections for the recommended corridors identified within the 2030 System Plan. The Metropolitan Transit Commission is anticipated to adopt CATS financial projections and proposed transit network at the June or July meeting. CRTPO staff will continue to monitor the MTC adoption process and incorporate the results from CATS along with the projections from the three other transit agencies into the MTP.

He concluded the presentation by stating that action will be requested of the Board during the June meeting to open a public comment period on the draft project list.

8. Transportation Alternatives Program Scoring Criteria Revisions

Presenter:

Curtis Bridges

Summary:

Mr. Bridges 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 provide an update on proposed amendments to the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) scoring criteria, which is the CRTPO's bicycle and pedestrian scoring methodology.

Mr. Bridges explained that the Bicycle and Pedestrian Work Group (BPWG) has developed a series of recommended revisions to the criteria to ensure that is as effective as possible to identify priority projects. Specifically, the intent of the revisions are to clarify criteria terminology and scoring distribution, address social and health equity, and to better align with the CRTPO's discretionary project policy. He then reviewed the recommended revisions throughout the document. Mr. Bridges concluded his presentation by stating that action would be requested by the Board to approve the amendments to the TAP criteria during the June 16 meeting.

9. Project Oversight Committee Update

Presenter:

Jennifer Stafford

Summary:

Ms. Stafford 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 provide an update to the Board on the current initiatives of the Project Oversight Committee (POC).

She began her presentation by explaining the POC's purpose is to serve as TCC subcommittee charged with making project selection recommendations and monitor the implementation of projects funded with the CRTPO's federal and state discretionary funds. Ms. Stafford then provided an overview of the 103 discretionary funded projects by mode, and subsequently by phase within the delivery process.

Ms. Stafford provided an overview of the amount of discretionary funding available for both the spring and fall 2021 project calls. Five applications were received for existing projects that have experienced a funding shortfall during the spring 2021 call totaling \$3.3 million. The Board will be requested to take action on the shortfall project funding requests during the June or July meetings. Ms. Stafford concluded her presentation by providing an overview of training opportunities for project managers on the process to apply for and deliver federally funded projects.

10. Upcoming Agenda Items

Presenter:

Neil Burke

Summary:

The June 2021 Board meeting will include the following agenda items:

- Action requested to open a public comment period on the draft project list for the 2050 MTP
- Action requested to approve the amendments to the TAP criteria revisions
- Information report on the status of the Transit Educational Initiative task force

Robert Cook announced that the new Administrative Officer IV position has been filled by Temekia Dae. Ms. Dae began work with CRTPO on Monday. Chairman Miltich welcomed Ms. Dae to the CRTPO.

11. Board Member Comments

Presenter:

Michael Miltich

Chairman Miltich explained that Board and TCC leadership met with CRTPO staff this week to discuss the process to return to in-person meetings. It was determined that a survey would be administered to the Board and TCC to obtain their opinions regarding in-person meetings, continued remote meetings, or undertaking a hybrid approach. The survey will be distributed within the next several weeks.

Mayor Higdon expressed frustration with NCDOT regarding two additional projects within the Town of Matthews that are being value engineered to reduce cost. The projects in question were the Idlewild Road widening project (U-4913) and the McKee Road extension project (U-4713A). He explained that Matthews staff contacted NCDOT-Division 10 staff to request a map file, and they were informed about the value engineering effort for these projects with a roundabout being eliminated from the scope of the Idlewild Road project. Mayor Higdon encouraged NCDOT to be more transparent and involve the local jurisdictions during the value engineering process. Brett Canipe explained that Division 10 staff was sharing real-time information with the Town of Matthews staff, and part of the value engineering task is to eliminate elements of the scope that had been added following the timeframe where projects were committed for funding in the STIP. Mr. Canipe added

that the project description within the STIP doesn't reference a roundabout west of I-485. He explained that Division 10 has been tasked to move quickly to reduce the overall costs of projects so NCDOT can ensure that its STIP is fiscally constrained given the current revenues.

Chairman Miltich asked if there is a protocol for local jurisdictions to provide input on the project scope changes, or are the changes being made unilaterally by NCDOT. Mr. Canipe explained that NCDOT does not have a protocol for requesting local input since the value engineering concept has recently been introduced as a cost saving method. He offered the example of the Idlewild Road project where the roundabout was added to scope after the project was committed within the STIP. Mr. Canipe envisions that as recommendations for project scope changes are developed moving forward, NCDOT will review the recommendations with local jurisdictions and stakeholders. Chairman Miltich encouraged enhanced collaboration with the local jurisdictions when an NCDOT project scope is being modified since these changes can have significant impacts to land use plans and the transportation network.

Stephen Rosenburgh (NCBOT-Division 10 Alternate) requested the floor to make a comment. Chairman Miltich confirmed with the Board of Transportation-Division 10 CRTPO Delegate Tony Lathrop to yield the floor to Mr. Rosenburgh for comments. Mr. Rosenburgh suggested that NCDOT staff can meet with the staff from member jurisdictions to review the proposed scope changes to ensure transparency.

12. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.