

CHARLOTTE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Remote Participation Only

August 18, 2021 Meeting

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), Paulette Blakeney (Marshville), Joe Pollino (Marvin), Renee Garner (Matthews), John Higdon (Metropolitan Transit Commission), Frederick Becker (Mineral Springs), Brad Simmons (Mint Hill), Jack Edwards (Pineville), Lynda Paxton (Stallings), William Morgan (Statesville), 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):

Jerry Santoni (Iredell County Planning Board), Jim Walker (NC Turnpike Authority), Loretta Barren (FHWA)

1. Call to Order

Chairman Michael Miltich called the August 2021 CRTPO Board meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He explained that this meeting would be conducted virtually, and then 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. July 21, 2021 CRTPO Board Meeting minutes
2. FY 2022 UPWP Amendment
3. 2020-2029 TIP Amendments
4. Marshville Bypass Tolling Study Resolution

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. 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

a. *Fiscally Constrained Roadway Project List*

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 request action by the Board to approve the fiscally constrained project list for the 2050 MTP. The project prioritization process and the development of the fiscally constrained project list was reviewed. The public comment period began on June 17 and concluded on July 14. The majority of comments received were positive and in support of projects. No changes to the fiscally constrained project list are being proposed by staff based upon the comments received. Three Western Boulevard projects within Charlotte were removed because they were segments within the larger Catawba Crossings project. These projects were removed because the Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln MPO did not include the proposed Catawba Crossings project and bridge into Mecklenburg County.

Motion:

Chairman Miltich made a motion to the Board to approve the fiscally constrained project list 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 fiscally constrained project list for the 2050 MTP was approved by acclamation.

b. *Alternative Funding Analysis Update*

Presenter:

Brian Powers, RS&H

Summary:

Mr. Powers began his presentation by providing an update on the alternative funding analysis being conducted as part of the 2050 MTP. Mr. Powers began his presentation by stating that the intent of this analysis was to research and identify possible revenue for transportation infrastructure projects from alternative or modified sources. This analysis will be incorporated into the 2050 MTP for information only; the Board would not be requested to take action on the outcomes of this task or on additional taxes and fees proposed.

He explained that coordination was conducted with the other ongoing initiatives such as Beyond 77, CONNECT Beyond, and the Transformational Mobility Network to ensure that there were no conflicts with the alternative revenue assumptions within these plans and studies. While the principles for estimating anticipated revenues for these initiatives will be similar, Mr. Powers stated that the revenue forecasts may differ based upon different data and/or expected growth rate assumptions. Interviews were conducted with York County, SC/RFATS and the Austin, TX MPO to understand how these organizations identified and applied alternative revenue sources to fund transportation infrastructure projects.

The analysis initially considered 24 alternative funding sources, but was reduced to the following six sources based upon perceived feasibility of implementation, anticipated revenue generation, and other factors:

- Local option sales tax
- Regional property tax
- Additional vehicle rental/Purchase tax
- Additional license tax
- Additional vehicle registration fees
- Fuel tax modification

He stated that tax information was obtained from Iredell, Mecklenburg, and Union counties, and revenue projection ranges were prepared based upon this data. Based upon the projections, the local option sales tax had the greatest revenue generation for transportation projects. Mr. Powers concluded his presentation by explaining that the next steps within this analysis are to continue the coordination process with the other regional planning efforts and to document the process for inclusion within the 2050 MTP.

Mayor Pro-Tem Eiselt stated that the ongoing planning initiatives are considering the same alternative revenue sources, but she questioned the entity that would serve as the decision-making body for the allocation of these resources. Mr. Powers explained that the purpose of this task was to identify potential alternative revenue sources and develop a high-level projection of their funding potential. Future efforts will be required to identify the mechanisms at the countywide, regional, and statewide level to implement these recommendations. Ms. Eiselt stated that there may need to be a multi-county entity identified to determine the priorities, rank the projects and allocate the funds, as she did not believe that this effort would be successful if it was undertaken at the county level.

Mayor Pappas asked about the potential for the increase on electric vehicles (EV) within the vehicle fleet and the impact it would have on diminished gas tax revenues. Mr. Powers explained that EV penetration was

considered at the onset of this analysis, but the modification of existing fees to onset this emerging technology was not considered within this effort.

Robert Cook explained that the CONNECT Beyond study has evaluated Governance and the evolution of a regional transit authorities in other metropolitan areas throughout the country. The need for an overarching agency to collect and allocate transportation funds was recognized in order to implement the multi-county transit vision identified within this study.

7. MPO Bylaws Amendment

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 review proposed amendments to the MPO bylaws that have been developed by the Chair in conjunction with staff.

He began the presentation by stating that the Board amended the bylaws in May 2020 to modify quorum requirements to allow for remote participation if a State of Emergency is declared in at least one CRTPO county or at the Statewide level. A subsequent bylaws amendment is being requested to provide the Chairman with discretion to consult with the Secretary to determine if the Board meeting can be conducted either remotely or hybrid (some members attend in-person; others participate remotely).

Mr. Burke explained that the proposed revisions identify agenda items with limited action items, adverse weather events, and health or safety concerns as justified reasons for the Chair to set a Board agenda as remote or hybrid. The proposed amendments do specify that the preferred meeting format is in-person, and the Chair may determine that certain meetings are to be in-person only (i.e., leadership elections held during each January Board meeting). Mr. Burke concluded the presentation by requesting that any comments on the proposed revisions should be emailed to him by September 1, and action will be requested to approve the bylaws amendments during the September 15 Board meeting.

8. Upcoming Agenda Items

Presenter:

Neil Burke

Summary:

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

- *Business Items:*
 - CTP Work Group – Public Involvement Plan (PIP) recommendations. Request to open a 45-day public comment period on the revisions recommended by the CTP Work Group within the PIP.
- *Information Reports:*
 - NCDOT Prioritization 6.0 & STIP Update
 - 2050 MTP update
 - CONNECT Beyond Regional Transit Initiative Update

Mr. Burke provided the following additional updates:

- The final steering committee workshop for the CRTPO's Strategic Plan is scheduled for September 10. The goal of this workshop is to identify timeframes for the final strategies. An information report will be presented to the Board on the Strategic Plan during the October meeting with action requested to adopt the plan in November.
- Staff is continuing to monitor the status of the federal transportation reauthorization. Information will be presented to the Board at an upcoming meeting.
- Beyond 77 Corridor Study

- The final project team meeting has been scheduled for September 8.
- An implementation strategies survey has been distributed to the project team today. Project team members are encouraged to complete the survey to make their preferences known.
- The Board viewed a public engagement video for Beyond 77. The video can be viewed [here](#).

9. Board Member Comments

Presenter:

Michael Miltich

There were no comments.

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.