

CHARLOTTE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Remote Participation Only
September 15, 2021 Meeting
Summary Minutes

Members Attending (via remote participation):

Larken Egleston (Charlotte), Michael Miltich (Cornelius), Jane Campbell (Davidson), Melissa Neader (Iredell County), Joe Pollino (Marvin), Renee Garner (Matthews), Pat Cotham (Mecklenburg County), John Higdon (Metropolitan Transit Commission), Frederick Becker (Mineral Springs), Dale Dalton (Mint Hill), Lisa Qualls (Mooresville), Jack Edwards (Pineville), 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):

Jim Walker (NC Turnpike Authority), Loretta Barren (FHWA)

1. Call to Order

Chair Michael Miltich called the September 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.

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

Chair 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 Chair 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 Chair’s omission of the clause for members to be physically present due to the State of Emergency declaration.

Chair 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 Chair 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:

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

Motion:

Chair 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:

Chair Miltich requested action on the following two consent agenda items:

1. August 18, 2021 CRTPO Board Meeting minutes
2. 2020-2029 TIP Amendments

Motion:

Chair 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. Public Involvement Plan: Recommended CTP Amendments

Presenter:

Agustin Rodriguez

Summary:

Mr. Rodriguez 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 that the board consider opening a 45-day public comment period on a draft update to the Public Involvement Plan (PIP). Metropolitan planning regulations require 45-day comment periods for updates and modifications to PIPs. If approved, the comment period will run from September 16 through October 31. Mr. Rodriguez stated that the focus of the proposed PIP update was to implement recommendations within the CTP section that have been proposed by the work group. The CTP Work Group was convened in 2019 to evaluate the CTP amendment guidelines within the current PIP and develop recommendations to update the processes.

Motion:

Chair Miltich made a motion to the Board to approve opening a 45-day public comment period on the recommended revision to the PIP. 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 opening a 45-day public comment period on the recommended revision to the PIP was approved by acclamation.

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 request that the Board consider approving the 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 Chair 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 reviewed comments received by two board members and it was determined that these comments did not necessitate additional amendments to the bylaws.

Motion:

Chair Miltich made a motion to the Board to approve the amendment to the MPO Bylaws. 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 MPO bylaws was approved by acclamation.

8. CONNECT Beyond Regional Mobility Plan

Presenter:

Michelle Nance, Centralina Regional Council and Jason Lawrence, CATS

Summary:

Ms. Nance and Mr. Lawrence 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 present an overview of the project and highlight key plan recommendations.

Mr. Lawrence provided an overview of the presentation objectives, project priorities, and the interagency coordination component of this project. The CONNECT Beyond study region consists of two states, 12 counties, over 5,000 square miles, and 2.6 million residents. Ms. Nance reviewed the draft recommendations from the plan; which include the Mobility Moves concept, expanding mobility choices, strengthening rural to urban connections, creation of mobility friendly places, and building a better bus network. Ms. Nance explained that the implementation component of the CONNECT Beyond Initiative will focus on sustained and coordinated funding efforts to seek additional funds and the avocation with a unified voice to state legislators and federal partners. She concluded the presentation by stating that the Board will be requested to endorse the recommendations from the CONNECT Beyond Regional Mobility Plan during the November 17 meeting.

9. NCDOT Prioritization 6.0 & STIP Update

Presenter:

Neil Burke and Brett Canipe, NCDOT-Division 10

Summary:

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

Mr. Burke began his presentation by stating that he will provide updates on the NCDOT Prioritization 6.0 (P6.0) process, the CRTPO's process to adopt a revised 2020-2029 TIP, and the Independence Boulevard project (U-2509) value engineering study.

He reviewed the available revenues for NCDOT to develop the 2024-2033 STIP. The updated cost estimates for existing projects within the 2020-2029 STIP significantly exceeds the available revenues for P6.0. Mr. Burke explained that NCDOT lacks the current funding capacity to fund new projects from P6.0 as well as the committed projects within the current STIP. He explained that the P6.0 Work Group recommended that P6.0 is halted, and the NC Board of Transportation (NC BOT) approved the recommendation at its meeting in August. Mr. Burke then described the role of the Work Group in developing recommendations to NC BOT regarding project prioritization and MPO engagement in the development of the 2024-2033 STIP. NCDOT must release a DRAFT STIP for public comment by December 2022.

Mr. Burke explained that NCDOT's financial issues necessitated a release of a revised 2020-2029 STIP in August 2020 to reflect project schedule delays around the state due to diminished immediate revenue. The NC BOT adopted the revised 2020-2029 STIP in October 2020. Mr. Burke explained that CRTPO needs to adopt a revised 2020-2029 TIP, and conduct 2045 MTP amendments affecting 24 projects in order to maintain the federal requirements for consistency with NCDOT's current STIP. The CRTPO's non-attainment status (maintenance) for Ozone requires that an air quality conformity determination is conducted on the revised 2020-2029 TIP and 2045 MTP amendments. Mr. Burke explained that the air quality conformity determination analysis is scheduled to be complete in October. The Board will be requested to open a public comment period on the conformity determination, 2045 MTP, and revised 2020-2029 TIP in November 2021.

An outcome of the revised 2020-2029 STIP was the development of a corridor improvement strategy for the U-2509 project. NCDOT initiated the corridor improvement strategy in November 2020 to develop consensus-based U-2509 project completion schedule with stakeholders to construct the project as scoped over a longer period of time given the department's financial issues. The stakeholders consist of staff from CRTPO, City of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation, NCDOT, and the Town of Matthews. The Corridor Improvement Strategy was halted by NCDOT in March 2021 in favor of a value engineering study. NCDOT's focus of the value engineering study that was to determine if elements of the U-2509 project scope can be removed in order to reduce the estimated project cost. The outcome of the NCDOT value engineering effort will be a series of amendments to the revised 2020-2029 TIP to segment and potentially eliminate elements of the U-2509 project scope.

Mr. Canipe provided an update regarding NCDOT's efforts to stabilize its finances and enhance the accuracy of its project cost estimation process. He explained that NCDOT imposed project suspensions throughout the state due to diminished revenue from storm recovery efforts, MAP act settlements, and reduced gas tax revenue due to the pandemic. He explained that NCDOT's current cash balance is almost \$2 billion, which exceeds the targeted balance of \$650 million projected for September. Mr. Canipe explained that the NC BOT's decision to suspend P6.0 is attributed to rising project delivery costs and not cash balances. He then explained that NCDOT's efforts to enhance its project cost estimation process include engineering analyses (express design) to develop estimates, updating estimates every two years, and conducting value engineering assessments on existing projects in the STIP. Mr. Canipe concluded his presentation by reviewing a sample of project cost increases within Division 10 and the schedule for NCDOT to adopt a 2024-2033 STIP by September 30, 2023.

Jane Campbell asked how earmarks that CRTPO member jurisdictions may receive from the federal infrastructure reauthorization will impact the prioritization process at the CRTPO and statewide levels. Mr. Burke responded to explain that the CRTPO has limited information about federal earmarks originating from the reauthorization. Staff will investigate opportunities for upcoming education session speakers with expertise in the impact of earmark funding impacts at the CRTPO and statewide levels.

Chair Miltich explained that a series of strategies from the draft CRTPO Strategic Plan are designed to identify feasible alternative revenue sources with the recognition that the traditional sources of funding for transportation projects are no longer sufficient.

Renee Garner requested information regarding the possibility of additional revenue for transportation projects from the state legislature and additional information from NCDOT-Division 10 regarding the number of active projects that have been selected for value engineering assessments. Mr. Canipe stated that NCDOT is tracking the federal reauthorization and will be prepared to react if additional revenue is infused into the STIP development program.

Tony Lathrop explained that the \$2 billion cash balance is a separate issue from the \$10 billion in project shortfalls that have prevented NCDOT from moving forward with P6.0. He explained that NCDOT continues to authorize approximately \$100 million to active projects each week.

10. 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

Presenter:

Neil Burke, Jerrel Leonard, and David McDonald (CATS)

Summary:

Information was provided to the Board via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes. The presentation's purpose was to review the non-roadway financial projections for the MTP, which consist of anticipated STI, discretionary, maintenance, and transit funding.

Mr. Burke began the presentation by explaining that FHWA requires MPO's MTPs must contain fiscally constrained financial projections for each mode of transportation. The Board approved the roadway funding forecast in February 2021 which was required to develop the fiscally constrained project list. Mr. Burke explained the process to develop the non-highway STI and discretionary funding forecasts entailed determining the amount of funding for these programs within the current 2020-2029 STIP and developing revenue projections using an annual escalation rate between 2030 and 2050 to obtain the total estimated amount. He explained that Division 10 and 12 staff provided current maintenance budgets and the projected amounts were calculated by using an annual escalation rate.

Mr. Leonard and Mr. McDonald explained the process for calculating the transit capital and operating funding forecasts for the 2050 MTP. Mr. Leonard and Mr. McDonald explained that the financial projections for transit were based upon the CATS financial model and projections of historic National Transit Database (NTD) Operating and Capital expenditures for other Transit Agencies. Mr. Leonard explained that there will be ongoing coordination with CATS and the other transit agencies to define capital transit projects. Amendments to the 2050 MTP will be required when projects are identified.

Mr. Burke concluded the presentation by stating that the Board will be requested to approve the non-roadway financial projections for the 2050 MTP during the October 20 meeting.

11. Upcoming Agenda Items

Presenter:

Neil Burke

Summary:

The October 20, 2021 Board meeting will include the following agenda items:

- *Business Items:*
 - 2050 MTP – Approve the financial projections for the discretionary and non-roadway categories

- *Information Reports:*
 - CRTPO Strategic Plan – Detailed overview of plan development process. Action requested for the Board to adopt in November
 - FY 2021 CRTPO Public Engagement Summary

Mr. Burke provided the following additional updates:

- The CRTPO FY 2021 Annual Report is now available. The document can be accessed [here](#). Board members are encouraged to share the annual report with residents and stakeholders within their communities.
- The draft Beyond 77 Corridor Study report is under review by staff, and committee review will occur in October. A presentation will be conducted to the Board in November to review final recommendations and deliverables.

12. Board Member Comments

Presenter:

Michael Miltich

There were no comments.

13. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.