

CHARLOTTE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center, Room 267
July 19, 2023 Meeting
Summary Minutes

Members Attending:

Ed Driggs (Charlotte), Denis Bilodeau (Cornelius), Rusty Knox (Davidson), Rob Kidwell (Huntersville), David Cohn (Indian Trail), Ernestine Staton (Marshville), Leigh Altman (Mecklenburg County), John Higdon (Metropolitan Transit Commission), Fredrick Becker (Mineral Springs), Lisa Qualls (Mooresville), Tony Lathrop (NCBOT-Division 10), Stephen Rosenburgh (NCBOT-Division 12), David Jones (Statesville), George Harris (Troutman), Ron Pappas (Waxhaw), Craig Horn (Weddington)

Non-Voting Members Attending:

Jim Walker (NC Turnpike Authority)

1. Call to Order

Chair Ron Pappas called the July 2023 CRTPO Board meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Summary:

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

Motion:

Mayor Becker made a motion to approve the agenda. Denis Bilodeau seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the agenda was adopted by acclamation.

3. Public Comment Period

There were no comments.

4. Ethics Awareness & Conflict of Interest Reminder

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

5. Consent Agenda

Summary:

Chair Pappas requested action on the following consent agenda items:

- a) June 21, 2023 CRTPO Board Meeting Minutes
- b) 2020-2029 TIP Amendments

Motion:

Ed Driggs made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Bilodeau seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

6. Waxhaw Parkway Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) Amendment

Presenter:

Bjorn Hansen, Union County

Summary:

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

He began the presentation by stating that action is being requested for the CRTPO Board to approve the opening of a public engagement period on a proposed CTP amendment for the northeast and southeast quadrants of the proposed Waxhaw Parkway between NC 16 to South Providence Road east of Downtown Waxhaw. Mr. Hansen stated that a revised alignment of the Waxhaw Parkway between NC 16 and NC 75 east of downtown Waxhaw was identified as a result of an NCDOT feasibility study. As a result, the CRTPO's CTP highway map needs to be amended to reflect the most current alignment of the Waxhaw Parkway. Mr. Hansen explained that the revised alignment has been endorsed by the Town of Mineral Springs, Town of Waxhaw, and Union County.

If approved, Mr. Hansen stated that Union County would initiate a public comment period that would begin on July 20 and conclude on August 20. A public meeting will be hosted at the Waxhaw Police Department Community Room on August 3 from 6:30pm – 8:00pm. He concluded the presentation by stating that the TCC unanimously recommended that the CRTPO Board approve the opening of a public comment period on the Waxhaw Parkway CTP amendment during the July 6 meeting.

Motion:

Mayor Higdon made a motion to approve the opening of a public engagement period on a proposed CTP amendment for the northeast and southeast quadrants of the proposed Waxhaw Parkway between NC 16 to South Providence Road east of Downtown Waxhaw. Ed Driggs seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

7. 2026-2035 TIP Development Process (NCDOT Prioritization 7.0)

Presenter:

Travis Johnson

Summary:

Mr. Johnson 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 updates on P7.0 Draft project lists and a summary of public comments received to date. The public comment period on the P7.0 project submittals began on June 22 and will conclude on July 22. Five comments have been received to date, and they have been in support of multimodal transportation projects. Mr. Johnson then reviewed a series of freight and passenger rail projects that have been identified by the NCDOT-Rail Division. Other MPOs and RPOs may submit these projects along existing rail lines that traverse within the CRTPO planning area. He concluded the presentation by stating that action will be requested of the CRTPO Board to endorse the CRTPO's P7.0 project submittals during the August 16 meeting.

8. Marshville Bypass Tolling Study Update

Presenter:

Kendall Clanton

Summary:

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

He began the presentation by explaining that the CRTPO Board authorized the submission of the Marshville Bypass to the NC Turnpike Authority for evaluation as a toll facility as part of its pre-submittal study in August of 2021. Mr. Clanton provided a description of the scope by stating that the project would be a four-lane expressway on new alignment south of Marshville that would reconnect to the existing US 74 corridor both east and west of downtown. He stated that the NC Turnpike Authority and NCDOT developed a Toll Project Policy that designated MPOs as responsible for submitting requests to study roads for potential tolling. The Marshville Town Council and Union County Board of Commissioners requested that CRTPO submit the project. NCTA completed the tolling study in June 2023. Mr. Clanton explained that the results of the study indicate that the bypass on its own would

not cover operations and maintenance and a potential option would be to analyze operations as a tolling system that is coordinated with the existing Monroe Expressway. He concluded the presentation by stating that action will be requested for the CRTPO Board to endorse a resolution supporting the continued evaluation of the Marshville Bypass as a tolled facility during the August 16 meeting.

Rob Kidwell asked about the type of data adjustments that were made during the tolling pre-submittal study. Mr. Clanton stated that NCTA and NCDOT adjusted the projected traffic volumes along the proposed Marshville Bypass from 16,000 to 18,000 vehicles per day. The outcome of this adjustment is that the projected toll revenue would cover the cost of the management and operations of the facility.

Leigh Altman inquired about the tolling pre-submittal study that was conducted for the Proposed Marshville Bypass and if a similar evaluation was completed prior to the advancement of the I-77 North Managed Lanes. Mr. Cook explained that Marshville and Union County had requested that the CRTPO submit a request for a tolling pre-submittal study, as NCDOT and NCTA will not analyze a proposed facility for tolling feasibility until it receives the endorsement from an MPO or RPO. He added that the NCTA pre-submittal study is a very high-level analysis to determine if tolling is a feasible option to advance a project before it is prioritized by NCDOT and funded in the STIP. There were studies and opportunities for CRTPO input before the final decision was made to move forward with the I-77 North managed lanes in 2013.

Mayor Knox inquired if Charlotte and Mecklenburg County requested that CRTPO submit a request for an NCTA tolling pre-submittal study for the I-77 South Managed Lanes project. Stephen Rosenburgh responded to explain that improving the I-77 South corridor is a very high priority for the NCDOT and it will likely be completed prior to any additional toll facilities in the area. Tony Lathrop added that NCDOT's process of determining the feasibility of the scope for a project often occurs years before it is prioritized and funded within the STIP.

Lisa Qualls asked if the Marshville Bypass project is included within the CRTPO's 2050 MTP. Mr. Cook responded to explain that the project is not in the 2050 MTP, but the proposed alignment is included within the CRTPO's CTP.

9. Upcoming Agenda Items

Presenter:

Neil Burke

Summary:

The August 16 CRTPO Board agenda is anticipated to include the following agenda items:

Action items:

- Endorse the CRTPO's project submittals for the 2026-2035 TIP development process (NCDOT Prioritization 7.0)
- Endorse a resolution in support of the continued evaluation of the Marshville Bypass as a tolled facility
- FY 2024 UPWP amendment

Information items:

- CRTPO Discretionary Fund Policy Revisions
- I-77 South Update

FHWA and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) held a certification review to evaluate and certify the transportation planning processes for the CRTPO on Tuesday, June 27. CRTPO staff is awaiting the results of the findings from the certification review that will be summarized in a report prepared by FHWA and FTA.

10. Board Member Comments

Presenter:

Ron Pappas

a. MOU Subcommittee

Ms. Qualls provided an update on the CRTPO's MOU renegotiation process by stating that a subcommittee meeting was conducted remotely via Zoom on Wednesday, July 12. It was determined by the subcommittee that the CRTPO should retain independent legal counsel as opposed to using the City of Charlotte's Attorney's office to evaluate and make recommendations on revisions to the MOU. She stated that staff is working on a Request for Proposals (RFP) for legal services, and it should be advertised within the next week.

The CRTPO is not under a timeframe to update an MOU following the 2020 census since the planning area boundary has not changed, but Ms. Qualls acknowledged that it is good practice to re-evaluate the document every ten years to ensure it continues to effectively represent the CRTPO and its member jurisdictions. She stated that staff has confirmed with FHWA that the CRTPO's PL funds can be used to retain legal counsel. Mr. Cook added that the RFP is complete and should be posted on the City of Charlotte's procurement website by the end of the week. Ms. Qualls stated that if Board members have recommendations of interested firms that staff can provide them with the information regarding the RFP.

b. I-77 North Managed Lanes Concessionaire¹ Presentation Request

Ms. Altman stated it has been three years since the CRTPO Board has received an update on the operations of the I-77 North Managed Lanes. She explained that she was unsure of the concessionaire's obligation to provide data and conduct presentations to the CRTPO Board, but she wanted to ensure that the obligations are being fulfilled. Brett Canipe responded to explain that the concessionaire is required to report transactions, and management/operations activities to NCDOT, and they have been fulfilling these requirements. He has had conversations with the concessionaire, and he believed that if a request was made that a member of their staff would conduct a presentation to the CRTPO Board. Ms. Altman sought input from the CRTPO Board about an approach to determine the content of the concessionaire presentation by developing a master list of questions.

Mayor Knox stated that the I-77 North Managed Lanes have been a point of contention for his constituents and the concessionaire owes it to the CRTPO to conduct a presentation based upon questions developed by Board members.

David Jones suggested that data should be collected regarding the operations and performance of the I-77 North Managed Lanes from NCDOT to help inform the agenda for the concessionaire's presentation.

Ms. Altman recommended that Board members email their questions within two weeks regarding the I-77 North Managed Lanes to Mr. Burke, and he can compile them and distribute a draft master list of the questions before providing them to the concessionaire.

Motion:

Mayor Higdon made a motion to formulate an agenda based upon CRTPO Board members' questions and invite the concessionaire to conduct a presentation regarding the operations of the I-77 North Managed Lanes at an upcoming CRTPO Board meeting. Ms. Altman seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion was passed unanimously.

c. I-85 & I-485 Interchange Improvement Update (near airport)

Mayor Horn requested an update regarding the effort to secure funding for interchange improvements at the I-85 & I-485 Interchange near the Charlotte-Douglas International Airport. Mr. Rosenburgh responded to explain that Speaker of the House Tim Moore is interested in this project and is evaluating alternative mechanisms to

¹ I-77 Mobility Partners, LLC is the concessionaire for the I-77 North Managed Lanes
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fund it. He explained that this project was initially funded in the 2020-2029 STIP following NCDOT P5.0, but it was removed due to funding shortfalls, and an updated cost estimate was prepared. Staff confirmed that this project is being recommended as a CRTPO submittal for the 2026-2035 TIP development process (NCDOT P7.0).

d. June 2023 NC Board of Transportation Meeting Recap

Mr. Rosenburgh and Mr. Lathrop thanked the members of the CRTPO Board that attended the NC Board of Transportation (NC BOT) meeting and activities when it was hosted in Charlotte during the week of June 5. He explained that it was important to show members of NC BOT projects that have recently been constructed or are underway in the Charlotte region that will continue to drive the economic prosperity for the state. Mr. Rosenburgh referenced that a report was prepared for the NCBOT members that demonstrates the economic prosperity of the region, and he has made this report available to staff. Mr. Lathrop added that the focus of several of the activities was on multijurisdictional collaboration to advance projects that will benefit the mobility of the greater region.

11. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.