

CHARLOTTE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center, Room 267
October 18, 2023 Meeting
Summary Minutes

Members Attending:

Ed Driggs (Charlotte), David Cohn (Indian Trail), Ernestine Staton (Marshville), Jamie Lein (Marvin), Renee Garner (Matthews), Leigh Altman (Mecklenburg County), John Higdon (Metropolitan Transit Commission), Fredrick Becker (Mineral Springs), Dale Dalton (Mint Hill), Lisa Qualls (Mooresville), Tony Lathrop (NCBOT – Division 10), Brad Richardson (Stallings), David Jones (Statesville), George Harris (Troutman), Brian Helms (Union County), Ron Pappas (Waxhaw), Craig Horn (Weddington), David Boyce (Wesley Chapel)

Non-Voting Members Attending:

Loretta Barren (FHWA), Jim Walker (NC Turnpike Authority), Mark Tilley (Union County Land Use Board)

1. Call to Order

Chair Ron Pappas called the October 2023 CRTPO Board meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. He began by announcing that former NCDOT Division Engineer Scott Cole had passed away earlier this week. Chair Pappas read a tribute to Mr. Cole’s contributions to NCDOT and more recently as a Senior Transportation Leader at RS&H consultants. CRTPO Board members shared their memories of Scott.

Chair Pappas introduced Mark Tilley, the new CRTPO delegate from the Union County Land Use Board.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Summary:

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

Motion:

Mayor Horn made a motion to approve the agenda. Mayor Becker 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) September 20, 2023 CRTPO Board Meeting Minutes
- b) 2024-2033 TIP Amendments
- c) Metropolitan Planning Area Boundary Adoption

Motion:

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

6. 2055 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Socioeconomic Data

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.

He began the presentation by stating that the purpose of the presentation was to review the process for updating the county-level socioeconomic population and employment projections. Mr. Cook stated that updating the socioeconomic data is an essential component of the development of the 2055 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) development processes. He explained that CRTPO staff is currently working with Metrolina Regional Model (MRM) and adjacent MPO staff throughout the region to develop and verify the population and employment projections for the 2025, 2035, 2045 and 2055 horizon years of the 2055 MTP. Projections are direct inputs into the Metrolina Community Viz Model (MCM), which generates inputs to the MRM and the MTP. The draft county-level control totals will be reviewed during the October 25 and November 1 Transportation Staff meetings before the TCC will be requested to recommend that the Board adopt them in November.

Mr. Cook concluded the presentation by stating that action will be requested that the CRTPO Board adopt county-level population and employment projections for the 2055 MTP's four horizon years of 2025, 2035, 2045 and 2055 during the November 15 meeting.

Mayor Horn requested that the draft county-level household and employment projections are provided to the CRTPO Board ahead of the November 15 meeting agenda packet distribution. Mr. Cook stated that the projections can be e-mailed to the CRTPO Board following the TCC meeting on November 2.

7. Functional Classification Revision Requests

Presenter:

Andy Grzymiski, Charlotte DOT

Summary:

Mr. Grzymiski 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 the City of Charlotte would like to modify the federal functional classifications for the following roadways within the southwest area of the City:

- Reclassify Brown-Grier/Arrowood Road Corridor from Local to Major Collector between I-485 and NC 160 (Steele Creek Road).
- Reclassify Sandy Porter Road from Local to Minor Collector between NC 49 (S. Tryon St.) to Shopton Road.

Mr. Grzymiski stated that both roadways provide primary access to three schools, Berewick residential development, Whitehall office development and Ayrley mixed-use development. Reclassifying roadways to match their current purpose helps to maintain the proper hierarchy, reflecting the importance of each roadway in the network. In North Carolina, MPOs must submit a formal Functional Classification Revision Request to NCDOT for consideration.

The Board will be requested to endorse both functional classification revisions during the November 15 meeting. If endorsed, the functional classification revisions will be submitted to NCDOT for evaluation in December.

8. **Beyond 77 Mobilization Update**

Presenters:

Kendall Clanton and Brian Powers, RS&H

Summary:

Information was provided to the Board via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes.

Mr. Clanton began the presentation by providing an overview of a timeline of pre-study activities, background on the scope of the Beyond 77 study, and the outcomes of the plan. Next, he provided an overview of the Mobilization phase of the initiative which began in January of 2022 and is anticipated to conclude with the launch of a Beyond 77 Coalition. A Mobilization task force was established to direct the implementation phase of the Beyond 77 initiative. Mr. Clanton provided context as to the meeting schedule and core tasks completed by the task force. In addition, two implementer meetings were held with NCDOT, member jurisdiction, and Centralina Regional Council to receive feedback on task force recommendations and alternative funding mechanisms. Mr. Clanton stated that CRTPO staff has been reviewing the 286 recommendations that have originated from the Beyond 77 study to determine if they can be consolidated or removed. Several recommendations are identified within peer organization's plans and initiatives. He anticipated that there will be an upcoming action of the CRTPO Board to endorse removal and consolidation of a selection of recommendations within the Beyond 77 study.

Mr. Powers provided an overview of the scope of the alternative funding component within the Beyond 77 Mobilization effort. The objectives were to support stakeholder efforts to gain familiarity and understanding of alternative funding sources identified in Beyond 77 Study; identify the most feasible alternative funding sources based upon feedback; and develop documentation for the Funding Alternative Strategies Tool (FAST). He explained that statewide and regional transportation funding initiatives were reviewed to ensure that the recommendations from the Beyond 77 Mobilization effort were consistent and not in conflict with these processes.

In total, six recommended funding alternatives were analyzed, and sales tax (sales, motor fuels, motor vehicle), and vehicle recommendation fees are being recommended for further review. Mr. Powers stated that the recommended alternative funding sources have been endorsed by the Beyond 77 task force and within the implementer meetings, and there is interest in forming a coalition or working group dedicated to this purpose.

Next, Mr. Powers reviewed the features within the FAST application. Mr. Kendall concluded the presentation by stating that the final Beyond 77 task force meeting will be held tomorrow, and staff will continue to evaluate modifications to the study's recommendation as well as the framework of a potential coalition.

Leigh Altman asked about the CRTPO's authority to advance alternative funding legislation relative to the North Carolina General Assembly. Mr. Powers confirmed that CRTPO does not have a taxing authority, so the organization cannot enact any of the recommended funding sources. He explained that the CRTPO's role is the continued conversation and advocacy for alternative funding sources, which may lead to a coalition that could directly influence legislative agendas.

Mr. Driggs asked about the applicability of Mileage-Based User Fees (MBUF) as a revenue source. Mr. Powers responded to explain that MBUF is a recommended funding source within the Beyond 77 report as a long-range consideration; however, he recognized the scale of enacting this funding source would have to be implemented at the statewide or multi-state scale. Mr. Driggs inquired about the process of accessing the funds if alternative funding legislation is enacted at the statewide level. Mr. Powers stated that the source and distribution of future additional revenues would be determined within the terms of the legislation.

Mayor Higdon inquired about the process in which usage fees would be levied for electric vehicles owners. Mr. Powers responded to explain that sales tax would affect all road users. He added EV owners would be exempted if the only additional revenue solution was to raise the gas tax. Mayor Higdon responded to state that he believed that MBUF is the most equitable method to collect transportation revenue.

Mark Tilley stated that capturing the mileage annual during vehicle inspections could be a method to levy roadway usage tax. He recognized that out-of-state travel would be difficult to deduct from the in-state mileage.

9. CRTPO Transit Providers Work Group: Kick-off & Next Steps

Presenter:

Luke Lowry, Centralina Regional Council

Summary:

Mr. Lowry 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 the CRTPO Board approved the formation of the Transit Providers Work Group (TPWG) during the March 15 meeting. The TPWG's purpose is to provide a forum for coordination and collaboration on public transportation matters affecting CRTPO plans and programs. The TPWG start-up activities are being administered by Centralina Regional Council for the initial six months. Mr. Lowry stated that support for the TPWG was based upon recommendations within the CRTPO Staffing and Resources Study, the Transit Education Initiative Task Force, the FTA 5307 CRTPO MOU, and through surveying the CRTPO's four transit providers. A charter has been drafted to govern the TPWG activities. Six goals have been included within the charter, and the document also specifies work group membership. Mr. Lowry concluded the presentation by stating that an initial TPWG meeting was held on September 12 and monthly meetings will be held until the end of the calendar year.

Mr. Driggs asked about the amount of transit funding that the TPWG will have influence over. Jerrel Leonard stated that the CRTPO receives \$1 million of FTA Section 5303 funding annually and \$20 million of FTA Section 5307 funding for transit planning purposes.

Mr. Lathrop inquired if the TPWG has been working on the Seamless Connections initiative where transit users will be able to complete trips across multiple agency vehicles with a single fare. Mr. Leonard responded to explain that interagency service coordination will be a routine topic during TPWG meetings, but the actual Seamless Connections initiative is being coordinated through the implementation process for the Connect Beyond study.

10. CRTPO Federal Certification Review Report

Presenter:

Loretta Barren, Federal Highway Administration

Summary:

Ms. Barren began the presentation by stating that the CRTPO underwent a Quadrennial Certification Review by FHWA and FTA in June 2023. The certification review was administered by FHWA and FTA staff and was attended by members of CRTPO staff and the Chair of the Board. The outcome of the certification review was that FHWA and FTA have certified the planning process for the CRTPO planning area for the next four years.

Ms. Barren stated that the following three recommendations were included within the CRTPO's certification review report:

- Coordinate with appropriate stakeholders to update and fully implement the procedures developed in the Congestion Management Process
- Better address resiliency and stormwater in the MTP and coordinate with NCDOT to monitor outcomes of their resiliency studies
- Consult local travel and tourism agencies, the Chamber of Commerce, public transit, and other agencies to better define and address travel and tourism

She stated that the CRTPO is to be commended for including a degree of impact analysis that identified and scored projects in relationship to Environmental Justice (EJ) communities, the analysis of which indicates that the MPO has made a noticeable effort to ensure there are no unnecessary burdens to EJ communities.

11. I-77 North Managed Lanes Responses to CRTPO Board Member Questions

Presenter:

Ron Pappas

Summary:

Chair Pappas stated that the I-77 Mobility Partners have provided responses to CRTPO Board member questions and additional background information prior to today's meeting. He recommends that the CRTPO Board members review this information and provide Mr. Burke with feedback as to if questions have been adequately answered or if additional information is required. This item will be placed on the November 15 CRTPO Board agenda and I-77 Mobility Partners and NCDOT will be present to respond to questions.

Ms. Altman thanked Chair Pappas for his perseverance and leadership to receive detailed responses from the I-77 Mobility Partners.

12. Upcoming Agenda Items

Presenter:

Neil Burke

Summary:

The November 15 CRTPO Board agenda is anticipated to include the following agenda items:

Action items:

- 2055 MTP Socioeconomic Data – adopt County-Level Population/Employment projections for the 2025, 2035, 2045 and 2055 horizon years
- Charlotte Functional Classification Requests
- December 2023 meeting cancellation and 2024 meeting dates

Information Reports:

- FY 2025 Unified Planning Work Program Update
- I-77 North Managed Lanes Responses to CRTPO Board Member Questions

The 2024 CRTPO Orientation will be held on Thursday, January 11, 4-7 pm in Room 267 of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center. The 2024 Joint MPO Roundtable with Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln MPO and CRTPO Boards will be held on Thursday, February 29, 2024; 5:30-8:30 PM; Location: TBD

13. Board Member Comments

Presenter:

Ron Pappas

Chair Pappas requested that CRTPO Board members provide Mr. Burke with any information regarding EV revenue replacement policies relative to the alternative funding discussion during the Beyond 77 agenda item this evening.

Mayor Higdon state that he believes that Oregon, Virginia, and Utah have a pay-by-the-mile vehicle usage tax and Hawaii will incorporate this policy in 2024.

14. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.