Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center, Room 267
September 23, 2026 Meeting
Summary Minutes

Voting Members Attending:

Ed Driggs (Charlotte), Michael Osborne (Cornelius), Rusty Knox (Davidson), Nick Walsh (Huntersville), Clarence Alsobrooks (Indian Trail), Ernestine Staton (Marshville), Bob Nunnenkamp (Marvin), John Higdon (Matthews), Leigh Altman (Mecklenburg County), Brad Simmons (Metropolitan Public Transportation Authority), Frederick Becker (Mineral Springs), Tony Long (Mint Hill), James Kerr (Monroe), Will Aven (Mooresville), Tony Lathrop (NCBOT-Division 10), Brad Lail (NCBOT-Division 12), Amelia Stinson-Wesley (Pineville), Brad Richardson (Stallings), David Jones (Statesville), George Harris (Troutman), Brian Helms (Union County), Robert Murray (Waxhaw), Jim Bell (Weddington), Jonathan Alef (Wesley Chapel), Martin Graves (Wingate)

Non-Voting Members Attending:

Stephen Rosenburgh (NCBOT), Jim Walker (North Carolina Turnpike Authority)

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1) Call to Order

Chair Brad Richardson called the September 2026 CRTPO Board meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2) Adoption of the Agenda

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

Motion:

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

3) Public Comment Period

Chair Richardson stated the Board's Bylaws limit public comment to 20 minutes with three minutes per speaker. All commenters addressed the I-77 project.

1) Pablo Mooneyham spoke in support of I-77 South Express Lanes but stated that NCDOT needs to advocate for a flat rate toll structure for the project.
2) Parker Garrison spoke in opposition to the I-77 South Express Lanes project by expressing concern regarding the proposed penalty for jurisdictions that vote against the project, and the cost of the project's proposed design-build delivery rather than quick build options demonstrated on other corridors throughout the country.
3) Sam Grundman emphasized the continued pressure from NCDOT and the state legislature and emphasized existing alternative transportation opportunities from the 77 North express lanes, including carpooling and rapid transit use for no toll charge. Mr. Grundman requested consideration of additional park space, park and ride options, and improved interchanges.

4) Matthew Panik spoke in support of the CRTPO Board reaffirming its support for the NCDOT I-77 South Express Lanes project.
5) Stacy Gray spoke in support of the CRTPO Board reaffirming its support for the NCDOT I-77 South Express Lanes project by citing the approximately five crashes that occur daily along the I-77 corridor, and the persistence of congestion and safety as the region continues its growth. The project will bring proposed improvements to mobility along and across the corridor through a MOU with NCDOT for $300 million in improvements.
6) Irvine Sloan shared his focus on the community benefits investment and the need to responsibly manage the $300 million in a clear framework to ensure the benefits of the investment are not lost over time.
7) Connie Proctor provided context for the history of I-77's original construction and design failures that proliferate the corridor today. She stated that the current project along the I-77 South corridor does not address mobility outside of using a single occupancy car. Ms. Proctor noted that this project began to move forward after NCDOT received an unsolicited proposal from a private developer, which has since caused a focus on the project's finances rather than the corridor's mobility needs.
8) Damian Smith expressed opposition to the CRTPO Board reaffirming its support for the NCDOT I-77 South Express Lanes project given the forced decision from the state legislature. He mentioned provisions in the community benefits package that allow NCDOT to substitute benefits with only a notice, highlighting that the Board should have maintained its original decision.
9) Joel Down requested improvements to the camera feeds and adjustment of the camera angles to capture active speakers and staff conducting presentations during upcoming Board meetings.
10) Meg Fencil expressed opposition to the CRTPO Board reaffirming its support for the NCDOT I-77 South Express Lanes project given the missed opportunity to invest in enhanced and accessible mobility options to address the root causes of congestion.

4) Ethics Awareness & Conflict of Interest Reminder

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

5) Consent Agenda

Summary:

Chair Richardson requested action on the following consent agenda items:

a) August 19, 2026 CRTPO Board Meeting Minutes
b) 2026-2035 TIP Amendments
c) 2026-2035 TIP Amendments: Mooresville (BL-0082 & BL-0122)
d) 2026-2035 TIP Amendments: CATS
e) FTA 5307 Funds Designated Recipient: Metropolitan Public Transportation Authority (MPTA)

Motion:

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

6) Request from the MPTA to Withdraw from Voting on Agenda Item 8

Presenter:

Brad Richardson

Summary:

Chair Richardson led the discussion regarding the Metropolitan Public Transportation Authority's (MPTA) request to withdraw from voting privileges on this agenda item. He noted that circumstances have changed since the Board's May 20 action on the I-77 South Express Lanes project. Since that action, the Metropolitan Transit Commission (MTC) has been dissolved and MPTA has become a voting member of the CRTPO Board. The MPTA was not a voting member of the Board and was not represented at the time of the May 20 action. In addition, MPTA's current delegates differ from the representatives who participated in prior actions on the project.

Brad Simmons stated that the MPTA respectfully asks to withdraw its participation from Item 8, given its non-participation in the October 6, 2024 and May 20, 2026 CRTPO votes on the matter. The MPTA recognizes the importance of the CRTPO Board, though the current circumstances do not allow for its effective participation on this agenda item.

Motion:

Ed Driggs made a motion to approve the request from the MPTA to withdraw from voting on agenda item 8. Mayor Higdon seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

7) Comprehensive Safety Action Plan Public Outreach

Presenter:

Will Snyder

Summary:

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

He stated that the presentation's purpose was to provide an overview regarding the first phase of outreach for the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP), which is the CRTPO's first traffic safety study and is focused on identifying and proposing strategies to address high-crash intersections and corridors. The project's Phase I Community Outreach Window launched September 14 with a public survey, digital and print traffic safety advertisements, and public events throughout the planning area. Staff initiated the CSAP analysis and task force components in January and will present preliminary findings during the October Board meeting. Additional details can be viewed on the project website: www.safestreetsforus.com.

8) NCDOT I-77 South Express Lanes

Presenter:

Brad Richardson

Summary:

Chair Richardson stated that the requested action was to reinstate the October 16, 2024 Resolution of the CRTPO Board related to the request that NCDOT move forward with a P3 delivery process for the I-77 South Express Lanes project.

Mr. Driggs summarized the outcome of this item during the September 21 Charlotte City Council meeting by stating that support has been reinstated by Council and they instructed their Delegate to the CRTPO to cast an affirmative vote during tonight's meeting.

Motion:

Mr. Driggs made a motion to reinstate the October 16, 2024 Resolution of the CRTPO Board related to the request that NCDOT move forward with a P3 delivery process for the I-77 South Express Lanes project. Mayor Becker seconded the motion. The motion to reinstate the October 16, 2024 Resolution of the CRTPO Board related to the request that NCDOT move forward with a P3 delivery process for the I-77 South Express Lanes project passed with a majority weighted vote. Voting in favor were: Charlotte, Cornelius, Davidson, Huntersville, Indian Trail, Marshville, Marvin, Mineral Springs, Mint Hill, Monroe, Mooresville, NCBOT-Division 10, NCBOT-Division 12, Pineville, Stallings, Statesville, Troutman, Union County, Waxhaw, Weddington, Wesley Chapel, and Wingate, which totaled 64 votes. Voting against were: Matthews and Mecklenburg County, which totaled 5 votes.

9) Upcoming Agenda Items

Presenter:

Neil Burke

Summary:

Mr. Burke stated that the October 21 CRTPO Board agenda is anticipated to include the following items:

- Statesville 2055 MTP & 2026-2035 TIP amendments
  - Bethlehem Rd Realignment
  - Brookdale Drive Connector
- 2028-2037 TIP Development Update (NCDOT Prioritization 8.0)
- FTA 5310 TIP Amendments (MPTA)
- FY 26 Public Engagement Update
- Comprehensive Safety Action Plan Project Update

10) NCDOT Division 10 & Division 12 Updates

Presenter:

Felix Obregon & Mark Stafford, NCDOT

Summary:

There were no comments.

11) Board Member Comments

Presenter:
Brad Richardson

Summary:
Mayor Knox stated that tonight's vote was based on the risk of threat and inconsistent with the Board's historic role of listening to residents, despite current challenges to the existing I-77 North Express Lanes. He announced his resignation from the Vice-Chair position and will become the Town's alternate to the Board. Mayor Pro-tem Autumn Michael Rierson will become the Town's delegate to the Board.

Mayor Higdon thanked CRTPO staff and member communities for their professionalism and work throughout this process and called attention to the state legislation that surrenders authority of the Board and more broadly harms the autonomy of member communities who did not support the project to begin with. He announced his resignation from the Board.

Leigh Altman thanked Mayors Knox and Higdon for their commitment to the Board and topic at hand. Ms. Altman also thanked the public for their activism in this process, requested their continued involvement in this project, and encouraged the public to vote to better shape their representation in government.

Stephen Rosenburgh stated that public engagement for the NCDOT I-77 South Express Lanes project is in its early stages with designs planned for further refinement.

Mayor Stinson-Wesley thanked residents who spoke and wrote to the Board and shared that she stands in solidarity with fellow mayors in the county and state. She stated Pineville's evaluation of all options on the table for this project, given financial coercion from the state legislature.

Michael Osborne cited prior unfulfilled commitments made by the current express lanes along I-77 North corridor, and stressed Cornelius's hesitation to vote for this P3 agreement.

Mr. Driggs highlighted tonight's decision as a step forward on one of the most challenging corridors in the state, and emphasized Charlotte's thoughtful consideration.

Tony Lathrop echoed all other Board comments and highlighted his continued involvement in listening to the public and working closely with the Board and community.

12) Adjourn

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