

CHARLOTTE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center, Room 267
August 15, 2018 Meeting
Summary Minutes

Members Attending:

Vi Lyles (Charlotte), Michael Miltich (Cornelius), Rusty Knox (Davidson), Mark Gibbons (Huntersville), Jerry Morse (Indian Trail), Jeff McNeely (Iredell County), Norma Carpenter (Marshville), Paul Bailey (Matthews), Jim Puckett (Mecklenburg County), Frederick Becker (Mineral Springs), Ted Biggers (Mint Hill), Eddie Dinger (Mooresville), Jack Edwards (Pineville), Lynda Paxton (Stallings), Michael Johnson (Statesville), Richard Helms (Union County), Steve Maher (Waxhaw), Elizabeth Callis (Weddington), Sam Bowles (NCBOT-Div.10), Tony Lathrop (NCBOT-Div.12)

Non-Voting Members Attending:

Russell Wing (Union County Planning Board), James Walker (NC Turnpike Authority)

1. Call to Order

Chairman Michael Johnson called the August 2018 CRTPO meeting to order at 6:00 PM. He introduced Sam Bowles, the new Division 10 Board of Transportation member. Delegates then introduced themselves to Mr. Bowles.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Summary:

Chairman Johnson asked if changes to the agenda were necessary. No changes were identified.

Motion:

Dr. Miltich made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Mark Gibbons seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion to adopt the agenda was approved unanimously.

3. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

4. Ethics Awareness & Conflict of Interest Reminder

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

5. Consent Agenda

Summary:

Chairman Johnson requested action on the two consent items: July 2018 minutes and Kensington Drive STBG-DA allocation.

Motion:

Mayor Knox made a motion to approve the two consent agenda items. Mayor Becker seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the consent agenda items were unanimously approved.

6. I-77 Update

Presenter:

James H. Trogdon, III, Secretary, NCDOT

Summary:

Secretary Trogdon 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 update the board on the I-77 express lanes project. The activities of the Local Advisory Group were discussed. The group was formed to review options presented in the Mercator Report issued in 2017. Nine options are being evaluated, six from the Mercator Report and three suggested by the LAG. Constraints to implementing the options were reviewed, as were hypothetical STI Statewide tier scores. A plan for option G (use of shoulders at peak hours) should be ready by summer 2019.

Any implementation of option J (auxiliary lanes: exit 23-25; exit 25-28; exit 33-35) would follow implementation of option G. Three objectives were identified: Improve: negotiate better terms for drivers; Expand: expand non-toll capacity options being pursued; Protect: engage the public in an open and transparent manner.

Questions and comments from the Board followed Secretary Trogdon's presentation. Mayor Knox discussed that there is only one parallel north/south artery between exit 28 and exit 33 and asked if tolls can be deleted in that stretch. Secretary Trogdon replied that that can be looked into. Jim Puckett stated that he viewed the issue as a matter of economic development and therefore that the potential options should not be subject to STI and should be funded from other sources. Mr. Gibbons expressed concern with projects associated with the various options going through the STI process, as well as with capping tolls because the project is revenue challenged. Chairman Johnson thanked Secretary Trogdon for his presentation.

7. US 74 Bypass Route Designation

Presenter:

Pate Butler, NCDOT

Summary:

Ms. Butler 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 obtain the Board's endorsement of a proposal to designate the Monroe Expressway as US 74 Bypass. Ms. Butler stated that the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) is responsible for determining U.S. Route numbers. She provided the following AASHTO definition of a bypass: a route which is established for the purpose of designating a route which entirely by-passes a city or congested area and joins in with the regular numbered route beyond the city or congested area. It was stated that it is standard practice for designations to be made close to a facility's opening. AASHTO meets only twice a year to make designations. The TCC unanimously recommended that the Board endorse the designation. Questions and comments from the Board followed Ms. Butler's presentation. Mayor Becker asked for clarification about the different designations. Ms. Butler responded that the US 74 designation cannot be placed on existing US 74 because it runs through downtown Monroe. Richard Helms expressed concern with directing motorists to a toll road. Mr. Puckett asked if it were possible to identify existing US 74 as Business 74. NCDOT's deputy chief engineer Louis Mitchell stated that NCDOT will look into that. Jerry Morse stated that this issue should have been brought to the Board's attention sooner. Lynda Paxton asked if there were any funding impacts. Ms. Butler replied that the designation had no impact on funding.

Motion:

Michael Miltich made a motion to approve the request as presented. Vice-Chairman Bailey seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion was approved. Union County and Indian Trail cast dissenting votes.

8. Transportation Improvement Program Development

a. 2018-2027 TIP Amendment: NC 51 & Johnston Drive

Presenter:

Travis Morgan, Town of Pineville

Summary:

Mr. Morgan 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 obtain the Board's approval to amend the 2018-2027 TIP to include the NC 51 & Johnston Drive project. Mr. Morgan reviewed the project's specifics, including location and design. The project was submitted during the 2017 STBG-DA project call by the Town and was approved by the Board in June 2017 for \$1,175,000 in STBG-DA funding; however, the Childers Lane and Johnston Drive lot portions of the initial scope could not be added to the federal aid system, thus the project was re-scoped to focus the improvements along the NC 51 corridor. The TCC unanimously recommended that the TIP be amended to include the project.

Motion:

Mr. Puckett made a motion to approve the requested TIP amendment. Mayor Biggers seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

b. 2018-2027 TIP Amendment: South Prong Rocky River Greenway (EB-5775)

Presenter:

Troy Fitzsimmons, Town of Cornelius

Summary:

Mr. Fitzsimmons 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 obtain the Board's approval to amend the 2018-2027 TIP to allocate an additional \$628,000 in construction funds to the project, which is also known as the Antiquity greenway. Information about the greenway's location was provided. It was stated that the additional funds are needed due to construction bids coming in significantly higher than engineering estimates.

Motion:

Dr. Miltich made a motion to approve allocating the additional \$628,000 to the project. Mark Gibbons seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

c. Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Program Funds Exchange

Presenter:

Erin Kinne

Summary:

Ms. Kinne 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 information to the Board on efforts to avoid a federal rescission of Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ) funds. The FHWA plans to rescind unobligated CMAQ funds in FY 2020 and NCDOT is working with MPOs to ensure all CMAQ funds are obligated. Staff is currently finalizing proposed reallocations of CMAQ & STBG-DA funds by shifting CMAQ funds to earlier project phases and by moving CMAQ funds to projects with accelerated timelines and replacing with STBG-DA funds. The projects were reviewed. A request for action on this subject will be made at the September meeting.

d. 2020-2029 TIP Development Local Input Points Allocation

Presenter:

Neil Burke

Summary:

Mr. Burke stated that the Regional Impact tier project submittal process was complete-all projects were submitted by the NCDOT deadline. The process will now move to the Division Needs tier. A draft list will be provided in September with final action scheduled for the October meeting. The Board will be asked at the September meeting to open a comment period.

9. Upcoming Agenda Items

Presenter:

Robert Cook

Summary:

Mr. Cook stated that action will be requested in September on the CMAQ projects fund exchange, the Division Needs comment period, and on modifications to the TIP amendment guidelines. The change to the guidelines is expected to streamline CRTPO processes and bring the guidelines into conformance with similar NCDOT guidelines. Also, staff will provide information about potential amendments to the Comprehensive Transportation Plan and will discuss matters related to the implementation of performance-based planning requirements.

Jim Walker stated that the NC Turnpike Authority would like to provide an update on the I-485 project.

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 PM.