

CRAFT Technical Committee
Meeting Notes
April 19, 2011

Attendees: Betty Whitley, Rocky River RPO; Bill Duston, Lake Norman RPO; Stuart Basham; MUMPO; Nick Polimeni, MUMPO; Hank Graham, Gaston MPO; Andy Grzymiski, CDOT; Bob Cook, MUMPO; Danny Pleasant, CDOT; Mike Grey, Lane Corp; Dan Peters, Cabarrus-Rowan MPO; Reid Simons, NCTA; Anil Panicker, NCDOT; and Phil Conrad, Cabarrus-Rowan MPO.

1. Phil Conrad from the Cabarrus-Rowan MPO began the meeting at 10:05 am and welcomed everyone in attendance and asked for introductions.
2. Phil asked if there were any corrections, additions and/or deletions to the January 18, 2011 minutes. MUMPO staff had some corrections to the roster. Bob Cook made a motion to approve the minutes as amended and Anil Panicker seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.
3. Phil introduced Reid Simons with the NC Turnpike Authority to give an update. Ms. Simons highlighted the connectivity of the Gaston and Monroe Turnpike/Toll projects and their significance to the region. She explained that there is approximately \$24 million in gap funding approved for the Monroe Project, which will be financed by Toll Revenue Bonds, TIFIA, and GARVEE. She explained that NCDOT received the record of decision (ROD) in August 2010 and they expect the project to be open for traffic by 2015. She stated that NCDOT is waiting on the 404 permit and no right-of-way has been purchased, but they expect the construction contract to be let this fall. The Monroe Bypass will have open road tolling and tolls will equate to 13 cents a mile. There will be significant travel time savings with this project. As for the Garden Parkway, there is \$35 million annually in gap funding for this project. This project will improve access to the Charlotte Airport and be open for traffic in 2015 also. Ms. Simons also reviewed the NC Toll Program and NC Quick Pass as the different types of tolling technologies.
4. Mr. Michael Grey gave an update on the I-85/485 interchange and widening. He noted the turbine concept for the interchange construction. He was anticipating that construction would begin in the fall 2011. He explained some interesting design features for the widening such as the Diverging Diamond interchanges in Cabarrus County. He noted that Lane Corp will make an effort to limit traffic impacts during the construction by building a temporary construction bridge and working in the median near the Vulcan Quarry. Mr. Grey noted work on the I-85 Yadkin River Bridge including the construction of a temporary bridge, which would begin to carry traffic in May 2012 and be complete in November 2013. The 485 work should be done in June 2013 and the I-85 widening complete in November 2013.
5. Mr. Hank Graham noted the upcoming MPO/RPO Conference in Fayetteville, NC at the Doubletree Motel. He stated that the conference brochure is complete. There have been 250 registrants so far. There will be 9 vendor locations, 2 mobile workshops, and 2 social events. The keynote speaker is US Army Colonel Greg Bean.
6. Phil opened the floor for discussion of the SPOT process. It was noted that the NC General Assembly is proposing to merge the Urban Loops with the NC Mobility Fund. A

bill has been proposed in the NC House to exempt STP-DA funds from the Equity Formula. There was a brief general discussion of the current session of the Legislature.

7. Mr. Conrad noted a presentation on the Rider Transit System including increases in ridership, expansion of routes and stops, hours of operation, and technology. The system also just opened a new transit center on S. Ridge Avenue to serve both Concord and Kannapolis citizens. He noted how successful the real time passenger information has been for customer service. Mr. Conrad distributed the regional transit ridership numbers and noted a decline in most of the routes. It was explained that the poor economic conditions were the cause of declining ridership numbers. There was no further discussion.
8. The next meeting will be hosted by MUMPO and be held on July 19, 2011. The meeting was adjourned at 12:06pm.

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