

CHARLOTTE REGIONAL ALLIANCE FOR TRANSPORTATION

Technical Committee Meeting October 18, 2011 Manchester Meadows Conference Room

Meeting Minutes

The October 18, 2011 meeting of the CRAFT Technical Committee was called to order at 10:00 AM.

Present

Loretta Barren	FHWA	Randy Imler	CRCOG
Stuart Basham	MUMPO	Wendy Bell	CRCOG
Maeve Mason	SCDHEC-AQ	Melinda Mathias	SCDHEC-AQ
Phil Conrad	CRMPO	David Hooper	RFATS
Bob Cook	MUMPO	Anil Panicker	NCDOT-TPB
Bill Duston	Centralina COG	Jason Pauling	Gaston MPO
Hank Graham	Gaston MPO	Danny Pleasant	CDOT
Andy Grzyski	CDOT	Nick Polimeni	MUMPO
Bjorn Hansen	Centralina COG	Dana Stoogenke	Rocky River RPO
Tobe Holmes	York County	Leigh Welch	RFATS
		David Wiggins	US Census Bureau

1. Welcome & Introductions

David Hooper welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mr. Hooper introduced himself and asked everyone else to do so as well.

2. Approval of July 19, 2011 Minutes

The minutes of the July 19, 2011 Technical Committee meeting were presented for approval. The Committee unanimously voted to approve the minutes as presented.

3. Regional Freight Study

Bill Duston and Bjorn Hansen of the Centralina COG discussed work completed to date on the preparation for a regional freight study. Mr. Hansen then reviewed area freight plans from Atlanta, Dallas, Houston, Philadelphia, and Richmond, VA as a part of his presentation – outlining the economic costs of congestion to freight movement and transportation more generally.

Mr. Hansen then discussed a proposed scope of work for such a study in the Metrolina Region. Specifically, the draft scope included a projected timeframe of roughly 12 months, and an estimated cost of approximately \$400,000.00 (with NCDOT potentially covering 25% of the study's cost). During this discussion, Mr. Hansen also reviewed short and long-term outcomes from the study – such as the creation of a Freight Advisory Task Force, private sector feedback, and an emphasis on network management. Next steps will include a review of the Seven Portals Plan; review of initial feedback from the

CRAFT members, finalization of a scope of work, and identification of sufficient funding.

4. Discussion of Urban Area Criteria

David Wiggins, US Census Bureau-Charlotte Regional Office, presented information on urban area criteria for the 2010 Census and then discussed the tentative schedule for the release of the final boundary designations. Specifically, the final urban area boundaries will be identified in Spring 2012, with summary files to be released in October 2012; ACS will begin to publish data in late 2013.

The final criteria states that any urban area recognized in the 2000 Census will remain as long as it continues to qualify. Additionally, it was noted that there is a possibility that the Charlotte Urbanized Area may extend down into a portion of Lancaster County, SC – with the merging of urban clusters to urban areas. Lastly, Mr. Wiggins touched on TAZs and noted the closing of the Charlotte regional census office due to the reorganization of the US Census Bureau.

5. LPA Procedures / Requirements Discussion

Hank Graham with the Gaston MPO discussed the impact of a recent federal audit of LPA procedures on a greenway extension project that the MPO had managed and completed. Mr. Hooper then reviewed the administration of LPA procedures in South Carolina and noted the increasing emphasis and oversight of SCDOT in actively partnering with local municipalities who opt to directly manage LPA projects – in an effort to ensure that all applicable federal/ state requirements are satisfied at each stage of project implementation.

Following the discussion, it was noted that although LPA procedures are designed to improve the proper administration of LPA projects – that perhaps additional training opportunities could be made a part of the process as well.

6. Air Quality Update

Maeve Mason with SCDHEC - Air Quality presented an update on air quality in SC. Ms. Mason noted discussions with Laura Booth, NCDENR - Air Quality and then briefed members on the submission of recent boundaries for the 2008 ozone standard by both NC and SC; withdrawal of the reconsideration of the 2008 ozone standard; and EPA's announcement to move forward with the 2008 ozone standard. Ms. Mason also emphasized the improved air quality in SC, and stated that SC revised its 2009 recommendation to attainment for each county while noting that NC's recommendation remains the same.

7. New Catawba River Bridge Feasibility Study

David Hooper with RFATS presented information on the New Catawba River Bridge Feasibility Study. A project map was distributed along with Mr. Hooper's review of the project's history and purpose / need. Also discussed was the project's funding, implementation timeline, and study schedule.

8. Next Meeting

The next Technical Committee will be held on Tuesday, January 17, 2012, and will be hosted by Centralina COG.

9. Adjournment

The meeting concluded at 12:07pm.