

CRAFT Technical Committee
Meeting Notes
January 15, 2013

Attendees: Dana Stoogenke, Rocky River RPO; Bjorn Hansen, Lake Norman RPO; Hank Graham, Gaston MPO; Bernie Yacobucci, Gaston MPO; Taylor Marcantel, Gaston MPO; Reuben Crummy, NCDOT; Joe Wilson, City of Concord; Kim Bereis, Atkins; Loretta Barren, FHWA; David Keilson, NCDOT Division 12; Jamal Alavi, NCDOT; Anil Panicker, NCDOT; Jack Flaherty, 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 October 16, 2012 minutes. Several corrections were noted to the roster of attendees. Mr. Jamal Alavi made a motion to approve the minutes as amended and Ms. Dana Stoogenke seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.
3. Phil asked Hank Graham to recap the November 2012 Executive Committee meeting, noting the excellent turnout and discussion. Mr. Graham concurred with the excellent attendance and noted the presence of the State legislator from Mecklenburg County. He mentioned the vigorous debate with the Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC), which really brought out some strong opinions. Phil noted the apparent support for toll projects in the Metrolina/Charlotte region and asked if a policy statement could assist NCDOT in their final plans for these 2 projects. Mr. Jamal Alavi indicated that a statement of support might be beneficial from the MPOs and RPOs, and he would get with MUMPO to gauge their level of support.
4. Mr. Hank Graham posed an idea to ask for a regional training opportunity for fulfill the newly enacted state Ethics requirement. He stated that he had talked with Teresa Pell with the State Ethics Commission, who seemed agreeable to the idea. He thought the training could occur in the April to June timeframe. It was noted that training must be completed by June 30, 2013. All in attendance thought this was a good idea and asked Mr. Graham to followup with Ms. Pell.
5. Phil noted the regional socioeconomic forecasting effort. He relayed a message from CDOT on the progress of MUMPO's numbers. He said that MUMPO would be getting approvals at their January meeting and TAZ level allocations would be complete in late February/early March. Lake Norman RPO and Gaston MPO appear to be working together since they share some county-level geography. Staff from both organizations stated that county-level adoption would likely occur in January. Gaston indicated a preference for the projections submitted by Dr. Appold. The RRRPO staff stated that they have worked together with MUMPO on Union County. Anson County would be a county wide forecast instead of TAZ level. Staff is currently working on the allocations in Stanly County. Phil stated that the CR MPO is reviewing the estimates from Dr. Appold and will follow a slightly less ambitious schedule that includes adoption in March 2013. A fairly lengthy discussion ensued about land use forecasting related to the 2 turnpike projects. Mr. Jamal Alavi noted that the SELC focused on one factor in the travel model in their complaint, which is 'travel time to employment'. He stressed the need for

documentation and transparency in the local forecasting process, particularly related to any assumptions about build versus no-build alternatives, for projects on new location. Ms. Loretta Barren reiterated this need for good documentation.

6. Phil opened the discussion of the 2040 MTP Update. He stated that the Cabarrus-Rowan MPO has been working on the forecasts as part of the MTP, but also has a draft projects list ready to begin the modeling. He stated that most highway projects remain from the 2035 LRTP as implementation/completion has been slow. Mr. Hank Graham stated that Gaston will be modifying the existing project list, which could be a major change from the current plan. Mr. Bjorn Hansen mentioned the prospect of bridge replacements in the LRTPs as well as a shift in philosophy by NCDOT towards infrastructure health rather than highway capacity. State and federal staff confirmed many unknowns with the respect to funding given the new transportation bill and new administration in Raleigh.
7. Mr. Jamal Alavi stated that the Monroe Bypass is currently with the 4th Circuit of Appeals and the judge is reviewing new information from NCDOT. He said that he felt confident that a new record of decision (ROD) would be issued in spring 2013 and construction can follow shortly thereafter. With respect to Gaston, the project is in litigation and scheduled for an administrative record by January 21st. A briefing must be filed by June 25, 2013 and the case will be resolved by a judge. There is no deadline for a ruling. Mr. Alavi noted the proposed I-77 HOT lane project through Mecklenburg County. He said bids will be taken this summer and a contract signed in the fall. Construction could begin in early 2014. I-77 is a public-private partnership for financing and operations. Mr. David Keilson summarized a public meeting that he had attended on the I-77 project, where citizens were questioning the cost and whether other options were considered to HOT lanes.
8. Mr. Jack Flaherty gave a powerpoint presentation on regional transit projects, primarily within Mecklenburg County. He also noted a shrinking state budget for public transportation, \$101 mil in FY 2010 to \$84 mil in FY 2013. He noted the recent PTD request for state match requests for local capital projects. He stated that PTD is refining a methodology for prioritizing these requests in tandem with the SPOT office. He mentioned the earlier deadlines for the MPO's Section 5303 budget request. MPOs effectively have 3 options for submitting their requests for the next fiscal year. He noted declining SMAP funds and the statewide regionalization study, which offers a menu of ways to improve efficiency.
9. Mr. Hank Graham asked that the next meeting be moved to April 23rd because of the National APA Conference. Lake Norman staff agreed to this date. Ms. Loretta Barren noted that federal fiscal constraint requirements will be applied to the existing 2012-18 TIP for MPOs and more information will be provided at the January NCAMPO meeting by FHWA staff. The meeting was adjourned at 12:09 pm.