

**CRAFT Technical Committee**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**May 27, 2014**

Attendees: Dana Stoogenke, Rocky River RPO; Stuart Basham; NCDOT; Hank Graham, Gaston MPO; Tim Gibbs, CDOT; Bob Cook, CRTPO; Bernie Yacobucci, Gaston MPO; Taylor Marcantel, Gaston MPO; Linda Dosse', NCDOT; Loretta Barren, FHWA; Brian Wert, NCDOT; Reuben Crummy, NCDOT; Robert Moody, Catawba COG; Scott Cole, NCDOT; 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 February 25, 2014 minutes. Bob Cook made a motion to approve the minutes and Dana Stoogenke seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.
3. Phil introduced Scott Cole with NCDOT Division 10 to give an update on the Regional Ramp Meter Study. Mr. Cole indicated that the Division is working on a municipal agreement for the MPOs with separate and individual documents for each entity. Bob Cook asked about a timeframe for the municipal agreements and Mr. Cole said it may take a couple of months. He also stated that there would be an RFP to select a firm to do the work. The total budget is \$700,000 based on a similar study in the Triangle. He indicated that the Chief Engineer would sign the contracts for NCDOT and the study would take 12 to 18 months to complete. Mr. Cole said the first phase of the study would evaluate 245 exits/interchanges. He said a key element of the ramp metering is the tolerance of local citizens to accept more congestion on the arterials. He concluded that the Draft RFP will be released for review prior to publication and the project contact would be Cheryl Evans.
4. Mr. Cole gave an update on construction projects in Division 10. He mentioned the I-85/485 turbine interchange project scheduled for completion in December 2014. The design build project cost \$92.2 million. The I-85 widening in Cabarrus County is 75 percent complete and scheduled to be done in August 2014. The 485 Outer Loop is a design build project with 2.8 million cubic yards of earth work. This project includes a split diamond interchange at Prosperity Church Road which is consistent with the City's Land Use Plan. It is scheduled for completion in December 2014 and is 71 percent complete. He mentioned Independence Blvd which is a \$51 million design build project, with interchanges at Sharon Amity Road and Idlewild Road. He added the 485 widening in southern Mecklenburg, which includes an auxiliary lane. He noted the George Liles Parkway extension scheduled for 2017 and the rail stimulus projects that include 5 new grade separations. He opined about the CATS Blue Line extension at \$1.16 billion scheduled for opening in April 2017. He noted the record of decision for the Monroe Connector in May 2014, construction award for the I-3802A project in April 2014, and the P3 commercial close in June 2014 on I-77. He concluded with the widening of NC 3 (2016) and Derita Road (2014) in Cabarrus County. There were no questions.
5. Mr. Stuart Basham with NCDOT gave an update on the SPOT 3.0 process and results. He explained that the results would be used to establish the FY 2016-2025 TIP. He

referenced House Bill 817 which was signed into law on June 26, 2013. He stated that STI is based on a 3 tiered approach. He stated that the Statewide Tier does not include any formal input from locals. He stated that the Divisions will have their own methodologies to score projects with Division 10 having 2500 points per tier. He said that 1500 points will go to highway projects, 500 points to transit, and 500 points to other modes under the regional tier. Under the division tier, 1000 points would go to highways, 500 points to public transit, and 500 points to bike and ped, and 500 points to other modes. He reviewed 8 criteria for ranking projects. He said that the methodology including point assignment must be completed by August 28<sup>th</sup>. He noted a public meeting on July 15<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 7 pm in Charlotte, which will kickoff a 30 day public comment period. Phil Conrad confirmed that there is no formal role for the MPO's in the public meeting as it will be hosted by Division staff. Mr. Basham agreed and said that the Division was generally pleased with the quantitative scores. Mr. Bob Cook noted that I-77 south was not fully funded and there were some questions internally about the cost estimates for projects in Mecklenburg. Mr. Hank Graham indicated that Gastonia was pleased with some of the bike and ped scores. Phil Conrad concluded that scores were as expected in Cabarrus, but a little underwhelming in Rowan.

6. Phil Conrad led a discussion of the statewide tier results with the CRAFT members. He noted that several projects in the Charlotte Metro area are proposed to be funded in the TIP and would like to ascertain interest in a joint resolution of support for those projects: I-85 and I-77 specifically. He asked the partners whether a joint resolution might be in order given the limited formal local input for these projects. CRAFT members indicated that they would review a draft resolution and provide comments.
7. Ms. Loretta Barren provided an update on the Grow America Act proposed by the Administration. This would replace MAP-21, which is set to expire at the end of September. She stated that the Act would contain Priority Investments based on performance management with a fix it first mission. She said there are incentives in the program for better planning that would reward "High Performing MPOs" with extra project funds. There is language to prohibit new MPOs in an MSA where an MPO already exists. She said there was a significant increase (~75%) in multi-modal funding. She noted the emergence of Planning Emphasis Areas and that FHWA would be discussing performance measures with MPOs as part of the annual UPWP process. It is anticipated that the House and Senate will also be releasing their own bill soon.
8. Mrs. Vicki Bott gave an update on the TIGER Application for a regional Freight Plan. She said that the application was for \$315,000 with a total expense of \$600,000 for the Plan. She indicated that Centralina was initiating a discussion with the private sector for some funding. She mentioned that the Plan would be complete by December 2016. She said that Phase I would be a needs assessment. Whether funding is secured or not, the Plan would proceed as a scaled back initiative. All of the MPOs and RPO would provide some level of support whether in-kind or financial. She mentioned a number of partnerships for this endeavor including TTI, UNCC, etc. Mr. Brian Wert suggested ITRE as a resource for data analysis.
9. The next meeting will be hosted by Catawba COG and be held on July 29, 2014. The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm.