

CRAFT Technical Committee
Meeting Notes
January 27, 2015

Attendees: Dana Stoogenke, Rocky River RPO; Bjorn Hansen, GCLMPO; Hank Graham, GCLMPO; Jessica Hekter, FHWA-SC; Bret Baronak, GCLMPO; Robby Moody, Catawba COG; Michelle Nance, Centralina COG; Tim Gibbs, CDOT; Bob Cook, CRTPO; Loretta Barren, FHWA-NC; Curtis Bridges, CRTPO; Allison Love, York County; Anna Gallup, CDOT; Andy Grzyski, CDOT; Phil Conrad, CRMPO; Candice Leonard, CRTPO; Anil Panicker, NCDOT; Neil Burke, CRTPO; Phil Leazer, York County; Jamal Alavi, NCDOT-TPB; Leslie Coolidge, SCDHEC; James Lin, NCDOT-PTD; Sushil Nepal, Centralina COG; Mary Clayton, Parsons-Brinckerhoff; and David Hooper (RFATS), Linda Dosse, NCDOT-TPB, Rueben Crummy, NCDOT TPB, Brian Wert, NCDOT-TPB

1. Mr. Hooper began the meeting at 10:05am and welcomed everyone in attendance.
2. Mr. Hooper asked if there were any corrections, additions and / or deletions to the October 29, 2014 minutes. Hearing none, Mr. Cook made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Mr. Leazer seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.
3. **Regional Boundary Agreements:** Mr. Hooper briefly reviewed the discussion from the October meeting and then each MPO provided an update on their respective progress to date. As a point of reference – it was noted that there has been significant work on finalizing the STIP in North Carolina – which has contextualized (to a large extent), work time able to be devoted to the regional agreements. Discussion then followed regarding expected progress on additional STIP work in February – with the understanding that things should then be well positioned for the regional agreements to be brought to a conclusion. Ms. Barren and Ms. Hekter then noted that FHWA is expecting this process to be completed no later than June 30, 2015.
4. **Pennies for Progress – NC / SC Connection Points:** Mr. Leazer provided an overview of the Pennies Program; recent accomplishments; and a short list of projects that are located at important crossover points at the state line; specifically, Hwy 51 / US 21; Hwy 160; and Hwy 274 into Gaston County. Additionally, Mr. Leazer provided a status update on the Dave Lyle Blvd Extension Project. Discussion then followed regarding the five lane widening of Hwy 160 to the NC state line, coordination with NCDOT, and the tentative schedule for going to bid in 2016 – with project completion slated for 2018. As a point of reference – it was noted that prioritization and funding expectations in North Carolina for the section of Hwy 160 from the state line to Hwy 49 do not appear to be in alignment with planned project activity in South Carolina – continued monitoring of subsequent project ranking and programming action will be required to minimize any resulting implementation / transitional operational impacts.
5. **On-Line Data Presentation Tools:** Mr. Hansen briefly reviewed the primary points of discussion from the October meeting regarding the development of a regional, interactive website providing project, program and planning data. Mr. Hansen then summarized work of the subcommittee to identify the types of information that should be available. Items specifically noted include socio-economic data, baseline data, candidate projects, MTPs, traffic counts, and environmental justice data. The recommended arrangement for posting this information is that each MPO / RPO will utilize their own service. As a point of

reference – it was noted that member agencies should utilize layers from NCDOT / SCDOT as much as possible. Discussion then followed regarding individual next steps among member jurisdictions; and that, this item should remain as a standing CRAFT agenda item to ensure accurate and effective implementation.

6. **Air Quality Update:** Ms. Coolidge provided a brief overview of the recently announced new ozone standard in December 2014 as well as the latest on the pending redesignation request and maintenance plan that NCDENR and SCDHEC will be submitting in late April. As a point of reference – Ms. Coolidge noted that all monitors within the Charlotte MSA were attaining the 2008 standard at the end of the 2014 ozone season; and that, the current public comment period on the new standard will end on March 17, 2015. Discussion then followed regarding the tentative timeframe for the new standard to be finalized.

Mr. Hooper then asked about a recent DC Circuit Court ruling regarding the continued applicability of the 1997 ozone standard. Ms. Coolidge then briefly summarized the court's opinion that a statutory deadline was exceeded; and that, this decision effectively reinstates the 1997 ozone Transportation Conformity requirements until the entire standard is revoked – this action will presumably occur when the Final Implementation Rule for the 2008 standard becomes effective.

7. **Travel Demand Management:** Ms. Clayton provided an overview of a project she is working on to advance Travel Demand Management within the region. Ms. Clayton specifically noted how TDM can improve how effectively resources are utilized as well as generating or extracting the best value from the transportation system overall. Staff discussion then followed regarding private sector participation and the expected timeline for coordinating with participating agencies and the type of commitment envisioned. Lastly, Ms. Clayton noted that this initiative will need to be supported at a number of different levels; and that, more information will be distributed as work continues on the project.

8. **Performance Measures NPR:** Ms. Barren provided an update on the development of performance measurement regulations; in particular, it was noted that the rules on safety, highway, and planning have been completed. More recently, Ms. Barren noted that a notice of proposed rulemaking was released on January 5th for bridges and pavement – with a public comment period running through April 6th. Ms. Barren then emphasized that MTPs and TIPs do need to address these performance measures; and the specific actions that will be undertaken.

Discussion then followed regarding the need for improved coordination / guidance from NCDOT – particularly on the performance measures for bridges and pavement. In terms of finalization, Ms. Barren stated that it is the goal of FHWA that there be one effective date for all the performance measurement rules. As a point of reference – Ms. Hekter noted that there are some things that are pretty specific to MPOs; as a result, she strongly encouraged everyone to review this information.

9. **Other Items:** Ms. Nance highlighted an upcoming training session on locally administered project management that is slated for Thursday, February 19th from 10:00am to 3:00pm. It was noted that this opportunity should be viewed as the training on this topic within the region. Ms. Stoogenke then asked whether everyone was in agreement with the proposed CRAFT meeting schedule recently sent out. Mr. Hooper then mentioned that RFATS has

been notified that all MPOs in South Carolina will be transitioning from a 1yr to a 2 yr UPWP in FY 15. Lastly, Mr. Cook noted that the CRTPO boundary will likely be expanding to bring in all of Iredell County – which is largely due to the consolidation of the Unifour RPO and Greater Hickory MPO.

10. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be on March 31, 2015, hosted by CRTPO.

11. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM.

Charlotte Regional Alliance For Transportation

Technical Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 27, 2015

10:00 AM- 12:00 PM

Manchester Meadows Conference Room

337 E. Mt Gallant Road

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