



Charlotte Regional Alliance For Transportation (CRAFT)

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

10:00 AM

Members and Guests Present:

Andy Bailey	NCDOT-TPB, CRTPO/GCLMPO Coordinator
Loretta Barren	FHWA, Transportation Planner
Stuart Basham	NCDOT, Division 10 Planning Engineer
Curtis Bridges	CRTPO, Planner
Neil Burke	CRTPO, Planner
Roger Castillo	NCDOT, Transportation Engineer Assistant
Phil Conrad	CRMPO, Planner
Bob Cook	CRTPO, Secretary
Kristy Crisp	City of Gastonia, Economic Dev. Coord./Business Services Mgr.
Charles Edwards	NCDOT, Director – Logistics Strategy
Matthew Gallman	Catawba COG, Planner
Anna Gallup	CDOT, Travel Demand Modeling Program Manager
Randi Gates	GCLMPO, Senior Transportation Planner
Hank Graham	GCLMPO, Principal Transportation Planner
Bjorn Hansen	Union County, Transportation Planner
David Hooper	RFATS, Administrator
Erin Kinne	CRTPO, Administrative Officer
Robby Moody	Catawba COG, Senior Planner
Michelle Nance	CCOG, Planning Director
Julio Paredes	GCLMPO, Transportation Planner
Walter Scharer	GCLMPO, TCC Chair
Dana Stoogenke	RRRPO, Director
Brian Wert	NCDOT-TPB, Metrolina Supervisor

- 1. Welcome:** Hank Graham opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. The meeting began at 10:10 am.
- 2. Minutes:** Hank asked members to review the minutes from November 29, 2016. Dana Stoogenke made a motion to approve the minutes as presented and David Hooper seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- 3. Final Rule: MPO Coordination and Planning Area Reform:** Hank stated that USDOT issued a final rule on December 15, 2016 that MPOs must coordinate with adjacent MPOs and RPOs and the Governor/NCDOT to prepare unified federally funded and mandated transportation planning documents (MTP-Long Range Plan and MTIP). The rule provides guidance that incorporation of appropriate changes and/or approaches to



the planning process are required to occur at the next MTP Update that takes place on or after 2 years after the date that the US Census Bureau releases the results of the next decennial census, which would result in a projected time frame of 2025-2026.

Discussion then followed regarding some of the key objectives of the rule and the notable shifts in the political / policy environment in Washington – and the need to actively monitor additional agency direction and / or adjustments to rule provisions that may follow. The group agreed that the rule should remain a standing agenda item; and that continuing discussion about its provisions and approaches to realizing its intent are furthered consistent with the general parameters of its implementation schedule.

4. **P5.0 Update:** Dana Stoogenke and Neil Burke provided an update on the P5.0 process. A criteria presentation will be made to the Board of Transportation in July, with project submittals by the end of July. Sarah Lee has sent out an email to everyone that shows the number of projects that can be submitted by each MPO/RPO. Webinars will begin in February to help MPOs/RPOs better scope out projects. Loretta Barren noted that public outreach for the 2020-2029 STIP will occur sometime between July and September 2017. It was also noted that a survey will go out regarding the local input point process and that only one person from each organization should respond.

5. **MTP Development Process Update:**

- CRTPO – Webinars have been held and staff is currently making various presentations to get the word out. They are also using social media (Facebook and Twitter). Staff will be conducting a workshop at an upcoming TCC meeting and is currently working on their project lists.
- RFATS – Current MTP update is well underway, most principal milestones have been realized and finalization is set for this spring. As a point of reference, SC is on a different schedule than NC.
- CRMPO – Draft lists have been developed, and they are working on the revenue tables.
- GCLMPO – Getting ready to kick off the process, but will have the project lists together by the deadline.

6. **NC Freight Study Presentation:** Charles Edwards gave a thorough overview of the NC Freight Study. The study is about halfway complete, with a final report to be completed by July. Charles' presentation highlighted the project schedule, findings in economic, freight activity, and transport. He also reviewed the next steps of the study, which include the rolling out of the NC Freight Data Tool, finalization of needs assessment and system designation, completion of the supply chain and economic analysis, and the development and screening of recommendations.

7. Project Issues/Updates

- a. **Regional Freight Study:** Michelle Nance stated that the individual MPO chapters are in Dropbox and ready for download. The final report is complete and they are here to hand out after the meeting. CCOG staff will be making presentations at upcoming TCC and Board meetings. CCOG is also working on a PSA-type video to raise public awareness of the importance of freight in the region.
- b. **Regional Transit Engagement:** Michelle presented the timeline to start a conversation in the region about expanding transit options. The first year will include Phase I meetings which are being scheduled now. These will be staff level to determine the communities' interest in transit. The next step will be a public opinion survey. After this CCOG will conduct Phase II engagement which will include elected officials, as well as local staff, and also the private sector. At the end of this phase, a regional transit summit will be held.
- c. **SE Regional Rail Plan Study:** Bob Cook stated that he had been asked to participate as a stakeholder in this study, which is being led by the Federal Rail Administration. The study is looking at three alternatives: high performance rail, regional service, and feeder service. The study should be complete in summer 2017.
- d. **North Carolina Legislative Update:** Dana emailed information regarding the NC Legislative Update, which includes four (4) major pieces:
 1. Mega Projects Funding
 2. State Infrastructure Bank
 3. STI – Local Input Points
 4. Blue Ribbon Taskforce – future project fundingThere are no bill sponsors yet. The group will continue to monitor this.
- e. **Other Business:** Bob mentioned the need to continue looking into getting administrative support for CRAFT. Emily Parker with CCOG is working on a proposal. This needs to be a March agenda item.

8. **Next Meeting Date:** The next meeting is scheduled for March 28, 2017 and will be hosted by RFATS. This will be held as a work session from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm to work on the CRAFT MOA. A group call will be held ahead of the meeting to set the agenda. David Hooper will send out potential dates for the call.

9. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.