

**CHARLOTTE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

**January 26, 2022 Meeting**

**Summary Minutes**

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**Members Attending (In-person)**

Ron Pappas (Waxhaw)

**Members Attending (via remote participation):**

Julie Eiselt (Charlotte), Denis Bilodeau (Cornelius), Rusty Knox (Davidson), Rob Kidwell (Huntersville), Joe Pollino (Marvin), Renee Garner (Matthews), Pat Cotham (Mecklenburg County) Frederick Becker (Mineral Springs), Dale Dalton (Mint Hill), Lisa Qualls ( Mooresville), Jack Edwards (Pineville), Brad Richardson (Stallings), George Harris (Troutman), David Williams (Union County), Craig Horn (Weddington), Lori Bailey (Wesley Chapel)

**Non-Voting Members Attending (via remote participation):**

Jim Walker (NC Turnpike Authority), Loretta Barren (FHWA)

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**1. Call to Order**

Interim Chair Ron Pappas called the January 2022 CRTPO Board meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He explained that this meeting would be conducted remotely, and then reviewed the remote meeting guidelines and etiquette. CRTPO Delegates and Alternates as well as residents were able to participate in the remote meeting by using a combination of online meeting software, conference call, and live stream from the CRTPO’s Facebook Page.

Interim Chair Pappas reminded the Board that usage of the chat box function within the online meeting software is part of the Board public record.

Mr. Burke conducted the roll call and determined that a quorum of the Board had been met based upon the bylaw provisions for a remote meeting.

Interim Chair Pappas polled the Board to determine if votes can be cast by acclamation unless opposition (“nay” vote) from at least one Board member is made. The purpose of the vote by acclamation would be to minimize confusion if the votes were unanimous and to run the virtual meeting as efficiently as possible.

If an opposing vote to approve the particular vote by acclamation was cast, then the Chair would direct the Secretary to conduct a roll call vote of each attending jurisdiction. If no opposing vote is cast a second time, then the motion will be recorded as “approved unanimously by acclamation.” No opposition was voiced with this voting method from the Board for the meeting tonight.

Mr. Burke conducted the rollcall and determined that a quorum of the Board had been met based upon the bylaws, and with the Chairman’s omission of the clause for members to be physically present due to the State of Emergency declaration.

**2. Election of Officers**

Interim Chair Pappas directed Neil Burke to conduct the elections for the 2022 CRTPO Chair and Vice-Chair. Mr. Burke stated that if there is only one nomination for a position, he would ask for approval by acclamation. If more than one nominee is motioned for a position, a roll call vote will be conducted.

Mr. Burke opened the floor for nominations for 2022 CRTPO board chair. Mayor Horn nominated Mayor Pappas for 2022 CRTPO board chair. Additional nominations were requested; however, no additional nominations were put forth. The nomination was seconded by Rob Kidwell. The motion was approved unanimously.

Upon being put to a vote, Mayor Pappas was unanimously elected chairman for 2022.

Mr. Burke opened the floor for nominations for 2022 CRTPO board vice-chair. Mayor Horn nominated Lisa Qualls for 2022 CRTPO board vice-chair. The nomination was seconded by Mayor Knox. No additional nominations were put forth.

Upon being put to a vote, Ms. Qualls was elected vice-chair for 2022.

### **3. Adoption of the Agenda**

#### Summary:

Chair Pappas explained that staff has requested an amendment to remove Consent Agenda item 3b (FY 2022 UPWP Amendment-Mooresville Traffic Improvement Study) to allow staff additional time to coordinate with NCDOT on the UPWP amendment. He then asked if any additional changes to the agenda were necessary. No additional changes were identified.

#### Motion:

Mayor Horn made a motion to adopt the revised agenda by acclamation unless at least one opposing vote is cast. Mayor Pro-Tem Eiselt seconded the motion. No opposing vote was cast. Upon being put to a vote, the motion to adopt the revised agenda as presented was approved by acclamation.

### **4. Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments.

### **5. Ethics Awareness & Conflict of Interest Reminder**

Mr. Burke read the ethics awareness and conflict of interest reminder. No conflicts were identified.

### **6. Consent Agenda**

#### Summary:

Chair Pappas requested action on the following three consent agenda items:

- a) November 17, 2021 CRTPO Board Meeting minutes
- b) FY 2022 UPWP Amendment – Charlotte to Mooresville Trail (The Seam)
- c) 2020-2029 TIP Amendments

#### Motion:

Chair Pappas made a motion to the Board to approve the consent agenda item by acclamation unless at least one opposing vote is cast. Mayor Becker seconded the motion. No opposing vote was cast. Upon being put to a vote, the motion to adopt the consent agenda was approved by acclamation.

### **7. Beyond 77 Corridor Study**

#### Presenter:

Agustin Rodriguez

#### Summary:

Mr. Rodriguez provided information to the Board via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes.

Mr. Rodriguez began his presentation by stating that the requested action is to approve the Beyond 77 corridor study. The Board's requested action is the culmination of over two years of work to develop the plan and the effort will now transition to the implementation phase. The TCC unanimously requested that the Board adopt the recommendations and implementation plan for the Beyond 77 Corridor Study during the meeting on January 6.

Next, Mr. Rodriguez provided an overview of the plan development process and creation of the implementation plan for the study. The 68-mile study area extends from Rock Hill to Statesville and coordinated with 22

jurisdictions and agencies. The draft final report includes eight primary chapters and 12 document appendices that are available for review on the project website that can be accessed [here](#). A public comment period on the final deliverables concluded on January 11. He shared that over 280 recommendations in the plan are sorted into immediate, short-term, medium-term, and long-term implementation goals.

He then provided overview of the Beyond 77 Toolkit online application and how it can be utilized by jurisdictions to prioritize local needs within a regional context. Additionally, he highlighted funding recommendations from the plan and the funding alternatives strategies tool. Mr. Rodriguez concluded the presentation by reviewing the implementation plan, the creation of the Beyond 77 Task Force, and next steps for the plan.

Motion:

Rob Kidwell made a motion to adopt the Beyond 77 Corridor Study. Mayor Pro-Tem Eiselt seconded the motion. No opposing vote was cast. Upon being put to a vote, the motion to adopt the Beyond 77 Corridor Study was approved by acclamation.

**8. Performance-Based Planning: Transit Targets**

Presenters: Jerrel Leonard and Erin Musiol, RS&H

Summary:

Mr. Leonard and Ms. Musiol provided information to the Board via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes.

He stated that the presentation's purpose was to request that the Board support the 2022 transit agencies' performance targets as part of the federal performance-based planning requirements. An information report was provided to the Board during the November 2021 meeting and no issues were identified. The TCC unanimously recommendation that the Board support the transit agency performance targets during the January 6 meeting.

Ms. Musiol explained that the Federal Transit Administration published the Transit Asset Management (TAM) Final Rule in July 2016 and the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) final rule in July 2018. All transit operator recipients and subrecipients of federal financial assistance must develop TAM and PTASP performance targets based on performance measures established in the final rules. She explained that MPOs are required to endorse the agencies' targets or develop their own. The transit agency performance targets are required to be incorporated within the CRTPO's 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

She then reviewed the TAM and PTSAP safety targets and explained that the adopted targets are required to be incorporated within the 2050 MTP.

Motion:

Mayor Pro-Tem Eiselt made a motion to support transit agencies' performance targets as part of the federal performance-based planning requirements. Mayor Becker seconded the motion. No opposing vote was cast. Upon being put to a vote, the motion to support transit agencies' performance targets as part of the federal performance-based planning requirements was approved by acclamation.

**9. FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program**

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary:

Mr. Cook provided information to the Board via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes. The presentation's purpose was to update the Board on the preparation of the FY 2023 UPWP. He stated that action to approve the FY 2023 will be requested of the Board during the March meeting. An overview of the UPWP was provided. The UPWP is the CRTPO's budget. Funding levels by source were reviewed.

Mr. Cook reviewed the FTA Section 5303 fund requests by transit agency. The CRTPO anticipates having \$2.0 million in FTA 5303 funds for FY 2023, and a call for projects/initiatives was conducted to allocate the funds. The federal allocation amount of \$2.0 million in FTA 5303 funding is a substantial increase from the CRTPO's FY 2022 amount of \$980,352 due to NCDOT's distribution of previous unallocated funds. Three of the CRTPO's four transit agencies (CATS, ICATS, Union County) applied for FTA 5303 allocations for the FY 2023 UPWP. MTS did not apply for FTA 5303 funds in consideration of the FY 2023 UPWP. Mr. Cook reviewed major projects and initiatives that would require funding task code allocations in FY 2023. He concluded his presentation by reviewing the anticipated allocations and tasks within the FY 2023 UPWP.

## **10. CRTPO Discretionary Funds Project Call – Recommended Projects**

### Presenter:

Andrew Ventresca, Troutman

### Summary:

Mr. Ventresca provided information to the Board via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes. The presentation's purpose was to review the process to develop the recommended project list from the 2021 fall discretionary project call.

He began the presentation by providing an overview of the project call which began on August 9 and closed on October 29. The project call was open to all CRTPO member jurisdictions to submit funding requests for new and existing roadway, bicycle and pedestrian, transit, Grants to Replace Aging Diesel Engines (GRADE), and planning projects. A total of \$50.5 million of the CRTPO's federal discretionary funds were made available during the fall call. Mr. Ventresca explained that the CRTPO received 31 projects requests for approximately \$75.6 million. The Project Oversight Committee (POC) reviewed project scores and developed a recommended list during its December meetings.

Mr. Ventresca then explained that the recommended project list was presented to the TCC during the January 6 meeting and the Davidson delegate expressed concern regarding the recommended bicycle and pedestrian project list and its exclusion of the Beatty Street Sidepath project, which received the same quantitative score as the South Elementary School Greenway Connector project in Mooresville. The POC met on January 13 to review the Town of Davidson's concerns and chose not to modify the recommendation on the basis that funding both projects would exceed the funding target for the fall call, and Mooresville committed to a larger percentage match within its submittal application. The CRTPO's discretionary projects policy provides priority to project submittals with a greater percentage local match commitment.

He concluded his presentation by stating that the Board will be requested to approve the funding allocations from the fall 2021 discretionary project call during the February 16 meeting.

Mayor Knox expressed concerns with the recommended list developed by the POC, specifically the bicycle and pedestrian projects. He explained that The Davidson Beatty Street Sidepath project received the same score (175.75) as the Mooresville South Elementary School Greenway Connector; however, only the Mooresville project received funding. Mayor Knox explained that this project would provide enhanced multimodal mobility between economically distressed neighborhoods and community activity centers. He requested that both the Davidson and Mooresville bicycle and pedestrian project submittals are funded by drawing down future discretionary funds. Mr. Burke reminded the Board that that funding both projects would exceed the targeted funding availability for this funding solicitation and moving additional funds to these projects would affect the amount of discretionary funding available for the 2022 spring and fall project solicitations.

**11. FY 2023 Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Program (CMAQ) Funds:  
Project Oversight Committee Recommendation**

Presenter:

Andrew Ventresca, Troutman

Summary:

Mr. Ventresca provided information to the Board via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes. The presentation's purpose was to review the POC's recommended project submittals for the FY 2023 CMAQ allocation, which are a subset of the fall 2021 discretionary project call.

He began his presentation by stating that the CRTPO receives \$7.6 million annually in CMAQ funds from NCDOT each year due to its status as maintenance within the non-attainment air quality area. While these are federal discretionary funds, applications must be submitted to NCDOT to ensure that they meet the federal requirements and demonstrate a congestion mitigation and air quality benefit. The POC has recommended that the Charlotte and Pineville Rail Yard Grant to Replace Aging Diesel Engines (GRADE) project and the Irwin Creek Greenway projects are funded with the FY 2023 CMAQ funding allocation. He explained that the total discretionary funding request for both projects is \$8.6 million, and approximately \$1 million in STBG-DA is recommended to fill the remainder of the gap between available CMAQ funds within FY 2023 and the request amount. Mr. Ventresca explained that the FY 2023 CMAQ applications are due by March 30, 2022, therefore the board will be requested to endorse the applications for the Charlotte and Pineville Rail Yard GRADE project and the Irwin Creek Greenway during the February 16 meeting.

**12. Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln MPO/CRTPO Joint Meeting Input**

Presenter:

Robert Cook and Jason Wager (Centralina Regional Council)

Summary:

Mr. Cook explained that feedback is being requested from the board this evening regarding the agenda content for a joint meeting between the Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln MPO (GCLMPO) and the CRTPO. The MPOs have held two joint meetings – the first in April 2018 and then in March 2019. The theme of the 2018 meeting was relationship building across organizations and jurisdictional boundaries; the theme of the 2019 meeting was regional cooperation. The activity of holding joint MPO board meetings is consistent with CRTPO Strategic Plan Goal 6 (foster a culture of collaboration with partners; Strategy A: Engage with a neighboring MPO or RPO at the board level at least annually). The next joint meeting is proposed for April 28, 2022 as a hybrid meeting similar to the 2022 Orientation.

Mr. Cook introduced Jason Wager with the Centralina Regional Council. Mr. Wager proceeded to obtain board feedback on agenda content and meeting format by utilizing online interactive polling software. He concluded the presentation by stating that he will communicate the results of the survey and next steps regarding the joint meeting format on April 28.

**13. Upcoming Agenda Items**

Presenter:

Neil Burke

Summary:

An overview of the February 16, 2022 agenda was provided. The February 2021 CRTPO board agenda will include the approval of the discretionary funding allocations from the fall 2021 project call and endorsement of the Charlotte and Pineville Rail Yard GRADE project and the Irwin Creek Greenway project NCDOT applications for FY 2023 CMAQ funding.

Information reports will be provided on the following issues:

- 2050 MTP/Revised 2020-2029 TIP Update – Summary of Public Engagement
- Draft FY 2023 UPWP
- NCDOT STBG-DA/State Highway Trust Fund Exchange

An education session will be conducted prior to the February 16 board meeting regarding the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). The session will feature Burt Tasaico of NCDOT and Beau Mills of Metro Mayors Coalition as presenters.

Mr. Burke provided the following announcements:

- A public comment period began on the 2050 MTP, Revised 2020-2029 TIP, 2045 MTP amendments, and an air quality conformity determination on January 18. Staff is conducting virtual and in-person presentations on the 2050 MTP. Comment period will close on February 17.
- Information was provided to the Board (via email on January 7) regarding the filing requirement for delegates and alternates with the state ethics commission. Elected officials that serve as delegates or alternates on an MPO Board must fill out the appropriate documents with the North Carolina State Ethics Commission prior to April 15 each year.
- The TCC elected officers for the 2022 calendar year during the January 6 meeting. Liz Babson, Director of the Charlotte DOT was re-elected Chair; and Andrew Ventresca, Senior Planner with the Town of Davidson was re-elected Vice-Chair.
- CATS is currently in the process of updating the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan for the Charlotte Urbanized Area, and board members have been requested to make their constituents aware of a survey on the plan update that is open until January 31.

Mr. Cook announced Kendall Clanton has joined staff as an intern during the spring semester. Mr. Clanton is a Civil Engineering student at UNC-Charlotte.

#### **14. Board Member Comments**

Presenter:

Ron Pappas

Chair Pappas stated that change will be a constant throughout the next year. He encouraged the board members to collaborate to advance the implementation efforts of the planning initiatives throughout the region. Chair Pappas also mentioned the difficult decisions with the NCDOT funding issues and projects throughout the planning area. He encouraged proactive information sharing about project statuses once they become available.

Denis Bilodeau identified with the concerns expressed by Mayor Knox in regard to the recommended discretionary project list. He explained that the NC Board of Transportation had approved a STIP amendment to delay the construction of an important project in Cornelius without informing Town staff, and he became aware of it only when reviewing the board agenda and noticing the TIP amendment. Mr. Bilodeau is interested in learning about how the communication between NCDOT and the Town can be improved regarding project status delays and the manner in which jurisdictions can strategize for ensure their projects score competitively in future discretionary project calls by leveraging additional percentages of their local funds.

#### **15. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.