

**CRTPO TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE**  
**Summary Meeting Minutes**  
**January 6, 2022**

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**Voting Members:** *Chair* – Liz Babson (CDOT), *Vice-Chair* – Andrew Ventresca (Troutman), Dan Leaver (Charlotte General Services), Michael Pilarski – alt for Amber Leathers (CLT Airport), Alysia Osborne – alt for Taiwo Jaiyeoba (Charlotte Planning, Design & Development), Aaron Tucker (Cornelius), Jason Burdette – alt for Doug Wright (Davidson), Dave Hill (Huntersville), Todd Huntsinger (Indian Trail), Richard Hoffman – alt for Matthew Todd (Iredell County), Dana Stoogenke (Matthews), Megan Green (Meck. Co. – LUESA Air Quality), David McDonald (Metropolitan Transit Commission), Steve Frey (Mint Hill), Lisa Stiwinter (Monroe), Erika Martin (Mooresville), Jeff Littlefield – alt for Brett Canipe (NCDOT–Div. 10), Anil Panicker – alt for Mark Stafford (NCDOT–Div. 12), Alex Rotenberry (NCDOT-Integrated Mobility Division), Dominique Boyd (NCDOT-TPD), Travis Morgan (Pineville), Justin Russell (Stallings), David Cole – alt for Sherry Ashley (Statesville), Bjorn Hansen (Union County), Theo Ghitea (Waxhaw), Karen Dewey (Weddington), Brad Sellers (Wingate), Alex Riomondy (Focus Area Representative – Bicycle), Gwen Cook (Focus Area Representative – Greenway), Kate Cavazza (Focus Area Representative – Public Health), Tracy Houk (Focus Area Representative – Pedestrian)

**Staff:** Curtis Bridges (CRTPO), Neil Burke (CRTPO), Robert Cook (CRTPO), Temekia Dae (CRTPO), Judy Dellert-O’Keef (CRTPO), Brian Elgort (CRTPO), J. Travis Johnson (CRTPO), Jerrel Leonard (CRTPO), Agustin Rodriguez (CRTPO), Jennifer Stafford (CRTPO), Theo Thomson (CRTPO), Loretta Barren (FHWA), Stuart Basham (NCDOT-Div. 10), Warren Cooksey (NCTA), Andy Grzymiski (CDOT), Jennifer Harris (NCTA), David Williams (Union County), Dennis Jernigan (NCTA), Scott Miller (NCDOT-Div. 10), Erin Pratt (CDOT), Janet Payne (Union County), Kim Poulton (NCTA), Travis Preslar (NCDOT-Div. 10), Matthew Rea (Union County), Wendy Taylor (NCDOT-Div. 10), Theresa Torres (Union County Transportation), Sheldon Turner (Mecklenburg County)

**Guests:** Megan Brightharp, Brady Finklea (Kimley-Horn), Adam Howell (Atkins), Jorge Luna (HDR), Todd McAulliffe (AECOM), William Nance, Michelle Podeszwa (LandDesign), Bill Thunberg (LNTC), Kevin Walsh (HDR), Lyuba Zuyeva (VHB)

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Liz Babson opened the virtual meeting at 10:00 a.m. J. Travis Johnson reviewed the virtual meeting guidelines and conducted a roll call to document attendance. Mr. Johnson determined that a quorum was achieved.

**2. Adoption of the Agenda**

Ms. Babson asked if changes to the agenda were necessary. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to approve today’s agenda.

Motion:

David McDonald made a motion to approve today’s agenda. Alysia Osborne seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.

**3. Consideration of Consent Agenda**

Ms. Babson stated that the consent agenda for the January meeting contained the following items:

- Approval of December 2, 2021 TCC Minutes
- FY 2022 UPWP Amendment –Downtown Traffic Improvement Study (Mooresville)
- FY 2022 UPWP Amendment – Charlotte to Mooresville Trail (The Seam)
- 2020-2029 TIP Amendments

Motion:

Erika Martin made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Dana Stoogenke seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.

**TCC BUSINESS ITEMS**

**4.1 Election of Officers**

Presenter: Liz Babson, CDOT

Summary:

Ms. Babson stated that it is the responsibility of the TCC to annually elect new officers during the first meeting of the year. She then opened the nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair of the TCC.

Chair Nominations

Lisa Stiwinter made a motion to open the nominations; Ms. Martin seconded the motion.

Andrew Ventresca nominated Liz Babson for Chair of the TCC for 2022. No other nominations were put forth.

Ms. Liz Babson was elected Chair of the TCC for 2022 by acclamation.

Vice-Chair Nominations

Mr. McDonald made a motion to open the nominations; Bjorn Hansen seconded the motion.

Ms. Martin nominated Andrew Ventresca for Vice-Chair of the TCC for 2021. No other nominations were put forth.

Mr. Andrew Ventresca was elected Vice-Chair of the TCC for 2022 by acclamation.

**4.2 Beyond 77 Corridor Study**

Presenter: Agustin Rodriguez and Adam Howell, Atkins

Summary:

Mr. Rodriguez and Mr. Howell provided information to the TCC via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes [here](#). The presentation covered the following points:

Mr. Rodriguez started his presentation by sharing that the public comment period for the draft Beyond 77 Corridor Study would conclude on January 11. Mr. Rodriguez requested that the TCC recommend that the CRTPO Board adopt the recommendations and implementation plan for the Beyond 77 Corridor Study. His presentation provided a high-level overview of the study and what the study accomplished. 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 at [www.beyond77.com](http://www.beyond77.com). He shared that over 280 recommendations in the plan are sorted into immediate, short-term, medium-term, and long-term goals. Mr. Howell stated that the plan's recommendations were also sorted into four key areas. These include project implementation, emerging technology, programing, and policy making. He shared an overview of the Beyond 77 Toolkit and how it can be utilized by jurisdictions. 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:

Mr. Ventresca made a motion to recommend that the CRTPO Board adopt the Beyond 77 Corridor study. Ms. Martin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted and, the motion passed unanimously.

#### **4.3 Monroe Expressway Scenic Byway Designation**

Presenter: Warren Cooksey, NCTA

Summary:

Mr. Cooksey provided information to the TCC via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes [here](#). The presentation covered the following points:

Mr. Cooksey requested that the TCC recommend to the CRTPO Board to support the designation of the Monroe Expressway as a Scenic Byway. His presentation covered background information on the Scenic Highways Program in North Carolina, impact of scenic byway designation, and the need for action on this item. He stated that the two main impacts of the Scenic Byway designation is that it is included in NCDOT travel materials and G.S. 136-129.2 restricts placement of advertising signs adjacent to the scenic highway. Mr. Cooksey identified the following three reasons for the Monroe Expressway to be considered as a Scenic Byway:

1. Natural rural views of forests, fields, and farms
2. Additional landscaping treatment beyond the typical highway
3. Aesthetic treatment of infrastructure such as bridges and noise walls

The reason for requesting the CRTPO Board to support the designation of the Scenic Byway is to include evidence of local support in their application. He concluded his presentation by sharing the timeline for application. The application is due in January of 2022 and decision by the Board of Transportation on the proposed Scenic Byway would be in April of 2022.

Todd Huntsinger, Steve Fry, and Mr. Cooksey discussed if this designation would add any development restrictions on property adjacent to a designated Scenic Highway and if there would be additional outreach to jurisdictions along the corridor. Mr. Cooksey shared that he was unaware of any restrictions on land use beyond placement of advertising signs and he will be contacting jurisdictions along the corridor for letters of support. Dennis Jernigan stated that the scenic highway designation had economic development benefits and that NCTA will be contacting communities along the proposed scenic byway for letters of support to include in the application.

Bjorn Hansen shared concerns about the affect a Scenic Byway designation would have on the corridor. He did not feel that his jurisdiction was given adequate time to evaluate how a scenic highway designation would affect land use decisions and economic development. He requested that NCTA consider applying in 2023 to give jurisdictions more time to review the request.

Motion:

Ms. Stiwinter made a motion to recommend that the CRTPO Board support the designation of the Monroe Expressway as a Scenic Byway. Ms. Osborne seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed with Mr. Hansen casting a dissenting vote.

**TCC INFORMATION REPORTS**

**5.1 FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program**

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary:

Mr. Cook provided information to the TCC via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes [here](#). The presentation covered the following points:

Mr. Cook’s presentation shared an overview of the draft FY 2023 UPWP. His presentation covered provided an overview of the UPWP development process since the December TCC presentation, proposed funding allocations, and next steps.

He shared that this presentation is the first draft of the FY 2023 UPWP. This draft includes four planning studies, five planning projects from FY 2022 that need carryover funding in FY 2023, and proposed funding allocations from local match and the three federal funding sources. These three funding sources include FHWA Section 104(f) Planning Funds, FHWA Surface Transportation Block Grant-Direct Attributable (STBG-DA), and FTA Section 5303. Local matches are of at least 20% are required the federal funding sources listed above.

Mr. Cook then reviewed proposed funding amounts for planning activities expected to be included within the FY 2023 UPWP.

In February, the TCC and Board will receive a presentation on the second draft. Final recommendations will be presented to TCC and the Board for adoption in March.

**5.2 CRTPO Discretionary Funds Project Call – Recommended Projects**

Presenter: Andrew Ventresca, Troutman

Summary:

Mr. Ventresca provided information to the TCC via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes [here](#). The presentation covered the following points:

Mr. Ventresca provided an overview of the call for projects to award CRTPO discretionary funds that opened on August 9 and closed on October 29. He shared an overview of the types of funds that were available for this call for projects. He shared that the CRTPO accepted applications for new projects, existing projects in need of additional funding, and planning projects in consideration of programming \$50 million in available discretionary funds. 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.

Jason Burdette expressed concerns with the recommended list developed by the POC, specifically the bicycle and pedestrian projects. He explained that The Davidson Beatty St. Sidepath project received the same score (175.75) as the Mooresville South Elementary School Greenway Connector however only the Mooresville project received funding. Mr. Burdette requested that the POC review its process for evaluating tie project scores and find a way to fund both the Davidson and Mooresville bicycle and pedestrian project submittals. Ms. Martin supported the concept of funding both the Mooresville and Davidson bicycle and pedestrian project submittals. Mr. Burke reminded the TCC that the project lists were already over programmed and moving additional funds to these projects would affect the amount of discretionary funding available for the 2022 spring and fall project solicitations. Mr. Burke reminded the TCC that the CRTPO's Discretionary Project Policy gives priority to projects that commit to a greater local match percentage. Within the 2021 fall project call, the Town of Mooresville had committed a 25% local match to its sidewalk project proposal, and the Town of Davidson had committed 20% local match to the Beatty Street Sidepath. Mr. Burdette's concerns will be discussed during the January 13 POC meeting.

The TCC and Board will be requested to take action to approve funding allocations of the recommended projects during the February 2022 meeting.

### **5.3 FY 2023 Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Program Funds Project Oversight Committee Recommendation**

Presenter: Andrew Ventresca, Troutman

#### Summary:

Mr. Ventresca provided information to the TCC via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes [here](#). The presentation covered the following points:

Mr. Ventresca shared that the TCC received an update on the FY 2023 Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Program (CMAQ) Funds Project Oversight Committee recommendations as part of the Discretionary Funds Project Call – Recommended Projects presentation.

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 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 total discretionary project request amount.

Mr. Ventresca explained that the FY 2023 CMAQ applications are due by March 30, 2022, therefore the TCC will be requested to recommend endorsement for the applications for the Charlotte and Pineville Rail Yard GRADE project and the Irwin Creek Greenway during their February meeting.

## **OTHER REPORTS**

### **6.1. NCDOT Report**

Stuart Basham (NCDOT-Div. 10) and Anil Packer (NCDOT-Div. 12) provided an update on projects in the CRTPO planning area. A written update was included in the January TCC Agenda packet from both divisions.

### **6.2. Project Oversight Committee Update**

Jennifer Stafford shared that the Project Oversight Committee will meet on January 13 to discuss concerns brought up by the Town of Davidson on the draft Discretionary Funds Project list.

### **6.3. Bicycle and Pedestrian Work Group Report**

Curtis Bridges stated the Bicycle and Pedestrian Work Group will meet virtually on January 11 to discuss nominations for TCC Focus Area Representatives. A recommendation will be presented to the TCC in February.

### **6.4. Charlotte Regional Alliance for Transportation**

There were no CRAFT updates.

### **6.5 Upcoming Issues**

No Upcoming issues were identified.

## **7. ADJOURN**

Ms. Babson determined that the agenda had been adequately completed and adjourned the meeting at 11:28 a.m.