

CHARLOTTE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

February 16, 2022 Meeting

Summary Minutes

Members Attending (In-person)

Members Attending (via remote participation):

Julie Eiselt (Charlotte), Denis Bilodeau (Cornelius), Rob Kidwell (Huntersville), Ernestine Staton (Marshville), Renee Garner (Matthews), John Higdon (Metropolitan Transit Commission), Frederick Becker (Mineral Springs), Dale Dalton (Mint Hill), Eddie Dinger (Mooresville), Tony Lathrop (NC BOT-Division 10), Jack Edwards (Pineville), Brad Richardson (Stallings), William Morgan (Statesville), George Harris (Troutman), Ron Pappas (Waxhaw), Craig Horn (Weddington), Lori Bailey (Wesley Chapel)

Non-Voting Members Attending (via remote participation):

Jerry Santoni (Iredell County Planning Board), Jim Walker (NC Turnpike Authority), Loretta Barren (FHWA), Dennis Rape (Union County)

1. Call to Order

Chair Ron Pappas called the February 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.

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.

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 roll call 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. Adoption of the Agenda

Summary:

Chair Pappas asked if any changes to the agenda were necessary. No changes were identified.

Motion:

Chair Pappas made a motion to the Board to adopt the agenda by acclamation unless at least one opposing vote is cast. No opposing vote was cast. Upon being put to a vote, the motion to adopt the agenda as presented was approved by acclamation.

3. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

4. Ethics Awareness & Conflict of Interest Reminder

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

5. Consent Agenda

Summary:

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

- a) January 26, 2022 CRTPO Board Meeting minutes
- b) 2020-2029 TIP Amendments
- c) Performance-Based Planning: 2022 Safety Targets
- d) FY 2023 Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Program (CMAQ) – Recommended Projects
- e) FY 2022 UPWP Amendment - Downtown Traffic Improvements Study (Mooresville)

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. No opposing vote was cast. Upon being put to a vote, the motion to adopt the consent agenda was approved by acclamation.

6. 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.

He began his presentation by stating that the requested action is to approve the discretionary funds for the projects recommended from the Fall 2021 project call and amend the 2020-2029 Transportation Improvement Program to add the funding allocations to new and existing 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 Davidson Board delegate expressed concern during the January meeting regarding the recommended bicycle and pedestrian project list and its exclusion of the Beaty 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. The TCC approved the recommendation that the Board approve the recommended project list with the Davidson TCC delegate voting in opposition during the February 3 meeting.

Mayor Horn questioned the TCC recommendation not to fund both the Davidson and Mooresville sidewalk projects when they received the same score during the fall 2021 discretionary project call. 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.

Mayor Higdon inquired if the unfunded Davidson bicycle/pedestrian project could be given priority during the 2022 call for new discretionary projects. Mr. Burke responded to explain that each annual call is a competitive process. Jurisdictions with unfunded projects can consider applying a higher local match and/or adjust the project scope, which may lower the overall funding request.

Dennis Rape questioned the recommendation to approve CMAQ funding for the Grants to Reduce Aging Diesel Engine (GRADE) project for the railyard project that may benefit a private railroad (Norfolk Southern). Mr. Burke

stated that GRADE projects are able to demonstrate significant emissions benefit reductions for the region and this aligns with the intent of CMAQ funding to reduce pollutants.

Motion:

Chair Pappas made a motion to the Board to approve the discretionary funds for the projects recommended from the Fall 2021 project call and amend the 2020-2029 Transportation Improvement Program to add the funding allocations to new and existing projects by acclamation unless at least one opposing vote is cast. No opposing vote was cast. Upon being put to a vote, the motion was approved by acclamation.

7. 2022 Future CRTPO Education Sessions Input & Planning

Presenter:

Judy Dellert-O'Keef

Summary:

Ms. Dellert-O'Keef provided information to the Board via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes.

She stated that the presentation's purpose was to obtain Board member input on education session topics throughout 2022. Education sessions begin at 5:00 p.m. prior to board meetings. Staff anticipates holding four to six education sessions in 2022, approximately every two months. Ms. Dellert-O'Keef explained that the goal of education sessions is to inform current transportation issues, understand your role as a board member, and highlight the activities of the CRTPO.

She proceeded to obtain board feedback on 2022 education session topics by utilizing online interactive polling software. Upcoming education sessions throughout 2022 will be communicated to the Board once speakers have been confirmed.

8. 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Revised 2020-2029 TIP Update

Presenter:

Neil Burke

Summary:

Mr. Burke 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 provide an update on the public comment period for the 2050 MTP and associated documents and preview the requested action for the Board during the March 2022 meeting.

The 30-day public comment period for the draft 2050 MTP, revised 2020-2029 TIP, 2045 MTP Amendments, and draft Conformity Determination Report began on January 18 and will conclude on February 17. A summary of outreach efforts was provided. Twelve events were held that reached approximately 225 people. Eight comments were received. The comments expressed support for projects included in the plan, requested that several projects be accelerated and supported multi-modal transportation projects.

Action will be requested from the TCC and Board in March of 2022 to adopt the 2050 MTP, approve the revised 2020-2029 TIP, 2045 MTP amendments and make an air quality conformity determination.

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. An overview of the UPWP was provided. The UPWP is the CRTPO's budget. Funding levels by source were reviewed.

The second draft of the FY 2023 UPWP was reviewed with updated funding allocations. The allocation process is largely complete, and the document is being prepared. Proposed allocations by task code were reviewed. Input received at the January 26 Transportation Staff meeting, and January 26 Board meeting was provided. Proposed FY 2023 UPWP funding allocations were reviewed for the following: local planning projects, CATS Silver Line Rail Trail Support and CONNECT Beyond implementation manager support.

He concluded his presentation by stating that action will be requested for the Board to adopt the FY 2023 UPWP in March.

10. FY 2022 CRTPO Self-Certification

Presenter:

Robert Cook

Summary:

Mr. Cook stated that federal regulations require MPOs to annually self-certify to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) that their planning processes address the major issues facing the planning area and are being conducted in accordance with all applicable requirements of the metropolitan planning process and related requirements. A checklist was reviewed that addresses all major regulations and statutes. Staff's finding was that the CRTPO was meeting all requirements. This topic was addressed during the January 26 Transportation Staff meeting and during the February TCC meeting. Action will be requested in March for the Board to adopt a self-certification resolution for FY 2022.

11. CATS 2020-2029 TIP Amendments

Presenter:

David McDonald, CATS

Summary:

Mr. McDonald 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 two 2020-2029 TIP amendments to authorize funding received from federal grants.

The first proposed amendment is a \$15 million Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant redevelop the Charlotte Transportation Center. This is CATS main transit hub in Uptown Charlotte. The second proposed TIP amendment is to authorize a \$ 405,000 federal grant from the Federal Transit Administration's Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Pilot Program.

Mr. McDonald explains that the NC Board of Transportation must also approve amendments to the 2020-2029 STIP following the CRTPO's approval of these amendments within its TIP. Action will be requested that the Board approve the amendments during the March meeting.

12. Strategic Plan Implementation Process

Presenter:

Robert Cook

Summary:

Mr. Cook provided an update on the implementation of the Strategic Plan by stating that staff has met internally to start the implementation for Goal #6: Expand Regional Transportation Funding. Mr. Cook stated that Mr. Burke will lead the implementation process for Goal 6 due to his expertise with the NCDOT Prioritization and TIP development processes.

There are seven strategies to support Goal 6 that have been prioritized by immediate, short, and mid-term priorities. The next steps will be for staff to develop implementation plans for the Goal 6 strategies and review them with the CRTPO chair and vice-chair. Mr. Cook concluded his presentation by reminding the Board that staff will need continued support from all delegates in order to advance the implementation efforts of the Strategic Plan.

13. Upcoming Agenda Items

Presenter:

Neil Burke

Summary:

The March 16 CRTPO Board agenda will include the following action items:

- Approval of 2050 MTP, 2020-2029 TIP and 2045 MTP amendments, and Air Quality Conformity Determination Finding
- Approval of FY 2023 UPWP
- Adoption of FY 2022 Self-Certification Resolution
- Approval of CATS 2020-2029 TIP Amendments

Information reports will be provided on the following issues:

- NCDOT STBG-DA/State Highway Trust Fund Exchange

Mr. Burke provided the following announcements:

- A joint CRTPO-Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln MPO Board meeting will be held on April 28 at 5:00 pm at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center. Board members will receive an email with additional meeting information soon.
- Beyond 77 Corridor Study has been nominated for an NCDOT Mobi award. Board members were encouraged to cast their votes prior to the deadline of February 25.
- 2022 NC Ethics SEI and RED Forms are due April 15. To date, 6 of 45 voting delegates and alternates have successfully filed their forms.
- Registration is open for the NC Association of MPO Conference. It will be held in Wilmington on April 20-22.
- CRTPO has completed a comprehensive website overhaul, with a new look and upgraded features for Board members, TCC, and residents to find the information they need.
 - This is the first major upgrade since 2013 when the CRTPO created a new website after changing its name from MUMPO.

14. Board Member Comments

Presenter:

Ron Pappas

Chair Pappas provided comments on the education session by stating that the new federal infrastructure bill won't resolve all of the transportation funding needs in the region. He encouraged the Board members to support the implementation of the Strategic Plan Goal to identify additional funding sources.

15. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.