

Charlotte Regional Alliance For Transportation

Executive Committee Meeting

July 23, 2019

4:00 PM

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center

Room 280

AGENDA

1. **Welcome and Introduction** Michael Johnson, CRTPO Chairman
2. **Approval of 2/29/16 Executive Committee Minutes** Michael Johnson, CRTPO Chairman
3. **Orientation & History** Phil Conrad, Cabarrus Rowan MPO
4. **Regional Intelligent Transportation System Plan Update** Jessica Hill, Centralina COG
Andy Bailey, NCDOT
5. **Regional Transit Study** Michelle Nance, Centralina COG
Jason Lawrence, CATS
6. **FAST Act Rescission** Robert Cook, CRTPO
7. **Other Issues**
 - I-77 Corridor Study Robert Cook, CRTPO
 - TIP Preparation Updates MPO/RPO Staff Members
 - NC Railroad Video Phil Conrad, Cabarrus Rowan MPO
8. **Adjournment**

MINUTES

CHARLOTTE REGIONAL ALLIANCE FOR TRANSPORTATION

Monday, February 29, 2016 – 4:00 pm

Concord Fire Station #9

Members:

Todd Piercell
George Sheppard
Michael Johnson
Bobby Usrey
Greg Edds

GCL MPO
RFATS/COG
Charlotte TPO
Rocky River RPO
Cabarrus-Rowan MPO

Others:

Harry Warren
John Torbett
Larry Pittman
Hank Graham
Bjorn Hansen
Dana Stoogenke
David Hooper
Richard Allen
Martin Oakes
Bob Cook
Stuart Basham
Warren Cooksey
Connie Cunningham
Phil Conrad
Liz Poole
Rich Wise
Jeff Phillips
Tommy Garver
Candace Leonard
Neil Burke
Mark Pleasant
Jim Prosser
Robby Moody
Clay Ruff

NC House District 77
NC House District 108
NC House District 82
GCL MPO Staff
GCL MPO Staff
RR RPO Staff
RFATS Staff
RR RPO
City of Lincoln
CR TPO Staff
NCDOT
NCDOT
CR MPO Staff
CR MPO Staff
CR MPO
CR MPO
CR MPO
CR MPO
CR TPO
CR TPO
SCDOT
Centralina COG
Catawba COG
Governor's Office

Call to Order

Presiding Officer Greg Edds called the February 29, 2016 CRAFT meeting to order. Mr. Edds welcomed the members and recognized all of the members and guests in attendance including NC House Members and Mr. Ruff from the Governor's Piedmont office. He then read the roll call to confirm a quorum of the Executive Committee. With a quorum confirmed, Mr. Edds asked the members if there were any additions to the agenda. Mr. Conrad confirmed an addition under reports for a TIGER Grant Call for Project proposals to be provided by GCL MPO staff. With this addition to the agenda, Mr. Edds moved onto the next item of business. He recognized Representative John Torbett from the NC House District 108 to provide an update on legislative matters.

Rep. Torbett stated that the State could meet about a fifth of the transportation needs over the next 10 years prior to some recent changes. He mentioned that the transfer of funds to the General Fund from the Highway Trust Fund was ended by the Legislature in addition to some higher DMV fees, which will result in about \$600 billion biennially. The changes will enable the State to meet about a third of the transportation needs. He simply stated that the State needed a new revenue source other than the gas tax. He stated that the House Transportation Committee would be looking options for raising revenues including tolls. He

highlighted the NC 49 corridor across the state as an alternative to the interstate system. He mentioned the importance of the ports in Morehead City and Wilmington. He noted the push to fix potholes and lower the response time to 48 hours by the NCDOT. He noted the successes of the STI law and the possibility of an additional tier above statewide tier to mega projects like I-95 and its value to the rest of the state. He noted the return on investment for transportation projects to the economy with jobs and tax base. Rep. Warren followed with some comments about the declining demand and revenue under the gas tax. Rep. Pittman noted the need for local input by NCDOT particularly related to the footprint of large scale projects. He said there needs to be more communication on the front end for projects like high speed rail.

Consideration of Meeting Notes

Mr. Edds asked for comments on the meeting notes from the August 14, 2014 meeting. Mr. Todd Pierceall made a motion to approve the notes as presented and Mr. George Shepherd seconded the motion. He called for a vote and it was unanimous.

STI Present versus STI Future

Warren Cooksey gave an overview of STI and its impact on the transportation funding. He noted that the old Equity Formula promised that 90 percent of the population would live within 10 miles of a 4 lane highway. He said that STI has focused more on congestion and bottlenecks statewide versus this geographical distribution across the state. He mentioned the 3 tiers: statewide, regional and division. He noted that the MPO's and RPO are often dividing between funding regions and divisions. There are 3 funding regions and 3 divisions in the Charlotte Region. He reviewed the criteria for scoring projects and the project eligibility by mode. He showed a map of the projects funded in the most recent TIP and their geographic distribution. He also noted that the majority of the statewide projects were in major metro areas across the state. He concluded with graphs showing the future funding challenges i.e. shrinking revenue source and growing population in NC. Mr. Todd Pierceall made a motion to accept the report and Mr. George Shepherd seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

2040 Transportation Needs Overview

Mark Pleasant gave an overview of the 2040 Transportation Needs in the state of SC. He noted the State's Long Range Multi-Modal Plan as well as an Asset Management Performance Plan. He showed some comparison of congestion based on the distribution of revenue. Interstate congestion is projected to increase significantly by 2040. He noted that I-95 is a major freight corridor similar to NC. He said that 50 percent of the pavement in SC was in poor condition and maintenance is graded at a D. He said that Act 98 was initiated to address the non-federal aid, lowest volume roads. He said that one of the main reasons for the Plan was to set goals and estimate revenue. He noted that 52 percent of the \$1.6 billion budget was to go toward maintenance and system preservation. He said that 7.4 percent goes toward the State Infrastructure Bank and 2.6 percent goes directly to the counties. Mr. Pleasant stated that the State projects about \$28 billion in revenue by 2040. He concluded with the some slides on Act 114 which has setup some project criteria similar to STI (NC) for MPO and COG statewide capacity projects. Mr. Todd Pierceall made a motion to accept the report and Mr. George Shepherd seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Reports & Updates

- Ramp Meter Study – Stuart Basham gave a presentation on the Ramp Meter Study. (A signal is installed on interstate on-ramps.) The Study involves 4 counties and 3 MPOs. He noted the benefits of ramp metering and showed a table of the stage 1 congestion analysis. He talked about some measures of effectiveness and concluded with the schedule to included final recommendations in the fall of 2016.

- Regional Freight Study – Jim Prosser gave an update on the Regional Freight Study. He noted the growth impacts of freight infrastructure. He indicated that the Study will include partnerships with businesses in the region including the logistics industry. He provided a handout to the group noting a summary of work performed, committee structure, and schedule for 2016.
- CRAFT MOA – No report given by NCDOT.
- TIGER Grant – Bjorn Hansen noted that current federal TIGER Application call and provided a handout for the group. USDOT Secretary Fox announced \$500 million in TIGER funding to be distributed through discretionary grant process. He said that potential projects may cross categories and the deadline was the end of April.

Adjournment

CRAFT Technical Committee Meeting Notes – Bob Cook gave an oral report on the recent transactions at the Technical Committee level including work completed on the MOA.

With no other business to consider, the CRAFT Executive Committee adjourned for dinner at 6 pm. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for the fall 2016.

CRAFT Technical Committee
Meeting Notes
May 28, 2019

Attendees: Randi Gates, Gaston MPO; Agustin Rodriguez, CRTPO; Erin Kinne, CRTPO; Curtis Bridges, CRTPO; Michelle Nance, CCOG; Jason Wager, CCOG; Willie King Jr., Gaston County; Juan Garcia, Gaston County; Andy Bailey, NCDOT; Chris Herrmann, RFATS; Loretta Barren, FHWA; Judy Delbert-O'Keef, CRTPO; Theo Thompson, CRTPO; Martin Kinnamon, CDOT; David Hooper, RFATS; Jim Kessler, NCRRT; Megan Hoenk, NCRRT; Eddie McFalls, NCDOT Rail; Julio Paredes, GCLMPO; Jane Love, GCLMPO; Heather Hildebrandt, NCDOT; Dominique Boyd, NCDOT; Robby Moody, CRCOG; Bill Thunberg, LNRTC; Beth Smyre, Dewberry; and Phil Conrad, Cabarrus-Rowan MPO.

1. Phil Conrad from the Cabarrus-Rowan MPO began the meeting at 10:01 am and welcomed everyone in attendance and noted some housekeeping details.
2. Phil asked if there were any corrections, additions and/or deletions to the March 26, 2019 minutes. Ms. Randi Gates made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. David Hooper seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.
3. Phil Conrad asked Eddie McFalls and Beth Smyre to come forward and present on the update to the Statewide Rail Plan. They indicated that the Plan Update is in the stakeholder involvement phase and currently has both a project manager with NCDOT and the consultant. Mr. McFalls indicated the need for safety on the sealed corridor through traffic separation studies. He noted that the short line railroads were not eligible for funds through STI. He talked about the daily passenger service via the Piedmont and Carolinian and the Amtrak connector to Winston-Salem. He said a third round trip began in June 2018 with future plans for new stops in Harrisburg and Hillsborough. He said the statewide rail plan was a vision for the next 25 years and was last updated in 2015. He noted that this plan will look at service frequency and governance. He thanked the membership for the opportunity to present and indicated a desire to stay connected to the CRAFT group.
4. Phil Conrad asked Jim Kessler and Megan Hoenk to give an update on the NC Railroad. Mr. Kessler explained that the Railroad is an important partner to NCDOT and the MPO's along the corridor. He noted the Railroad began in 1842 under the leadership of John Motley Morehead. He said the stop in Salisbury opened in 1855. Originally, 75 percent of the railroad was owned by the state and 25 percent by the citizens. It is not 100 percent owned by the state of NC and is a private business corporation. The tracks are leased to Norfolk Southern for freight. The NC Railroad pays dividends to the state and is a significant partner for economic development, including access to 4 mega-sites. The NC Railroad corridor is 317 miles long and has a right-of-way of 200 feet. A total of 10 miles is shared with CATS for the blue line extension. Of the recent \$545 million ARRA project, NC Railroad allocated \$21 million towards the corridor. Mr. Kessler mentioned several local projects in the area: Exit 58, Rogers Lake Road grade separation, as well as other projects under evaluation with STI. He mentioned an upcoming rail forum on August 20th in Raleigh at the Convention Center.

5. Ms. Heather Hildebrandt gave an update on changes to the statewide CMAQ process. She mentioned the 3 tiers of funding: statewide, regional, and subregional. She said that the regional tier projects span multiple air sheds. She said that the subregional funds are allocated based on severity air quality in the area by NCDOT. She noted that CMAQ funds committed thru 2020 under the current federal transportation bill. She noted that this could change and adverse issues with the pending federal rescission of funds. She said that a work group is meeting to come up with some new guideline for CMAQ. One of the issues is project delivery with less than half of project obtaining agreements to begin, so funds are just sitting in reserve. She also noted the connection between federal performance measures and air quality improvements at the MPO level, particularly for the large MPOs. She said that a survey would be coming out soon and there will be no blanket projects in the future. She said that NCDOT wants to reward areas that are proficient at delivering projects. She indicated that there are no new funds for CMAQ at this time. She said the work group will be recommending a time frame for when funds must be expended and an allocation methodology.
6. Phil Conrad explained that the project coordination was a standing item. He asked Chris Herrmann to talk about the progress of the regional online GIS effort. Mr. Herrmann reviewed the original need for the regional online GIS effort including transparency and the sharing of data. He noted some issues in the Rock Hill area, including traffic volumes south of the city. He highlighted some Pennies for Progress projects, Paul Branch Road, the widening of 160 and 521, the dual DDI at exit 82 and exit 85. He noted a STB application for exit 83. On the NC side, CRTPO has a project to widen 521 to Ballantyne which is very encouraging.
7. Mr. Andy Bailey provided an update on the SPR funds and noted the award to I-77 Study at \$2 million as well as the Gaston project for another crossing of the Catawba River. He said that the SPR funds ran out on the ITS and CommunityViz project requests. He noted the additional PL allocation as a funding source for these studies. He felt that there would be less funds next year upon a question of resubmitting the requests. He noted a household survey that was funded thru SPR, but not sure how regional requests will be handled in the future. Members expressed regret that something like ITS which is federally required was not funded. Andy noted the new TIP schedule and it's impact on the Metrolina Conformity Process. He said that comparisons with the MTP's will crank up again. He said that the P6.0 criteria will be likely approved at the June BOT meeting.
8. Phil Conrad noted the upcoming Executive Committee meeting on July 23rd in Charlotte. He asked David Hooper to give a summary of the process as Bob Cook was not in attendance. David said that the meeting will be hosted by CRTPO and likely include 4 items. He noted that staff is meeting to arrange the logistics and finish off the agenda thru a series of conference calls.
9. Mr. David Hooper made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Randi Gates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The next meeting will be hosted by CR TPO and be held on July 23, 2019. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.