

# Vision & Needs Workshop Summary

August 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020

The purpose of this memorandum is to summarize the discussion from Vision & Needs workshops held on August 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 through virtual presentation and Zoom call for the Beyond 77 Study. Below is a list of Advisory/Steering attendees who took part in this event:

- Brian Nadolny, CATS
- Warren Cooksey, NCDOT
- Andrew Ventresca, Town of Davidson
- Julie Eiselt, City of Charlotte Mayor Pro Tem
- Jason Wager, CCOG
- Stuart Basham, NCDOT
- Ken Robertson, Iredell County Commissioner
- Loretta Barren, FHWA
- David Hooper, RFATS
- Matthew Todd, Iredell County
- Dominique Boyd, NCDOT
- Dr. Mike Miltich, Town of Cornelius & CRTPO Board Chairman
- Brandon Brezeale, CDOT
- Gary Fournier, Town of Cornelius
- Jessica Hill, CCOG
- Tim Gibbs, CDOT

## Highlights

- There was a robust discussion about the definition of 'equitable mobility solutions' and the project team will work to define this element.
- There was also a desire to ensure that the vision, guiding principles, and goals can be understood by the public.
- There was support for including innovation and integration of land use and transportation.
- There is a need to ensure that the language is clear that we are looking at connecting people across I-77.
- Congestion was the most common mobility issue through the corridor and Mode Choice was the top mobility issue in the most individual Focus Areas.
- Safety, Connectivity, and Land Use were the second level of issues behind Congestion and Mode Choice.
- Freight and Innovation were in the bottom two of mobility issues in over half the Focus Areas.
- Innovation was a top mobility issue in Uptown Charlotte given the limited space.

## Summary of Workshop Discussion

1. Welcome & Introductions (Gene Conti)
2. Review Draft Vision, Guiding Principles, and Goals (Tyler Bray)
  - a. *Mr. Bray provided an overview of the current draft vision, guiding principles, and goals for the Beyond 77 project and facilitated discussion among the workshop participants for questions, comments, and recommended revisions.*
  - b. *Some themes that emerged for refining the vision included the need to emphasize the geographic specificity and limits of the project study area, define the meaning of “transportation system” to include multiple modes, and to further define “equitable.” Workshop participants felt the draft vision was comprehensive and supported the inclusion of multimodal transport and innovation.*
  - c. *During the guiding principles discussion, comments focused on defining the “natural and build environment” and the integration of transportation with land use. A key recommendation was to emphasize that the focus is on more than just the I-77 roadway itself, but also other modes and connections around and across the interstate.*
  - d. *Some recommendations from workshop participants when discussing the goals included combining the “freight” and “distribution hub” themes into one goal; incorporating “places of education” as another trip generator alongside jobs, goods, and services; defining “transportation management” to be more understandable for the public and inclusive of other technology such as travel information for making mobility decisions; refining the phrasing of walking, bicycling, transit, and motor vehicle modes to include personal mobility as a mode and reflect equal priority for all modes while also reflecting the diversity along the corridor for modal goals; and to keep an emphasis on equity and safety in mind across all of the goals.*
3. Review Mobility Issues and Focus Areas of Congestion (Tyler Bray)
  - a. *Mr. Bray provided an overview of each of the (7) defined mobility issues and each of the (12) focus areas of congestion along the corridor. Discussion of each geographic focus area and its most relevant mobility issues was facilitated using live polls of the workshop participants as well as reviewing the “homework” results from participants from the previous week.*
  - b. *Workshop participants provided feedback for each focus area including localized information related to existing safety and congestion issues, connectivity barriers, the impacts of land use on safety, congestion, connectivity, and mode choice, and future plans for capacity improvement projects. A lack of multimodal options and safe connections, a lack of viable alternatives to I-77 and other primary routes, and freight congestion and safety issues were also themes in many focus areas. In the Uptown Charlotte focus area, the primary mobility issue was seen to be innovation, as this area is essentially built out for road infrastructure and already has good connectivity and multimodal options.*

- c. *Mr. Wager provided information related to the innovation mobility issue and the FHWA Alternative Fuels Corridor initiative.*

**Next Steps & Action Items**

- Launch of Phase II Survey (*Mid-August*).
- Upcoming Innovation Workshop (*September 29 & October 6, Times to be determined*).
- Consultant team to update and refine Vision, Guiding Principles, and Goals to create final draft version (*Late-August*).
- CRTPO staff to release outlook invitation for Innovation Workshop (*Mid-August*).