

**TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 16, 2005**

The Transportation Advisory Committee met on Wednesday, February 16, 2005 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Raleigh Municipal Building with the following present:

**Members**

Vice Chairman Meeker, presiding  
Don Bumgarner  
John Byrne  
Mike Chalk  
Bill Connoly  
Jan Faulkner  
Ann Franklin  
Vivian Jones  
Nancy Kelly  
Buck Kennedy  
Dick Sears  
Nina Szlosberg  
Harold Webb

**Representing**

Raleigh  
Zebulon  
Fuquay-Varina  
Knightdale  
Wendell  
Morrisville  
TTA  
Wake Forest  
Rolesville  
Garner  
Holly Springs  
NCDOT  
Wake County

**Staff**

Chip Russell  
Ed Johnson  
Kenneth Withrow

**Representing**

TCC Chair  
CAMPO Director  
CAMPO Staff

**Others Present**

Joe Stevens

**Representing**

FHWA

Vice Chair Meeker called the meeting to order. The following items were discussed with actions taken as shown:

**AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS – AGENDA APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

There were no changes to the agenda; therefore, without objection, the agenda was approved as presented.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS – NONE RECEIVED**

Vice Chair Meeker announced this was an opportunity for comments by those in attendance. No one asked to be heard.

## **MINUTES – JANUARY 26, 2005 – APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

Minutes of the January 26, 2005 meeting were provided to members in their agenda packets. Mr. Sears moved approval of the minutes as presented. His motion was seconded by Mr. Byrne, unanimously passed. Chairman Meeker ruled the motion adopted.

## **CAPITAL AREA MPO PLANNING PROCESSES – PUBLIC HEARING – RECEIVED AS INFORMATION**

The agenda indicated the Federal Certification Review was being held February 16-17, 2005. The review meetings were conducted by FHWA and FTA staff and held in the CAMPO offices. Since this certification review would not be completed until February 17, a complete report of the review findings and recommendations would be made at a future meeting.

This meeting includes a public hearing that was scheduled and advertised for the federal certification review team to receive comments from interested persons on any issue pertaining to the MPO process.

Joe Stevens, FHWA, provided information relating to the review process. Mr. Stevens noted no one from the public was present to make comments. He introduced members of the Federal Review Team. He indicated the following day EPA representatives would be present for discussions on the air quality portion of the review. He explained this review takes place every three years and the public hearing provides an opportunity for comments on the area transportation planning process. He noted comments would be received at the hearing and comments could be mailed in over the next 30 days. The outcome of the review involves a report issued in 60 days summarizing discussions taking place during the review.

Chairman Meeker questioned other than air quality conformity, were there other issues that should be considered. Mr. Stevens responded the team had spent all day on this review already and commended staff for the preparations done and for the cooperation received. He stated it seems there is a good planning process going on in this area and seems to be meeting all federal requirements that had been reviewed to this point. Mr. Sears questioned how the public would be aware they will have an opportunity to participate. Mr. Stevens indicated this hearing was advertised 30 days ago that included this hearing and the mailing address for written comments. Mr. Byrne suggested that the town include notice of this hearing on their web sites in the future. Mr. Stevens agreed that was a good suggestion noting this was on the MPO web site but could also be included on the individual town web sites.

Chairman Meeker declared the hearing open. No one was present to speak. Chairman Meeker closed the hearing.

**TRIANGLE REGION 2005 AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY DETERMINATION PROCESS – PUBLIC HEARING – HEARING HELD OPEN UNTIL THE MARCH 16, 2005 MEETING**

The Air Quality Conformity Analysis and Determination Report applies to the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan. An acceptable Conformity Determination finding allows transportation projects within the CAMPO area to continue to receive funding for construction. John Hodges-Copple of the Triangle J Council of Governments has been leading this coordination effort involving three current versions of the Air Quality Conformity Report. A 50-day public comment period began on January 20, 2005 and is to close on March 11, 2005. A public hearing is scheduled and has been advertised for this meeting for the TAC to receive comments on any issue pertaining to the report and conformity determination. TAC action to approve the Air Quality Conformity Analysis and Determination Report and make the Conformity Determination is scheduled for the next TAC meeting on March 16, 2005. Staff recommended that this hearing be held open until the following meeting to receive additional comments prior to final approval action being considered.

Mr. Hodges-Copple explained this, like the previous item, was an opportunity for the public to voice any comments they may have regarding the air quality conformity report and written comments could also be received. Chairman Meeker questioned given changes in NCDOT funding where a fair amount of funds would be allocated elsewhere in the next several years, how would that affect our air quality conformity process. Mr. Johnson responded we do not anticipate having to rerun the conformity determination. Three projects mentioned were shown in the 2020 completion decade referring to I-40 and I-440 West where we had shown them both as 2020 projects. Mr. Johnson explained at the TAC meeting on March 16, final determination would be made on findings and the final LRTP would be adopted with that finding. This would go to FHWA and US EPA for their concurrence which is to occur by June 15, 2005. Ms. Franklin noted our conformity is not dependent on transportation control measures and cannot determine what our leeway is. She questioned how close are we playing to the edge. Mr. Hodges-Copple explained STIP will get new limits on the amount of emissions we can have from vehicles. He indicated to the state's credit, they are involving more MPOs and other regional partners in the STIP than in the past and will be aware of any problems sooner in the process.

Chairman Meeker declared the hearing open. No one was present to be heard. Chairman Meeker indicated the hearing would be held open until the March 16, 2005 meeting at which time final action would be taken on this item.

**STATE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – STATUS REPORT - INFORMATION RECEIVED – TTA TO PROVIDE REPORT**

On January 6, 2005, NCDOT indicated that the upcoming draft STIP for FY 2006-2012 was being adjusted to rebalance funding levels between the state's 14 highway divisions to bring expenditures since 1999 back into compliance with the equity formula originally

established by the Highway Trust Fund Act of 1989 as subsequently modified in 1999 to require precise funding compliance within each Highway division. NCDOT indicated that this rebalancing would require removing \$326 million of proposed funding from Division Five over the next seven years of the TIP. At the time of the announcement, high priority highway projects in Wake County proposed to be delayed beyond 2012 included; I-40 from US 1/64 to Wade Avenue, I-440 from I-40 to Wade Avenue and US 401 from Rolesville to Louisburg. On February 6, 2005, it was reported by the Raleigh News and Observer that inadequate cash balances may require NCDOT to delay projects lettings later this year, such as the US 70 Clayton Bypass. NCDOT senior staff had been invited to attend the meeting to provide information. Staff recommended the TAC may wish to express concern to NCDOT and/or others about the consequences of this proposed action further reducing already inadequate state and federal funding to help address this region's steadily growing traffic congestion problems.

Mr. Johnson indicated Secretary Tippet had indicated as policy he does not want NCDOT to match STP DA funds identified as TIP projects. Ms. Szlosberg indicated she had questioned Calvin Leggett about this who indicated we would not be affected other than applying toward our equity formula allocation. She noted she had not heard Secretary Tippet's comments about the 20% match. Mr. Johnson explained the money was used to accelerate the Knightdale Bypass and the East Wake Expressway and was to take \$326 million out of what they have planned. I-440 from I-40 to Wade and US 401 (Rolesville Bypass) were removed. Mr. Johnson stated there was an announcement there had been an awareness there was a cash flow problem with DOT. The group working for the Legislature identified the State had \$1 billion in unallocated reserve funds on hand a couple of years ago and the recommendation was they should draw that down. Through a combination of commitments with various programs there was a \$1.5 billion draw down on a number of things. Mr. Johnson explained the model used only went 12 months in the future and they committed projects beyond the revenues coming in. He understood they are pulling back the match projects and they believe with doing that this cash problem will go away. Mr. Meeker indicated it is the feeling in the General Assembly that DOT has not calculated how much was borrowed and all of this is entirely negative to our division. Mr. Sears indicated Holly Springs is not the biggest town in the County but is the fastest growing. He explained they had to borrow \$5 million to do two road intersections. He stated towns like this are having trouble fixing roads. Mr. Meeker stated \$150 million was spent on State thoroughfares and now in this year's budget 7% is going to pay the debt on the State Thoroughfare System. He felt it is inappropriate to have this going on for a 20 year period of time.

Ms. Szlosberg explained everyone is in this boat together and DOT has 78,000 miles of State maintained roads and this area has been in a major expansion mode and have been running behind lots of municipalities. She stated DOT is running behind developers and towns trying to build roads and had not been able to allocate funds for preservation. She reported a state-wide plan has been implemented for a new approach to transportation involving preservation and maintenance. This can only be done in partnership with municipalities and have got to get together on land use and transportation planning. She noted she appreciated everyone's frustration and there is a \$3 billion program in the State

and there is a lot of need but money does not fall out of the sky. She indicated revenues can be increased or we can start changing the way we invest the money so it is done in a more efficient way. Mr. Meeker indicated the Metropolitan Coalition suggested changing this. The challenge is the project backlog and the fact that vehicle miles traveled increases 5% per year. Ms. Szlosberg indicated she did not think there is anything that would be done in the next 2-3 weeks. Mr. Byrne indicated if you look at the way the population is changing in North Carolina over the last ten years, it would provide a clear indication of where roads are more important. He hoped the legislature will take notice of some of those issues and rethink their method of allocating those funds. Ms. Szlosberg questioned if the transit agencies should be asked to get together projects for funding in order to put them in the mix. Mr. Johnson indicated we have not determined the funding for the Long Range Transit Vision Plan. Ms. Franklin indicated she would provide a report in 30 days on 2-3 options for transit plan proposals.

#### **PLANNING AREA AGREEMENT WITH THE DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO MPO – APPROVED**

Mr. Johnson referred to Attachment 8 in the agenda backup including a letter drafted by DCHC MPO that will serve to fulfill federal requirements relative to the planning for that portion of the Durham Urbanized Area (UZA) that lies within the Capital Area MPO MAB and likewise the portion of the Raleigh UZA that lies within the DHCH MAB.

Mr. Byrne moved approval of the agreement as outlined. His motion was seconded by Ms. Szlosberg, unanimously passed. Chairman Meeker ruled the motion adopted.

#### **CAPITAL AREA MPO FEBRUARY 10, 2005 STRATEGIC PLANNING RETREAT & TAC FOLLOW-UP –**

CAMPO Technical Coordinating Committee's Strategic Planning Retreat was held on February 10, 2005 at Lake Wheeler Park, facilitated by Warren Miller of Fountainworks. 50 members attended representing the TCC as well as senior professional staff from throughout the current and expanded area of CAMPO. Members received a copy of the agenda outlining the Retreat's overall goal of determining how CAMPO should organize and operate in the future. Mr. Johnson indicated as discussed at the last TAC meeting, to follow up on initiating the process of expanding the TAC to include interim representation from the MPO's newly added governments from four counties (Franklin, Granville, Harnett and Johnston) and six towns (Angier, Bunn, Clayton, Creedmoor, Franklinton and Youngsville), the consensus of those in attendance was to have a TAC meeting in March or April to which the new members would be invited, perhaps also including dinner, to facilitate current and new members becoming acquainted with each other and having the opportunity to begin understanding each other's current issues and concerns.

TCC Chairman Chip Russell reported every area was represented at the retreat with the exception of Zebulon and Rolesville and all of the new invited members were in attendance. He noted everyone stayed the entire day. He explained the intent was to get

some idea of the direction for the TCC over the next five years and where the emphasis should be. He noted the consultant did a good job. He reported much progress was made in six hours and were in the process of preparing a report to be shared with the TAC.

Mr. Johnson indicated the TCC did not get everything desired done but did come up with a major goal. He reported there is the desire to have something similar to San Diego's Transmit plan ready to go before the voters in five years that would include a total package for the region including freeways, transit, bikeways, city streets, etc. San Diego had a \$.50 sales tax beginning in 1987 and they got a lot accomplished. This tax expires in 2007 and came up with another 40 year extension. He noted this tax was approved by 67% noting people like the idea about aggressive high end transit. San Diego's congestion will be lower in 2030 that it is today according to forecasts. Mr. Johnson spoke to the desire to bring that information forward to the TAC and get direction on how the TAC would like to deal with this. Mr. Meeker indicated there is an effort to get additional legislation on the local authority created by six Chambers of Commerce in the Triangle. He stated that would be a vehicle for a referendum noting the theory is to link taxes with the particular projects. Ms. Szlosberg suggested discussing this at the TAC Retreat. Mr. Johnson discussed the possibility of an afternoon meeting with new members and suggested a social event allowing all members to meet each other. He indicated there would be potentially 10 additional members. Ms. Franklin suggested inviting the chair of DCHC to the event as well. Ms. Szlosberg indicated next month the Board will be sworn in for Division 5 and Kenneth Spaulding desires to be involved in Wake County. Chairman Meeker suggested inviting new members to the April meeting which would be a combination meeting/dinner. The event would be held on April 20 in lieu of the regular TAC meeting.

#### **GEORGE CHAPMAN – RETIREMENT**

This was an opportunity for CAMPO to recognize George Chapman, Raleigh's Planning Director and TCC Chair, who would be retiring February 28, 2005. It was noted Mr. Chapman had served as the Raleigh Planning Director for 25 years and within that time had served as an active member of CAMPO TCC, including serving as the TCC Chair for the last 10 years. A resolution recognizing his outstanding public service and planning impact he had provided to the citizens of Wake County, the Triangle Region and the State of North Carolina was included in the agenda packets.

Chairman Meeker thanked Mr. Chapman for all his efforts over the last two decades.

Mayor Byrne indicated what made him feel comfortable in coming on board the TAC was the way Mr. Chapman presented items in an understandable fashion.

Mayor Sears noted he had gotten to know Mr. Chapman well on a trip to Ottawa and indicated he was a fine person and wished him well in his retirement.

Ms. Szlosberg indicated many people who have been doing a profession for a while lose enthusiasm but Mr. Chapman has the same kind of enthusiasm and love for building places and making things special today as he did when he was 18 years old.

Ms. Franklin thanked Mr. Chapman for his many years of public service to Raleigh and its citizens.

Mr. Chapman indicated a lot of good work has been done and there is a lot left to be done. He stated his work had been rewarding and stated it is hard to leave when you have invested a lot but retirement is also an opportunity to move on and recognize there is a lot of good things happening. He referred to the forward motion taking place in the area at this time. He spoke regarding the recent workshop that was very exciting. He indicated an agreement had been reached with DCHC over the past year and both are going forward together to deal with problems in this region as a single transportation region. He stated he had been more impatient about that than most and felt both MPOs should have merged several years ago; however, the two groups are moving closer together. He stressed this is a single region and what this TAC does is affecting lives in Durham and Orange Counties and all other counties around us. He indicated this is the most important thing ahead of this organization – making sure everyone is seeing common interest.

Ms. Szlosberg moved adoption of the resolution. Her motion was seconded by Mr. Byrne, unanimously passed. Chairman Meeker ruled the motion adopted.

#### **TRIANGLE REGIONAL MODEL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – ED JOHNSON APPOINTED**

The agenda noted it was recommended that Ed Johnson, CAMPO Director, be approved by the TAC to assume the role of serving as the CAMPO's representative on the Triangle Regional Model Executive Committee, replacing George Chapman.

Ms. Franklin moved the appointment of Ed Johnson as recommended. His motion was seconded by Mr. Sears, unanimously passed.

#### **TCC CHAIR REPORT – RECEIVED**

Mr. Russell indicated he had worked with Mr. Chapman for years and had a lot of thinking to do before he agreed to be chairman of the TCC following Mr. Chapman. He indicated he was glad to be able to help in this capacity. He noted the TCC is moving forward with the US 1 Corridor Project. The RFP has been sent out and the date for submission is March 4, 2004.

#### **NCDOT STAFF REPORTS – RECEIVED**

Jon Nance reported this year the State will complete the pedestrian bridge over the Beltline, the Knightdale Bypass and the Garner Signal System.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Hunt