

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MARCH 15, 2006
MINUTES

The Transportation Advisory Committee met on Wednesday, March 15, 2006 at 4:00 p.m. at the Wake County Commons, Conference Center Building, 4012 Carya Drive, Raleigh, NC with the following present:

Members

Chairman Bryan, presiding
Bob Ahlert
John Byrne
Lynwood Buffaloe
Frank Eagles
Jenny Edwards
Jan Faulkner
Anne Franklin
Carol Hinnant
Mike Jones
Buck Kennedy
Ernie McAlister
Perry Safran
Russ Stephenson
Nina Szlosberg
Chet VanFossen
Kaye Yadusky

Representing

Wake County
Clayton
Fuquay-Varina
Franklin County
Rolesville
Franklinton
Morrisville
TTA
Wendell
Apex
Garner
Cary
N.C. Turnpike Authority
Raleigh
NCDOT
Holly Springs
Youngsville

Staff

John Burris
Ed Johnson
Jake Petrosky
Diane Wilson
Kenneth Withrow

Representing

CAMPO Staff
CAMPO Director
CAMPO Staff
CAMPO Staff
CAMPO Staff

Others Present

Wally Bowman
John Hodges-Copple
Chip Russell
Jon Nance
Sarah Smith

Representing

NCDOT
Triangle J-COG
Wake Forest - TCC Chair
NCDOT
NCDOT

Chairman Bryan called the meeting to order with discussions and actions taken as follows:

Chairman Bryan expressed appreciation for the large turnout at the previous TAC meeting held in Rolesville as well as for this meeting.

ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA – AGENDA APPROVED AS PRESENTED

No changes were made to the agenda; therefore, the agenda was approved as presented without objection.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – NONE RECEIVED

Chairman Bryan noted this was an opportunity for comments by those in attendance. No one asked to be heard.

MINUTES – FEBRUARY 15, 2006 – APPROVED AS AMENDED

Members had received a copy of the February 15, 2006 minutes prior to the meeting. Ms. Hinnant requested that her attendance be noted at the meeting. It was also pointed out that “Senator Allen” in the attendance be changed to read “Representative Lucy Allen”. Ms. Hinnant moved approval of the minutes as amended. Her motion, seconded by Mayor Byrne, unanimously passed. Chairman Bryan ruled the motion adopted.

FY 2007-2007 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM – HEARING AUTHORIZED

Mr. Johnson indicated in the Spring of every year, the UPWP is adopted. The UPWP includes tasks that are intended to be performed in the next year and defines who will do each task.

Mr. Withrow reviewed this item indicating the document details and guides the urban area transportation planning activities. Funding is provided by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) as well as state and local governments. The UPWP identifies yearly funding allocations to support the ongoing transportation planning activities of the MPO and must identify MPO planning tasks to be undertaken with the use of federal transportation funds. Areas of emphasis for development of the UPWP were provided from the TCC and TAC planning retreats and those areas of emphasis have been reviewed and included in this draft. CAMPO, DCHC, Triangle J COG and Triangle Transit Authority staffs met on January 20, 2006 to discuss coordination of joint work tasks and plans for their inclusion in the upcoming UPWP. The UPWP subcommittee for CAMPO met on February 9, 2006 and teleconferenced on February 20, 2006 to review a draft UPWP for tasks specific to CAMPO and tasks that are to be undertaken in cooperation with the other agencies. The TCC discussed this item at the February and March meetings. The UPWP was presented at this meeting for review and comment. Any comments would be reviewed and included as appropriate, the document will then be presented to the TCC on April 7, 2006 for forwarding to the TAC at the April 19, meeting with an approval recommendation. Mr. Withrow reviewed the major highlights of the document. Mr. Johnson referred to page 49 of the document

and discussed special studies, including the US 64 Corridor Study that was reviewed at a previous meeting by David Wasserman, NCDOT. He indicated hopefully Chatham County would be a funding participant in this project noting the overall study would be \$300,000 and NCDOT will pay half and we will pay half. He referenced the Transit Demand Management Study that is growing into a multi-year program. He stated the additional data being collected for the Regional Travel Model includes data from 6000 households in the triangle and similar data would be collected from transit riders. He briefly discussed the Transit Onboard Survey that will be coming up. Ms. Szlosberg questioned the Regional Model and how aligned it is with the FTA model. Mr. Johnson responded they are coming into alignment quickly and explained what has occurred to date. Ms. Szlosberg noted the model used by FTA is based on the LRTP and the LRTP had a funding gap of \$2.5 billion and has the assumptions we will have \$2.5 billion that is not there. She questioned how to insure when we move forward on the Regional Model we do not fall into the same trap of making non-realistic assumptions. Mr. Johnson indicated with the next LRTP update, projects would be removed or delayed from the plan and will note the dismal look as far as revenues.

Mr. Ahlert questioned the geographic area surveys. Mr. Johnson indicated households cover a 12 county area and would use that information to determine how much larger to make the model and determine if it makes sense to take in more area. He noted this information is vitally important to the quality of planning done in this region.

The draft UPWP was authorized for release for a minimum of 30 days for public comment, to conclude April 19, 2006 with a hearing to be held at the April 19, 2006 TAC meeting.

SELF-CERTIFICATION REVIEW – INFORMATION RECEIVED – HEARING AUTHORIZED

Mr. Johnson reviewed this item. CAMPO annually conducts a self-certification review as part of approving the Unified Planning Work Program. The self-certification process takes the form of the CAMPO TAC adopting a resolution that self-certifies that the MPO is fulfilling all federal requirements for the transportation planning processes. A checklist of items reviewed during this process was provided to members in the agenda backup as well as the resolution self-certifying the MPO is fulfilling all requirements for the transportation planning process as put forth by the Federal guidelines. He noted this item would come back to the TAC at their May meeting. The reason this is being provided at this meeting is if something comes up, the adoption could be delayed until May. This process must be complete by June. Discussion followed regarding the possibility of allowing additional time for review and comments with Chairman Bryan suggesting the possibility of bringing the item up in February next year so there will be 60 days and could go beyond the minimum required if this could be handled by staff. Mr. Johnson spoke to the difficulty involved by staff in getting this to CAMPO earlier. Ms. Franklin proposed using 60 days rather than 45 days.

Without objection, the hearing was authorized as outlined.

CAPITAL AREA MPO PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS – COMMENT PERIOD AND HEARING AUTHORIZED

Mr. Petrosky reviewed this item noting in February, 2005, a federal MPO certification review indicated that CAMPO should evaluate its current public involvement process, with more frequent reviews. These reviews would assist with modification of the process, as needed, with the goal of improving outreach, particularly to minority and low income (MLI) communities. CAMPO's TAC approved conducting a review of the MPO's public involvement processed on an annual basis in concert with each year's UPWP development effort. This year, the public involvement process was reviewed and modifications (outlined in the agenda) were suggested. Members received a copy of the CAMPO Public involvement process with proposed revisions highlighted in their agenda packets.

Mayor Byrne suggested also utilizing websites from the towns and counties and attempt to get front page coverage. Mr. Petrosky noted the list of newspapers to be used was updated. Mayor Byrne noted local newspapers are well read and should be utilized. Mr. Petrosky noted this is the first step towards getting ideal public involvement with first steps being taken this year. Ms. Szlosberg noted NCDOT's Media Directory is used quite a lot and is always up to date. She also suggested when doing outreach to small communities, this should be done by putting together a short story about the subject and prepared as an article. Ms. Franklin stated she was delighted with the work done on reaching disability access and transportation for the elderly.

Ms. Franklin moved that the updated Public Involvement Process be authorized for release for a 45 day public comment period and that the hearing to receive public comment be held during the May 17, 2006 TAC meeting. Her motion was seconded by Mr. VanFossen, unanimously passed. Chairman Bryan ruled the motion adopted.

US-1 CORRIDOR STUDY UPDATE – INFORMATION RECEIVED

Chairman Russell reviewed this item noting the US-1 Corridor Study is ongoing and there had been several meetings of the Oversight Team and Technical Oversight Committee. At the February 21, 2006 meeting, a newsletter to be mailed to interested or affected parties along this corridor was distributed (included in agenda packets). Chairman Russell reported a meeting was held the previous day with 100 present. He indicated there is a great deal of interest in this project and credited CAMPO staff for getting the word out in newspapers, television, etc. This was the first public meeting and many comments were received. The second public meeting will be held in the summer in the vicinity of Triangle Towne Center.

Mr. Johnson explained to improve traffic, US-1 needs to be a very high capacity, multi-lane freeway. Discussion followed regarding the possibility of a pedestrian bridge across I-440 with Mr. Johnson noting possibly a bridge could be placed so only buses can get on and off and have it so pedestrians could cross. This would allow express transit can get

on and off the highway without going through interchanges. He stressed a lot of work remains to be done.

The report was received as information.

US-1/NEW FALLS OF NEUSE BOULEVARD RIGHT-OF-WAY – RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

Mr. Johnson reviewed this item. During the US-1 North Corridor Study Oversight Committee meeting on February 21, 2006, information was provided regarding land previously reserved by the Wakefield development for the future construction of a single-point urban diamond interchange and related roadway improvements in the area of the intersection of US-1 and New Falls of Neuse Boulevard. He reviewed the history of this parcel and recent NCDOT actions noting on May 13, 1999, NCDOT and Wakefield Commercial, LLC and Effell, LLC entered into an agreement stating by the end of 2002, NCDOT would purchase right-of-way located along the southeast corner of the Wakefield development adjacent to the intersection of US-1 and New Falls of Neuse Boulevard. That date expired without NCDOT having completed the purchase; however, the reservation of right-of-way remained in place. On May 18, 2005, a letter was sent from NCDOT to the parcel owner withdrawing its “offer to purchase” the right-of-way and on December 16, 2005 a second letter was sent to the developer’s agent by NCDOT stating that the property is no longer needed by the Department and released the owners from their obligation of reservation. The letters were provided to members in their agenda packets. The letters were provided to NCDOT staff but no one at the MPO or the City of Raleigh (who secured the reservation as a condition of approval of the development) were notified. At the March 2, 2006 TCC meeting, this was reviewed and recommended forwarding a letter to NCDOT Secretary Tippet signed by the TAC Chair, outlining the following concerns:

- Loss of opportunity to secure right-of-way needed for constructing an interchange at this major intersection on US-1, one of NCDOT’s most important Strategic Highway Corridors, as called for in the LRTP.
- Lengthy amount of time taken by NCDOT to negotiate purchase of right-of-way after the STIP and MTIP were amended in November 1992 to include funds for this right-of-way purchase.
- Difficulty in protecting right-of-way needed for future highway improvements if right-of-way purchases such as these are not carried out in a timely fashion.
- Lack of notice by NCDOT to either MPO or City of Raleigh of actions to be taken, either before or after the fact.

Jon Nance, NCDOT, stated it would be good to know the price. He stated when this first came up in 1999, it was noted they would sell for what they had in it. He explained the message he received the previous day was the price went up and could not spend that kind of money. He suggested determining what transpired as far as the money involved. Mr. Johnson explained when the developer made this offer, he was trying to get an access break so he could build New Falls of Neuse Boulevard and wanted turn lanes on US-1.

The developer installed one mile of extra lanes which was an unplanned expense and that probably affected the purchase price. He stated the fair market value today is much higher than when the deal was worked out noting it has taken six years to do this. He stated a lot of this had to do with many people involved not knowing the history and this went on without our knowledge. Mayor Byrne felt the City of Raleigh or Wakefield would have a vested interest in this interchange and questioned if the City of Raleigh had a comment about this. Mr. Johnson indicated this was just discovered noting New Falls of Neuse Boulevard is a 4-lane divided road built by the developer. Total cost was \$4 million with the City of Raleigh reimbursing them \$2 million.

Ms. Szlosberg indicated she and Mr. Nance would follow up with the Right-of-Way Department and provide additional information on this item.

Chairman Bryan questioned if the State's right-of-way negotiators act independently noting it appears Mr. Bailey (NCDOT R/W Negotiator) made the decision this property was not needed. He questioned if Mr. Bailey makes decisions in a vacuum and why others were not involved. Chairman Bryan indicated funds may not be available at this point but questioned how a statement could be made the right-of-way is no longer needed. Mayor Byrne indicated the property must be purchased or indicate it is no longer needed. Mr. Nance indicated Wakefield is a very large development and there was an agreement made with the developer and NCDOT and this is not the standard practice for post year projects with no funding. The decision made was made in the fashion of typical property not funded and a decision must be made whether to do advance acquisition or determine we cannot afford to make that decision. This is different and an agreement was in place and would like to see more research done and have that discussion tabled rather than sending a letter to Secretary Tippet not necessarily knowing all the points.

Discussion followed regarding the history of this item and the need to protect right-of-way for projects of this magnitude. Mr. Johnson indicated DOT has unrealistic expectations of what we can do to protect right-of-way noting Rolesville could not do this since they did not have the resources. He indicated DOT says we need local governments to protect right-of-way and someone will have to spend money. He indicated it is easy for DOT to say you are not doing a good job when everybody is doing the best they can. Mr. Johnson emphasized all this work was done because of a couple of letters and this is what needs a lot of discussion. Mr. Nance these types of projects are done successfully, i.e., Timber Drive where there is development on all four corners and the right-of-way was dedicated for a future interchange and US 70 at Brier Creek had land dedicated for an interchange. He indicated items of that nature are a struggle and involves big dollars for the developer as well.

Chairman Bryan questioned Ms. Szlosberg how did we have an additional \$30 million extracted from where congestion is. Ms. Szlosberg indicated everyone is getting "a haircut" equally according to the equity formula. Chairman Bryan spoke to the fact the gas tax is up and we continue to get less money.

US 64 WEST CORRIDOR STUDY – PHASE 2 – INFORMATION RECEIVED

Mr. Johnson reviewed this item noting NCDOT, in cooperation with CAMPO, Apex and Cary, is preparing to conduct a second phase of the US 64 West Corridor Study beginning in FY 2007. This phase of the study project focuses on development of an access management plan along US 64 from US 1 in Cary to the eastern end of the Pittsboro Bypass in Chatham County. The plan will identify transportation and land development strategies, including interchanges, local access streets and access management and implementation strategies, needed to transform the roadway from its existing state to a more effective free-flowing highway utilizing freeway, expressway and super-street design concepts. Mr. Johnson indicated the cost involved is \$300,000.

The report was received as information.

MPO STAFF REPORTS – RECEIVED

Mr. Johnson reported he would be addressing the Wake County Blue Ribbon Committee on the future of Wake County. The meeting will be March 30, 2006 from 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at the RBC Center. He indicated his discussion would center on the fact everyone must work together on the congestion problems in the region. Chairman Bryan reported this committee has increased from 40 to 68 members and meetings are well attended. He urged other counties to do something like this involving gathering the business community and leaders and look at the future which provides a picture of where you are on each item.

Ms. Franklin reported there would be Transit Planning meetings coming up in April and expressed the desire to have elected officials and staff present. She indicated a presentation by TTA would review what they are thinking about future bus route expectations and what local governments should be doing by incorporating park and ride lots, high density development, etc. Mr. Johnson indicated this is the beginning of a 1-2 year process.

NCDOT REPORT – RECEIVED

Mr. Nance indicated this is the beginning of the paving season for NCDOT. Mr. Johnson questioned repair to the deteriorated sections of I-40 with Mr. Nance noting “they have agreed to disagree” at this point and are still working on this. Chairman Bryan referred to the tragedy involving the three students killed recently and questioned how to handle speed reduction on major corridor ramps. Mr. Nance responded as part of the investigation, NCDOT would be looking at this.

CYCLING CELEBRATION – INFORMATION RECEIVED

Mr. Petrosky announced on April 9, 2006 there would be a Cycling Celebration in Cary from 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. This includes a kid’s bicycle rodeo, tours, educational

stations, etc. The Capital Area Stakeholders will have a booth and provide handouts to those in attendance.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, upon motion of Mr. Buffaloe, seconded by Mr. Stephenson, unanimously passed, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Hunt