

**TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 19, 2007
MINUTES**

The Transportation Advisory Committee met on Wednesday, December 19, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. at Wake County Commons, 4012 Carya Drive, Raleigh, NC with the following present:

Members

Chairman Bryan, presiding
Robert Ahlert
Don Bumgarner
John Byrne
Bill Connelly
Albert Corpening
Frank Eagles
R. H. Ellington
Jan Faulkner
Anne Franklin
Vivian Jones
Buck Kennedy
Russell Killen
Charles Meeker
Dan Sears
Elic Senter
John Sullivan
Keith Weatherly
Harold Weinbrecht

Representing

Wake County
Clayton
Zebulon
Fuquay-Varina
Wendell
Youngsville
Rolesville
Angier
Morrisville
Triangle Transit Authority
Wake Forest
Garner
Knightdale
Raleigh
Holly Springs
Franklinton
FHWA
Apex
Cary

Staff

Ed Johnson
Diane Wilson
J. J. Walter
Kenneth Withrow

Representing

CAMPO Director
CAMPO Staff
CAMPO Staff
CAMPO Staff

Others

Chip Russell

Representing

TCC Chairman

ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA – APPROVED AS PRESENTED

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS – NONE RECEIVED

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

MINUTES – OCTOBER 31, 2007 JOINT CAMPO/DCHC MPO – APPROVED AS PRESENTED

Members received minutes of the October 31, 2007 Joint CAMPO/DCHC MPO meeting in their agenda packets. Without objection, the minutes were approved as presented.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM – DIRECT ALLOCATION AND CONGESTION MITIGATION AND AIR QUALITY FINDING RECOMMENDATIONS – APPROVED

Mr. Johnson reviewed this item. A brief history of the item was provided. At the September 19, 2007 TAC meeting, an update of the status of the MPO's Surface Transportation Program – Direct Allocation (STP-DA) federal funding for FY 2009-2015 was presented. This indicated a total STP-DA allocation of \$29,156,000. Members received in their agenda packets information indicating the current status of these funds as provided by NCDOT and a proposal that would fully utilize the unobligated funds to:

- (1) establish a reserve for the MPO to utilize as it sees fit to fund operational improvements to enhance traffic safety and mitigate traffic congestion.
- (2) Supplement the MPO operational budget to hire additional staff for the purpose of improving and expanding program services as has been discussed and agreed upon in principle at recent TAC and TCC strategic planning retreats

Mayor Jones moved endorsement of the increased allotment for the MPO planning staff and establishing the new reserve fund for operational improvements as outlined. Her motion was seconded by Mayor Sears.

Mayor Meeker indicated he would like to consider some congestion mitigation funds noting since a transit report will be coming out in 60 days and felt we should wait until that is available. Mr. Johnson explained this is intended to be a flexible pot of funds the TAC can use as it desires and there is nothing in place now restricting these funds from being spent on transit. Mayor Meeker made a friendly amendment to the motion clarifying the funds could be spent on public transportation and not just on operational items which would make the allocation flexible as intended. Mayor Jones indicated she agreed with the amendment.

Mayor Weatherly indicated the transit issue would be a bottomless pit and will never reach an end of what is needed. He indicated Apex is desperate for congestion mitigation funds and if we go down the road that we will put all funds in the transit basket the funds

for local projects will dry up. Mayor Jones indicated the amended motion would mean funds could be spent either way. Mayor Weatherly indicated he would hate to see any congestion mitigation funds used for transit. Chairman Bryan indicated transit would not be just rail and could also be used for buses. Mayor Meeker spoke to the need for a balanced system and the need for these funds to be used in a flexible manner. He indicated each project would have to compete but flexibility is needed. Mayor Weatherly did not see the amendment as a “friendly amendment”. Mayor Weinbrecht seconded the amended motion. A vote was taken on the amended motion and was passed with 6 members voting in opposition. Chairman Bryan ruled the amended motion adopted.

Mr. Johnson then reported NCDOT has informed CAMPO that a balance of \$12,280,000 in unprogrammed Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funds is available through 2012. NCDOT has not yet determined the amount of funding actually available beyond the initial years of 2006-2012 so they cannot program projects beyond 2012 at this time. As there has been no call for CMAQ projects by NCDOT at this time, CAMPO staff created a table (provided in the agenda packets) that allocates CMAQ through 2012 for the seven year TDM Program and for three hybrid buses to be purchased by Capital Area Transit (CAT). An equal distribution of \$3,070,000 of CMAQ funds over the fiscal years of 2009 through 2012 will be applied to both projects. NCDOT has requested that CAMPO submit both CMAQ projects for funding through the normal TIP process. In order to document the air quality benefits and for the Interagency Partners to approve each project, the requesting agencies (TJCOG and CAT) will submit a completed CMAQ application to the NCDOT’s TIP Unit.

Mr. Johnson spoke to the need to make a commitment in the TIP that TDM reduction is important and want to take it to the next level. Work has been ongoing with the 4 partners noting TJCOG provides administrative oversight and TTA is doing service delivery resulting in a better program and we are showing a program of \$2.8 million. Mr. Withrow indicated when you apply for CMAQ funds, you must apply through the application process and CAT is working on that and would be ready by January. Mr. Johnson indicated the TAC could endorse this in principle or could bring it back in January if desired. He felt the better thing to do is bring the item back in January with the final list of projects. Without objection, it was agreed to discuss this item further at the January meeting.

EASTERN WAKE EXPRESSWAY – RESOLUTION ADOPTED

Mr. Johnson explained meetings have taken place between the staffs of NCDOT, CAMPO, the City of Raleigh, the Town of Garner and Wake County regarding the status of the Eastern Wake Expressway (TIP Project R-2829). This is the unfunded, final portion of the Raleigh Outer Loop. He explained unlike the Southern Wake Expressway, this portion of the Outer Loop is not under any form of corridor protection. Additionally, the preliminary functional alignment that was developed by NCDOT in the mid 1990’s may no longer be relevant given the current environmental restrictions related to wetland protection and Neuse River riparian buffer impacts. Mr. Johnson explained until the

Environmental Impact Statement is completed, the final alignment for this corridor cannot be determined. Completion of the EIS is not anticipated to occur within the next seven years. Given the rapid pace of development in this portion of Wake County, which includes the Randleigh Farm project and two potential Wake County school sites, it is appropriate for these parties to develop a strategy for this portion of the County that will allow development to continue while protecting the necessary right-of-way for the corridor. Members received in their agenda backup a resolution drafted by staff for consideration requesting that NCDOT initiate corridor protection on an updated preliminary alignment and expedite the development of the EIS for this project.

Mayor Sears moved adoption of the resolution and that staff be directed to work with staff of NCDOT, the City of Raleigh, the Town of Garner and Wake County on any necessary revisions to the preliminary corridor design. His motion was seconded by Mr. Eagles, unanimously passed. Chairman Bryan ruled the motion adopted.

2035 LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN – RELEASED FOR 60-DAY REVIEW PERIOD

Mr. Withrow explained CAMPO develops an updated Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) every four years as required by Federal Law. The LRTP must account for projected revenues and costs over a 20-year minimum period, by multi-modal in its approach to solving transportation problems and the emissions estimates for this plan must conform to Federal and state standards for air quality. CAMPO will be preparing the 2035 LRTP during the upcoming calendar year. One of the major challenges of the 2035 LRTP is development of a transportation system that provides enhanced mobility while preserving the existing infrastructure. The 2035 LRTP should also support regional and local land use goals and work toward the region's attainment of national air quality standards. The primary goal of the plan remains to improve upon the safety and efficiency of the existing system. Members received in their packets draft goals prepared by the TCC committee using the 2030 LRTP goals as a baseline. Mr. Withrow indicated a 60-day public comment period should now be opened to allow the public time to review and provide comment on the draft goals and objectives and a public hearing to receive comments should be scheduled for the February 20, 2008 TAC meeting. The FHWA representative referred to a joint plan with CAMPO and DCHC and questioned if a joint plan will be done this round or the next plan update. She indicated CAMPO would be in a better condition to host this if a joint plan is done. Mr. Johnson indicated he had talked with the DCHC director regarding adopting an LRTP for the entire region. The DCHC director felt that might be more challenging than we could bite off this round and there are things each MPO does better than the other. He felt working together would take advantage of the best of both. He stated it would be difficult to come up with a single document but would not rule it out and would like the TAC's feedback on this possibility. The regional STAC effort is to have a regional document that both MPOs would embrace. The FHWA representative stated this doesn't mean everyone must have the same vision in every area and there is a lot more to it than all of a sudden seeing everything the same.

Chairman Bryan felt this would be a good direction and it is ridiculous that we have two MPOs noting air quality doesn't stop at the county lines. He stated a number of new members have been brought into CAMPO and a way needs to be determined to go about planning together. He felt one goal should be the eventual merger of the two MPOs resulting in good benefits to both bodies. Chairman Bryan indicated if we are going to be viewed as a region, particularly into 2035, it would be shortsighted if we don't have this merger as a goal. He felt this should be brought forth for consideration. Discussion should also take place relating to the technical aspects of using funds wisely and accountability to the public and getting our fair share from the federal government. Changing formulas and vehicle miles traveled should also be a goal. Chairman Bryan indicated it is known there is a \$6 billion shortfall in Wake County alone. He noted congestion will not go away from Capital Boulevard or I-40 and many other areas and this should be communicated to the public as part of the goals, objectives and strategies. He indicated good ideas, no matter where they come from, are good ideas and everyone at the table is equal.

Mayor Weatherly pointed out there would not be enough seats at the table for the membership if there were a combined MPO and would necessitate paring down the numbers, having regional meetings, etc. Mayor Meeker suggested inquiring whether DCHC would be interested in a merger. The FHWA representative indicated this would involve joining two regions and it is not that individual votes would be lost since there would still be individual TIPs.

Discussion followed regarding the possibility of DCHC and CAMPO merging with Mayor Weatherly indicating DCHC members would not care if there is traffic in CAMPO's areas and felt CAMPO members would have to compete for money in the same pot. Mayor Jones expressed concern about merging the two MPOs but consideration should be given to planning together as a step toward regionalism. Mr. Ahlert indicated he endorsed all the comments made about planning together but expressed concern about merging. Chairman Bryan indicated this could be a goal to work toward. Mr. Johnson indicated by mid summer a decision could be made if we will have one or two documents. He stated if there is interest in exploring the possibility of having a joint plan, staff can review how Utah does this and determine if it can work here. He felt it would be more complicated but would end up with a better document.

Mayor Jones moved release of the draft goals and objectives for public review and comment for a 60-day period. Her motion was seconded by Mayor Weatherly, unanimously passed. Chairman Bryan ruled the motion adopted.

GRANVILLE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN – APPROVED FOR TRANSMISSION TO NC BOARD OF TRANSPORTATION

Mr. Johnson introduced Scottie Wilkins, Granville County Planner, noting a lot of time and effort was put into the plan. Mr. Johnson explained the General Statutes indicate

expanded transportation planning in N. C. to include consideration of all modes. It also placed responsibility for development and maintenance of a Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) on the MPO. This CTP is a multi-modal 30-50 year plan for the entire MPO planning area. The plan is expected to be a living document providing for inter-jurisdictional cooperation and planning and replaces the previously used thoroughfare plans. This Statute also established the MPO CTP as the only transportation plan recognized and endorsed by NCDOT. Mr. Johnson indicated over the past year and a half, CAMPO staff has worked with Granville County, municipalities within Granville County and staff of the Kerr-Tar Rural Planning Organization to develop the Granville County CTP. During that time, a Granville County Transportation Committee was formed with representatives from throughout the county, meetings were held to determine growth forecasts, problem area identification and enhancement opportunities or desires. A process for update of this document were made to local planning boards and Town/City Councils or Commissions and to the Granville County Board of Commissioners. Following these presentations, the plan was adopted or endorsed as appropriate. Members received a copy of the adopted Granville County CTP in their agenda packets. Mr. Johnson noted the NC Board of Transportation will be considering adoption of this CTP at their January meeting. Mr. Johnson requested that the TAC adopt the plan as endorsed/adopted by Granville County as the first component of the Capital Area MPO CTP. Additional Counties/MPO planning areas will be brought forth for adoption as they are completed.

Mayor Moss thanked everyone involved in this effort. Ms. Wilkins thanked everyone that worked on this plan noting they were successful in looking at Granville County as a whole and their relationship in the region.

Mayor Moss adoption of the Granville County CTP for transmission to the NC Board of Transportation. His motion was seconded by Mayor Meeker, unanimously passed. Chairman Bryan ruled the motion adopted.

SPECIAL TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMISSION – UPDATE RECEIVED

Mr. Johnson reported the Special Transit Advisory Commission (STAC) has continued to meet in order to complete the charge given it by the TACs of the two MPOs. He indicated a status report was provided to the Joint CAMPO/DCHC meeting in October. He reported there would be an all day work session on January 11 and would be finalizing recommendations which should look like a 3 part plan. This would include an overall vision for a transit network to serve the region over the next 30-40 years, a smaller subset which we can fund by 2035 and a 2020 initiative with the best ideas of the plan to move forward at this time. This could involve revenue enhancement items with dedicated funding sources. He noted this is starting to look like it will be something different than the regional rail proposal that did not receive federal funding two years ago. A report should be coming together by the end of January or early February and would be presented to the TAC at the end of February or early March.

REPORT FROM THE TCC CHAIR – RECEIVED

Mr. Russell indicated the TCC has been discussing a review process and criteria for ranking projects for the MTIP as well. This study includes looking at available tools for review and the entire process. He indicated he hoped this is something that will be completed before the next call comes.

TRIANGLE TOMORROW – SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL GRANT – RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT ADOPTED

Sig Hutchinson was present to discuss a Resolution of support for Triangle Tomorrow's application to the "Safe Routes to School" non-infrastructure grant program. He explained Triangle Tomorrow has linked up with the Bicycle/Pedestrian Division of DOT, specifically the new Coordinator of the "Safe Routes to Schools" program Leza Mundt and applied for a \$50,000 grant to educate elementary and middle school children on air quality and how to improve air by walking or biking to school and by reducing the idling of cars especially around schools where children are breathing. The application process requires a resolution of support from CAMPO for this grant.

Mayor Sears moved adoption of the resolution of support as requested. His motion was seconded by Mayor Weatherly, unanimously passed. Chairman Bryan ruled the motion adopted.

MPO STAFF REPORTS – RECEIVED

Mr. Withrow indicated work took place at the Bike/Ped Stakeholders meeting with the Division of Bike/Ped Transportation through NCDOT where 30 schools were picked statewide for a grant. Apex Elementary applied for the grant in this area. The grant is to develop infrastructure enabling and encouraging students to walk and bicycle to school. He explained a Resolution of Support would have to be included and attached to this application. The call closed on December 14. Mayor Weatherly moved adoption of the resolution of support as described. His motion was seconded by Mr. Eagles, unanimously passed. Chairman Bryan ruled the motion adopted.

Mr. Withrow requested adoption of a Resolution amending the 2007-2013 MTIP relating to the scheduling and funding of Falls of Neuse Road improvements. Ms. Franklin moved adoption of the Resolution as outlined. Her motion was seconded by Mayor Meeker, unanimously passed. Chairman Bryan ruled the motion adopted.

NCDOT REPORTS – RECEIVED

Mr. Bowman indicated there are pots of money available to administer some of the routes to schools projects. There will be \$200,000 this year and \$300,000 next year. These funds are for missing sidewalks or curbs and gutters each in the \$10,000 - \$50,000 range. This involves an application process that will be reviewed and recommendations made.

Mayor Sears thanked NCDOT for paving Holly Springs' last gravel road.

TURNPIKE AUTHORITY – REPORT RECEIVED

Mr. Safran reported the Turnpike Authority decided earlier in the day they will not send out an RFP for financing part of the gap as previously discussed. He noted the Authority is hoping gap funding is received in May from the General Assembly. He indicated when the Authority left the last TAC meeting, they thought long and hard about what the TAC had to say about what they were doing. He requested that CAMPO members keep pushing the Legislature for this funding.

Mr. Johnson indicated there is a 21st Century Transportation Committee appointed. There have been 3 meetings and they are to have two agendas – short term recommendations for the coming session of the Legislature and the gap funding is included in that request and the longer agenda on reinventing a process for the rest of the 21st Century.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN – RECEIVED

Chairman Bryan reported he and Mayor Jones attended a forum at the North Carolina Assembly of County Commissioners relating to the potential for counties to be involved in transportation. He indicated the NCDOT program was good and hoped the TAC could have that presentation made at a future meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Hunt