

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MARCH 19, 2008
MINUTES

The N. C. Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's Transportation Advisory Committee met on Wednesday, March 19, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. at Wake County Commons, 4012 Cary Drive, Raleigh, NC with the following members present:

MEMBER

Chairman Bryan, presiding
Robert Ahlert
Harold Broadwell
Dan Andrews
Lynnwood Buffaloe
Don Bumgarner
John Byrne
Frank Eagles
R.H. Ellington
Jan Faulkner
Hubert Gooch
Vivian Jones
Russell Killen
Charles Meeker
Daryl Moss
Dick Sears
Elic Senter
Keith Weatherly
Harold Weinbrecht
Ronnie Williams

REPRESENTING

Wake County
Clayton
Wendell
Harnett County
Franklin County
Zebulon
Fuquay-Varina
Rolesville
Angier
Morrisville
Granville County
Wake Forest
Knightdale
Raleigh
Creedmoor
Holly Springs
Zebulon
Apex
Cary
Garner

Staff

Ed Johnson
Renee Johnson
Robert McCain
J.J. Walter
Diane Wilson
Kenneth Withrow

Representing

CAMPO Director
CAMPO Staff
CAMPO Staff
CAMPO Staff
CAMPO Staff
CAMPO Staff

Others

Chip Russell
David Eatman
Wally Bowman
Ricky Greene
Rupal Desai
Scott Walston
John Hodges-Copple
Patrick McDonough

Representing

TCC Chairman
Raleigh Transit Administrator
NCDOT, Div. 5
NCDOT, Div. 4
NCDOT, TPB
NCDOT, TPB
TJCOG
Triangle Transit

Chairman Bryan called the meeting to order with discussion and actions taken as shown.

AGENDA – APPROVED AS SUBMITTED

There were no changes made to the agenda; therefore, the agenda was approved as submitted.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – NONE RECEIVED

Chairman Bryan explained this was an opportunity for comments by those in attendance on items not on the agenda. No one asked to be heard.

CONSENT AGENDA

All items on the consent agenda are considered to be routine and may be enacted by one motion. If a member requests discussion on an item, the item will be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately.

Mr. Bumgarner moved approval of the consent agenda. His motion was seconded by Mr. Weinbrecht, unanimously passed. Chairman Bryan ruled the motion adopted.

Items on the consent agenda were as follows:

MINUTES – FEBRUARY 20, 2008 – APPROVED AS SUBMITTED

Minutes of the February 20, 2008 meeting were provided to members prior to the meeting.

TAC ACTION: Approval of the minutes of the February 20, 2007 TAC meeting. Consent agenda approval: Bumgarner/Weinbrecht – unanimous.

2009-2015 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (MTIP) – AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY DETERMINATION – RELEASED FOR PUBLIC REVIEW – PUBLIC HEARING AUTHORIZED

The draft Air Quality Transportation Improvement Program (AQCD) for CAMPO's FY 2009-2015 MTIP along with that of the Durham-chapel Hill-Carrboro MPO, the Burlington-Graham MPO and portions of the Triangle Ozone maintenance areas outside the MPO boundaries for which NCDOT conducts planning has been received. Attachment 5A provided a copy of the draft report which should be released for a minimum 30-day public review and comment period. Final approval of the AQCD, including the determination that the FY 2009-2015 MTIP conforms to the State's

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Implementation plan for attaining the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) should follow a public hearing which should be scheduled to occur at the April 16, 2008 TAC meeting.

The AQCD and its associated appendices have been published and are available through the MPO website.

TAC ACTION: Release the Draft Air Quality Determination (AQCD) for a minimum 30-day public review and comment period and schedule a hearing to be conducted at the April 16, 2008 meeting. Consent agenda approval: Bumgarner/Weinbrecht – unanimous.

FY 2008 FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA) APPORTIONMENT – APPROVED

In accordance with FTA Regulations, the MPO is required to submit a letter to the FTA regarding the distribution of the FY 2008 Appropriation between the City of Raleigh, TTA and the Town of Cary. Annually, funds are programmed and small amounts are sometimes “left on the table”. Research shows that \$2,271,647 can be amassed from those funds not previously used. Members received Attachment 6A reflecting the agreed upon distribution of the FTA Apportionment for Section 5307 and Section 5340 funds for FY 2008 and the redistribution of the funds not previously used. A grant application cannot be submitted to FTA until the letter (included in packets) has been submitted.

TAC ACTION: Approve FTA Section 5307 and Section 5340 fund apportionments as shown in agenda attachment. Consent agenda approval: Bumgarner/Weinbrecht – unanimous.

THIS IS THE END OF CONSENT AGENDA

TRANSPORTATION FUNDING – INFORMATION RECEIVED

The North Carolina Association of County Commissioners recently held a Transportation Summit to consider implications of recent state law changes rescinding previous restrictions on county governments participating in funding transportation-related projects and programs. Lisa Hollowell, a member of the Fiscal Research Division legislative staff at N. C. General Assembly, who focuses on transportation funding and is currently servicing as the lead staff person for the General Assembly’s 21st Century Transportation Committee’s subcommittee on finance, was present at the meeting to present information on transportation funding that she presented at the Transportation Summit.

Ms. Hollowell made a Power Point presentation covering the N. C. Transportation System and history, Highway Fund and Highway Trust Fund, Transportation Capital spending, the Transfers, Transportation funding sources and comparisons with other

states. She reported North Carolina's state-owned highway system is 79,000 miles long with Texas and North Carolina being the largest in the country. It was noted secondary roads are state-owned and cover approximately 64,000 miles. The system is centralized with transportation tax dollars flowing to Raleigh and decisions are made in Raleigh by the Board of Transportation subject to statutory formulas and local input. Discussion took place relating to per capita highway funding. Session Law 2007-428, Senate Bill 1513, reversed the law dating back to 1931 that prohibited counties from participating in the costs of road construction and maintenance which would be voluntary. The Bill also allows counties to participate in the cost of right-of-way, construction and maintenance. Chairman Bryan noted no funds were provided to assist the county in this effort. It was noted no counties have acted on this new law to date. It was pointed out the ¼ cent sales tax option is available for these funds.

Ms. Hollowell reviewed transportation needs that as follows:

Indicators

- DOT's Long-Range Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan shows 25 year funding gap between needs and resources.

DOT's report to the Transportation Oversight Committee indicated a maintenance shortfall of \$200 million per year.

North Carolina Civil Engineers rated the state's roads "D" in 2006 (same as national rating).

Causes

- Since 1970, NC population has increased by 50% and Vehicle Miles Traveled by 250% raising costs by adding to congestion and wear.
- Construction inflation has doubled since 2002 (asphalt, steel, concrete)
- Funding has not kept pace with growth in the system and with inflation.

In response to questioning regarding whether there have been any advances allowing local regions to enact their own gas tax, Ms. Hollowell noted she would check on that and provide that information to staff. Chairman Bryan questioned how Virginia and South Carolina fund their transportation since their fuel tax is lower with Ms. Hollowell responding they are not spending as much money for this purpose as North Carolina and they have an infrastructure bank. South Carolina had a "Penny for Progress" program and Myrtle Beach generates a lot of tourism tax. Chairman Bryan asked if there is another source of revenue they are using for transportation with Ms. Hollowell responding "Penny for Progress" and the infrastructure bank are all she was aware of.

Discussion followed regarding the N. C. Highway Use Tax with Mr. Meeker requesting information on where money is collected versus where it goes on highway spending. Ms. Hollowell indicated she would provide that information. Mr. Meeker indicated figures we have show we are getting 40 cents to 50 cents on the dollar back and felt it would be helpful for the General Assembly to be aware of that.

Chairman Bryan questioned how to advance this information from this technical body to legislators showing we are only receiving 40 cents on the dollar. Ms. Hollowell indicated the General Assembly will conduct studies and will go out with an RFT and get a qualified expert to come in and do these studies. She indicated she would suggest doing something like that and further suggested that members of the TAC talk to their legislative delegation and bring that issue before them. Ms. Hollowell spoke to the possibility of a special Bill noting the Oversight Committee could put forth an item for consideration at the short session. Chairman Bryan requested that Ms. Hollowell and Mr. Johnson work together toward getting this on the legislative agenda. Mr. Weatherly reported the Wake County Delegation has scheduled a meeting on March 28th to work on an agenda. Mr. Johnson explained new Bills are not accepted in the short session. Ms. Hollowell explained if this were to go to the Oversight Committee, they have the authority to run through different legislation. Mr. Johnson indicated he would draft a statement requesting what CAMPO would like to see done in whatever way is best. Mr. Meeker indicated he would like an impartial expert's opinion to estimate how much gas tax revenue is raised and compare it with maintenance and other funds being spent. Mr. Johnson indicated Senator Stephens asked the 21st Century Committee for this information. Mr. Johnson stated he had heard what members are interested in and would draft a scope of service statement the TAC would want a consultant to respond to. Ms. Hollowell stated the 21st Century Committee is also an avenue.

This item was received as information.

LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN – GOALS AND OBJECTIVES – VARIOUS ACTIONS TAKEN

During the update process for the MPO's Long-Range Transportation Plan, the Goals and Objectives are reviewed and updated as needed. During the Technical Coordinating Committee meeting on February 7, 2008, the Goals and Objectives were reviewed and suggested changes were noted. After review, it was decided that several of the Goals and Objectives were overlapping and somewhat repetitive. Suggested changes were noted and a rewrite was undertaken. Members received a copy of the existing Goals and Objectives as adopted and a copy of the draft Goals and Objectives endorsed by the TCC in their packets. If acceptable to the TAC, these Goals and Objectives should be released for a 30-day public review and comment period and a hearing should be scheduled to be conducted at the April 16, 2008 meeting to receive comments.

Ms. Jones moved that the draft Goals and Objectives be received, released for a 30-day public review and comment period and a hearing be scheduled for April 16, 2008.

Chairman Bryan stated this shorter version did not speak to highway construction and maintenance and has gone to other forms of transportation versus where 7/8ths of the money goes to maintaining and improving a network of roads. He spoke to the need for goals and objectives that follow where the funds are being directed. Mr. Johnson stated the point is to say we need a multimodal network and need to invest more in these other

alternatives. Chairman Bryan indicated he would hope by the time this comes back there is some crafted language that is offered as an alternate to supplement what is here.

Ms. Jones' motion was seconded by Mr. Bumgarner, unanimously passed. Chairman Bryan ruled the motion adopted.

2008-2009 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) – VARIOUS ACTIONS TAKEN

Mr. Withrow reviewed this item noting during the fall of 2007, MPO staff and the TCC UPWP Subcommittee began work on the Draft 2008-2009 UPWP. The major focus of this UPWP will be the 2035 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) update. The update will be made in a joint cooperative effort with the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro MPO (DCHC). Significant studies being proposed for initiation during the 2008-2009 fiscal year include the Short to Mid-Range Transit Plan, the NC 50 (North) corridor study and the Triangle Regional ITS Strategic Deployment Plan Update. Members received a copy of the Draft 2008-2009 UPWP at the meeting. Staff requested that the TAC release the Draft UPWP for a 30-day public review period and schedule a public hearing to receive comment to be conducted at the April 16, 2008 meeting. Annually, as part of approving the UPWP, the MPO conducts a self-certification review. Members received a checklist of items reviewed during this process and the accompanying resolution self-certifying that the MPO is fulfilling all federal requirements for the 3-C transportation planning processes. In February, 2005, during a Federal certification review of the MPO, comment was received that the MPO should evaluate its public involvement process more frequently. As a result, the self-certification review for the MPO includes an annual evaluation of the Public Involvement Process. Members received a copy of the current MPO Public Involvement Policy document for review. Staff requested that the Public Involvement Policy also be released for a 30-day public review and comment period and a public hearing to receive comments be scheduled for the April 16, 2008 meeting. Mr. Withrow provided a map of the area covered by this plan.

Mr. Johnson stated this coming year job one is updating the LRTP and a big part is for the first time including the four surrounding counties in that plan. We will be going into these other areas and including those plans. He spoke to the efforts in trying to determine how to recognize the entirety of those counties in the long range vision aspects and that will be a major part of the work being done.

Mr. Withrow explained new projects have grown over the years and our agency has grown. He referred to Page 13 of the plan that outlined new projects including Bike/Ped/Transit projects and have begun implementation of a coordinated public transit human services transportation plan and the US1 Corridor study. He reviewed other projects included noted the emphasis will be placed on the LRTP. He reviewed significant studies including Short and Mid-Range Transportation Plan, Regional Transit Plan, etc. He further noted additional staffing would also be considered. He emphasized this would be a very active year.

Ms. Jones moved release of the Draft 2008-2009 Unified Planning Work Program and Public Involvement Policy for a 30-day public review and comment period and that a public hearing be held for each on April 16, 2008. Her motion was seconded by Mr. Ahlert. Discussion followed regarding the various projects. Ms. Jones questioned why the inventory of central area parking in Downtown Raleigh and the University is being shown. Mr. Withrow responded he would get information from the City of Raleigh and NCSU for the committee's information. Chairman Bryan stated CAMPO is fortunate to have staff that has a full plate and works on things independently.

A vote on the motion made by Ms. Jones was taken and unanimously passed. Chairman Bryan ruled the motion adopted.

MPO STAFF REPORT - RECEIVED

Mr. Johnson reported the annual one-on-one meeting with NCDOT staff was held the previous Monday to discuss the upcoming final STIP. Members received a document that is a comparison of the draft TIP released in November to the current adopted TIP for 2007-2013. He noted what is seen is what will be in the new TIP on top and below what is in the current TIP it is replacing. The MTIP would need to be adopted that matches this sometime before October 1, 2008. Mr. Johnson noted funding has been secured for the Western portion of I-40 from Wade Avenue to US 1 to begin in FY 2010 which is a top priority project and everything else asked for was not shown. Discussion took place relating to R2814 for right-of-way into Franklin County for US 401 widening project. It was noted there is some funding being shown for starting acquisition of right-of-way outside Wake County for that road that will one day go to Louisburg. Mr. Johnson indicated there were good discussions with NCDOT staff at the meeting and a lot of work is underway in the Transportation Management Team initiatives they have. He felt what we are seeing is a continuation of projects we are asking for as a result of a variety of reasons they cannot respond to because the equity formula doesn't let them or the nature of funding doesn't allow it. In regard to the Fuquay Loop, Mr. Johnson indicated it was his understanding NCDOT does not have the funds to commit to that because they don't have funds applicable to that type of improvement in the TIP. Mr. Johnson reported staff would be working with NCDOT further and the work the 21st Century group is doing will result in the fruits of their labor being presented next fall. That committee is getting involved in the issue of redoing the way the State invests in transportation. He encouraged everyone to pay close attention to that.

Chairman Bryan indicated the next 7 years are very bleak and noted there are some good things occurring but not enough of them. He indicated it appeared there were movements being made in the UCP that would benefit Franklin County. He stated it was shocking it did not appear there were projects in the other 4 system counties and spoke to the need to continue to figure out ways to lift those up as well. He indicated CAMPO is trying hard to put forth the entire region. Mr. Johnson explained one thing NCDOT is struggling with is how to advance plans for items that are not in the TIP yet but are major needs. He used as an example the southeast quadrant between US 64 and I-40 East and efforts to get a detailed corridor study going. He spoke of the Highway 50 project that is important to

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Granville County. He stated it is known what the issues are for the 4 surrounding counties and it is frustrating to make progress with the current funding problems.

Mr. Johnson reported at the end of the last meeting it was requested by the TAC when STAC provides their report, they should make a presentation to each MPO separately. He anticipated the report will be available sometime in mid or late April and there is a lot of detail the committee has to approve. He noted STAC members stated this was a regional effort and something should be presented to a group together; however, he received an email that DCHC wanted to receive a separate report as well. He indicated an effort will be made to get recommendations before the report is finished so members will have an idea of what STAC is discussing. He noted there are a lot of issues and there will be some sort of joint meeting in mid May. Chairman Bryan stated he would urge STAC not to bring an unfinished work product and would rather have a completed work product whenever that is available – no matter when. He indicated it will be this body's responsibility to make public policy decisions once recommendations are presented.

NCDOT REPORT – RECEIVED

Mr. Bowman reported on the status of various NCDOT projects. He reported Davis Drive is ahead of schedule and is 42% complete. Estimated completion date is November, 2009 or earlier. The Wake Forest Bypass has just started with a completion date of June, 2010. The Clayton Bypass is scheduled for completion June, 2008 and is one year ahead of schedule.

Mr. Bowman indicated this year NCDOT was fortunate to fund the number 1 project from CAMPO and wished there could have been more projects funded; however, there wasn't enough funding available.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Hunt