

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
November 19, 2008
MINUTES

The Transportation Advisory Committee met on Wednesday, November 19, 2008 at Wake County Commons Bldg, 4012 Carya Drive, Raleigh, NC with the following present:

Members

Chairman Bryan, presiding
Robert Ahlert
Dan Andrews
Don Bumgarner
Frank Eagles
R.H. Ellington
Jan Faulkner
Hubert Gooch Jr.
Russell Killen
Charles Meeker
Jeff Merritt
Darryl Moss
Julie Robison
Perry Safran
Dick Sears
Elic Senter

Representing

Wake County
Town of Clayton
Harnett County
Town of Zebulon
Town of Rolesville
Town of Angier
Town of Morrisville
Granville County
Town of Knightdale
City of Raleigh
Triangle Transit
City of Creedmoor
Town of Cary
NC Turnpike Authority
Town of Holly Springs
Town of Franklinton

Staff

Ed Johnson
Chip Russell
Gerald Daniels
Renee Johnson
Robert McCain
Kyle Ward
Diane Wilson

Representing

CAMPO Director
CAMPO TCC Chair
CAMPO Staff
CAMPO Staff
CAMPO Staff
CAMPO Staff
CAMPO Staff

Others Present

Mitchell Silver
Joe Milazzo II
Paul Bryan
Wally Bowman
Scottie Wilkins

Representing

City of Raleigh
Regional Transportation Alliance
Citizen
NCDOT
Granville County

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bryan with discussion and actions were taken as shown:

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS - None Received

PUBLIC COMMENTS - None Received

CONSENT AGENDA

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

MINUTES - OCTOBER 15, 2008 TAC MEETING - APPROVED AS PRESENTED

Minutes of the October 15th, 2008 meeting were provided to members in their agenda packets.

MINUTES - OCTOBER 29th, 2008 JOINT TAC MEETING - APPROVED AS PRESENTED

Minutes of the October 29th, 2008 joint meeting were provided to members in their agenda packets.

**2009-2015 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
ADMINSTRATIVE MODIFICATION #1 TOWN OF WAKE FOREST - RECEIVED**

The Town of Wake Forest requested that an administrative modification be made to the 2009-2015 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program to reflect funding changes that had been identified. This modification addressed the Neuse River Greenway project (Project EB-4829) and the accompanying resolution. The MPO received information on proposed Administrative Modification #1 to the 2009-2015 MTIP and the recommendation for adoption.

**2009-2015 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
ADMINSTRATIVE MODIFICATION #2 RESEARCH TRIANGLE FOUNDATION - RECEIVED**

Research Triangle Foundation requested that an administrative modification be made to the 2009-2015 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program to reflect funding changes that had been identified. The MPO received information on proposed Administrative Modification #2 to the 2009-2015 MTIP and the recommendation for adoption.

**2009-2015 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION #3 NCDOT - RECEIVED**

NCDOT requested that an administrative modification be made to the 2009-2015 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program to reflect funding changes that had been identified. This modification addressed the resurfacing of I-40 to Wade Avenue next year. When the Division Five office sent the resurfacing package in to department administrators, high ranking officials within the Department of Transportation decided to see if Garvee funds could be utilized instead of resurfacing dollars. The MPO received information on proposed Administrative Modification #3 to the 2009-2015 MTIP and the recommendation for adoption.

Mayor Meeker moved approval of the consent agenda as presented. His motion was seconded by Mr. Gooch, and unanimously passed. Chairman Bryan ruled the motion adopted.

THIS CONCLUDES THE CONSENT AGENDA

2035 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN - PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Bryan invited comments from those members of the public in attendance at the meeting. The following comments were received and recorded.

Mr. Silver the City of Raleigh, Director of Planning, provided comments on the City of Raleigh's response to the 2035 LRTP. Mr. Silver stated the City of Raleigh supports the "Pure" STAC plan as a long rang transportation vision for the city and the region. Mr. Silver stated the City of Raleigh understands the importance of coordinating land use and transportation, and the city would be releasing its draft of the Comprehensive Plan and Future Land Use Map that build off of the STAC plan. Mr. Silver further stated that some of the city's recommendations are as follows:

- The city strongly believes that rail and bus investment should be balanced.
- Electric light rail would be desirable and should be explored. It is believed that light rail may be more sustainable over the long term, as electric rail can be powered by a variety of renewable sources.
- The city recommends that the LRTP should be enhanced with regional and local bus service to truly make the transportation system integrated and connected.
- The City of Raleigh is planning a multimodal center to serve as the principal hub for the entire system, including Amtrak and bus service. It

is envisioned that multiple future transit corridors will come together at this facility not just one single light rail line.

Mr. Silver indicated that the City of Raleigh has concerns about a proposal to run light rail along Salisbury and Wilmington Streets. The city is recommending that we keep alignment fairly close to the concept outlined in the STAC plan and, if Light Rail is to be considered, the City of Raleigh would like to reserve the right to explore options for streetcar service along portions of the corridor.

Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Silver if he would be submitting the above recommendations and letter of support to the MPO. Mr. Silver stated that the comments and recommendations presented today would be forthcoming.

Mr. Milazzo with the Regional Transportation Alliance stated that I-40 is our "Main Street" in that it directly connects Chapel Hill, Durham, the Research Triangle Park, RDU Airport, Cary and Raleigh along with several other communities. He stated that projections for growth will exceed over one million people over the next few decades, and it is clear the capacity for the corridor will be required in order to avoid gridlock on the highways that link and ties the region together.

Mr. Milazzo pointed out that a managed lane study of I-40 was completed a few years ago, and the Regional Transportation Alliance is encouraging the region's transportation partners to initiate a follow-up study of I-40 and parallel/reliever routes (e.g., US 70, TW Alexander Drive, NC 54) between Durham and Raleigh with the focus on near-term relief, as well as potentially longer-term ultimate solutions for the corridor. Mr. Milazzo also recommended the MPO consider opportunities to support the region's efforts to implement the Special Transit Advisory Commission's vision of enhanced transit for our region.

Mr. Milazzo indicated that the downturn in the economy has brought some time, and believes that the growth in jobs and traffic will return and the problem congestion will resolve itself. He commented that attention now to solutions for I-40 will pay dividends for years to come by helping to ensure highway travel between our largest communities and to Research Triangle Park, "the reason for the region".

Mr. Milazzo stated that the Alliance stands ready to assist with shared efforts to keep the Triangle moving, and thanked the MPO for their consideration of the Alliance's request.

Chairman Bryan thanked both organizations for the hard work and effort that they had contributed in their efforts of support and recommendations. He reiterated that the LRTP was a joint effort of many organizations and individuals that had worked diligently to present the LRTP through 2035.

Mr. Paul Bryan, a citizen, addressed the MPO about concerns he had about the LRTP. Mr. Bryan stated there were two items that he, as a citizen, felt needed to be addressed and that his opposition to the items needed to be noted.

- He suggested that a non-interchange overpass be put over Perry Creek to link I-540 to Buffalo Road. Mr. Bryan also stated that he wanted the MPO to consider an exit only for this location because of all of the congestion and traffic patterns from Wake Technical Community College. He asked the MPO to take into consideration the traffic patterns of that area and how far away from the I-540 interchange should be.

- Mr. Bryan also stated that as a citizen he had noticed the tolls and gap funding options for producing revenue for the corridor. He stated that he was concerned about the use of tolls for I-540. Mr. Bryan said that he was concerned because there was not clear delineation on which part would be tolls and which part would be gap funding. He indicated that he was against the collection of tolls on I-540, and felt that the collection of tolls was a step backwards for the corridor.

Mr. Safran stated that he would like to take the opportunity to educate and advise Mr. Bryan on any questions or issues that he had. He felt he could resolve any issues that Mr. Bryan had with tolls and would like to discuss the issue with him at greater length after the meeting.

Mr. Johnson stated that he would like to take this opportunity to advise members and stakeholders on the progress of current projects. He stated that the I-40 project to Holly Springs and the toll road would be completed by 2015, and the continuation of the Triangle Expressway to US 64 E would be completed by 2025. He also advised members that it had been projected that the 2035 improvements to the northern portion of US 1/64 would be funded by tolls and these recommendations are expected to be adopted in the next meeting.

2011-2017 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PROJECT PRIORITY LIST - UPDATE - RECEIVED

Mr. Johnson advised members that Mr. Withrow had taken ill before the meeting and would not be available to present the update. However Mr. Johnson advised members that staff and subcommittees members had been working hard over the past several months to develop the 2011-2017 MTIP Project Priority List, and they felt confident that the current list being presented was accurate and complete. User benefit analysis numbers are being used to assist in prioritizing the projects and MPO staff is currently in the process of receiving /imputing this data into appropriate spreadsheets for project review and ranking. He indicated that a subcommittee meeting would

be held later this month to review information and provide a preliminary ranking for TCC Review.

Mr. Johnson also advised members that the North Carolina Department of Transportation has provided CAMPO with a formal schedule for adopting the draft 2011-2017 MTIP Project Priority List. The adoption date has been moved from December 2008 to March, 2009. The change in adoption date by NCDOT calls for the Capital Area MPO's draft for 2011-2017 MTIP Project Priority List to be adopted by February, 2009.

The report was received as information.

21st CENTURY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Johnson presented a brief update on the 21st Century Transportation Committee and discussions and recommendations that had been come from the committee thus far. Mr. Johnson advised members that a final report of the committee's recommendations was due to be released on December 31st, 2008. He indicated that the charge of the 21st Century Committee was to suggest, to the General Assembly, new ways of funding transportation, so that transportation can be provided throughout the 21st century. Some of the recommendations included:

- Vehicle Mile Assessment Tax - This is an annual tax of $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ cent being considered on all miles driven by citizens. He stated that and allowance for 2,000 untaxed miles had been discussed. It has been projected that this tax would bring in an average of \$50 per citizen of additional revenue which would be restricted for highway concerns into the Highway Trust Fund.
- Tolling I-95 - The Committee is considering recommending tolling the entire I-95 corridor and the southern half of I-295 through Charlotte. There had been a unanimous approval to toll all interstates at the borders But there was still discussion as to whether this toll would be at the entrance or exit of the interstate corridors.
- One cent sales tax -A (Renee - .01 cent is 1/100 of one cent Once cent can be shown as \$0.01 but not with the word cent) one cent sales tax is also being considered that would be applied to any transit needs. He indicated that the problem with this recommendation was that the tax would not be ear marked for upkeep or maintenance.

Mr. Johnson stated that \$170 million to fund inter-modal things are still being planned and a completed draft should come out within the next two weeks or so.

A resolution was included in members' packets outlining recommendations to the Committee.

Chairman Bryan motioned for approval of the Resolution with the addition of a paragraph nine, to stop the transfer of transportation funds to the general fund. His motion was seconded by Mayor Meeker, and unanimously passed. Chairman Bryan ruled the motion adopted.

CONGESTION MITIGATION AND AIR QUALITY (CMAQ) - PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS POLICY CHANGES - RECEIVED

Ms. Wilson advised members and stakeholders that staff presented information on the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program and how these funds are used to support projects that reduce transportation related emissions. Chairman Bryan stated that there were still many questions that had not been answered. Chairman Bryan had asked that the MPO be advised on "How do the recommended changes impact our MPO? Will these changes impact the amount of funding or projects to be funded?" Ms. Wilson advised Chairman Bryan that these questions had been presented, but had not been adequately responded to.

Ms. Wilson advised members that the following items had been approved by NCDOT as revisions to the CMAQ process in North Carolina:

- A recommended process that will allow unallocated funds from the 2004 Call for Projects that are remaining to be set aside for statewide projects. All projects submitted must meet minimum threshold of \$100,000 or the MPO/RPO's remaining balance, whichever is less. Any funds not programmed through this process will revert to general balance CMAQ funds and be subject to new CMAQ guidelines.
- In order to qualify for the Federal Share for CMAQ projects, all required preliminary engineering (environmental document authority and right of way authorization) must be completed in time for NCDOT to request Federal funding authority by September 15, 2009. To allow adequate time for review of submitted items, MPO's must have funding requests for projects to TPB no later than the close of business on August 29, 2009.
- The new guidelines to CMAQ funding for Federal fiscal years 2013 are designed to coincide with the STIP update cycle. An Interagency Review Team will review submitted applications for CMAQ eligibility. Any funds not programmed by the release of the final STIP will revert to the general balance of CMAQ funds and be subject to redistribution during the next update cycle. This process will take effect with the development of the 2011-2017 STIP.

Ms. Wilson advised members that new guidelines on all three processes will be distributed soon.

The report was received as information.

REPORTS

REPORT FROM THE TCC CHAIR - RECEIVED

Chairman Bryan asked TCC Chair Chip Russell to advise TAC members of the role and responsibilities of the TCC. Mr. Russell advised TAC members and stakeholders that the TCC has the responsibility of assuring public contact and debate and that the TCC does the research and ground work in advance of the TAC meetings to provide recommendations to be considered in the TAC process. Mr. Russell also stated that it had been discussed that a yearly planning workshop be scheduled in the spring of next year. Mr. Russell asked Mr. Johnson whether this was still a tentative scheduled event. Mr. Johnson stated that there would be a workshop / planning retreat scheduled in the spring.

REPORT FROM MPO STAFF - RECEIVED

Mr. Johnson advised members that the CAMPO staff reorganization would be going before the City Council at the December 2, 2008 meeting. He also stated that the MPO staff was in the process of negotiating space and requiring approval to move to the 8th floor of the Professional Building where the MPO now resides.

Mr. Johnson stated that Lynwood Buffalo who had served faithfully for the TAC had completed his term as Commissioner of Franklin County, District 7 and did not run for re-election. He stated that Mr. Buffalo's contributions and insight would be greatly missed, and his newly elected replacement would be joining the TAC soon. Chairman Bryan suggested that the MPO draft a letter of gratitude and appreciation to Mr. Buffalo for his service on behalf of the TAC.

NCDOT REPORTS - RECEIVED

Mr. Bowman gave a brief update of the current projects and completion schedules. He stated that the Wake Forest project was running behind and the expected completion date would not be until 2009. He also stated that the

Airport Blvd project had a scheduled completion date of August 2009. Mr. Bowman stated that there were also several projects that were well ahead of schedule. He stated that the Davis Drive project was ahead by 16% and the Wake Forest Bypass would be completed by 6/2010 which is before the projected completion date.

On the financial downside Mr. Bowman stated that the gas tax revenue was down by \$330,000,000 and that was causing areas to cut back as much as possible.

Mayor Meeker asked Mr. Bowman was the rumor true that Cumberland County and Fayetteville had received \$400,000 in contracts? Mr. Bowman stated that to his knowledge he had not been advised that anything of that nature had occurred.

Mayor Moss asked Mr. Bowman if he could update him on the status of the US 56 / Holly School Road Project. Mr. Bowman stated that he would find out the status and get back to Mayor Moss with the information.

OTHER BUSINESS AND PENDING ITEMS - RECEIVED

Chairman Byrne asked Mayor Meeker if he would update us on the Wake County plan. Mayor Meeker stated that he would share with members some highlights of the draft proposal of a future Wake County transit plan which was presented and discussed at a recent meeting of Wake County Mayors. He advised members that a cross section of Triangle residents from Wake, Durham, and Orange counties were called together to form the Special Transit Advisory Commission known as STAC. The commission was charged with looking at major transit investments in the Triangle over the next 25 to 30 years. Mayor Meeker advised members that the STAC recommendation that with an additional ½ sales tax and an increase in vehicle registration, the region should expand both regional and local bus service, add high frequency circulators, and build 5 segments of rail totaling 56 miles. The Action Plan for Public Transportation in Wake County Included:

- Bus Service Expansion - Over 100 new buses
75 new buses by the end of 2013 primarily for Express bus services between municipalities.
- Rail Transit Construction:
 - Transit Technology: Light Rail Transit (LRT) trains powered by electricity.
 - Project Description: NW Cary Station to Spring Forest Station
 - Project Length: 17 miles
 - Opening Date: December, 2019
- Funding:

½ cent sales tax
\$10 increase in vehicle registration fees

No Federal capital support for the project is assumed. Federal support and/or additional State and local support could accelerate project completion for some segments of the initial 17 miles. Federal support and/or additional State and local support could also accelerate rail extensions north of Spring Forest and west of Cary.

Mayor Meeker stated that there were presently two major things going on. He stated there are concerns: (1) What bus and train service would look like in the future? He stated that the Phase II rail to Wake Forest 2nd draft is due by mid December. (2) How will these new changes work administratively? Will CAMPO handle the funding or will the funding be handled and channeled through the state?

Mayor Meeker stated that the public hearing component on this issue would remain open through January 2009, and he requested that a revised draft of comments and recommendations be updated in the process.

Mr. Safran stated that he wanted to share with members how the North Carolina Turnpike Authority had been successful in issuing "Double B" rated bonds that would assist with the funding components of the turnpike. He stated that the bonds would offer 5% interest at a minimum.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Johnson