

**N.C. CAPITAL AREA  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

February 17, 2010  
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm  
Professional Building  
127 W. Hargett St. Suite 800  
Raleigh, NC

**AGENDA**

1. **Adoption of the Agenda**

2. **Public Comments**

This is an opportunity for comments by those in attendance on items not on the agenda. Please limit comments to three minutes for each speaker.

3. **Approval of Minutes of the January 20, 2010 TAC Meeting**  
(Attachment 3)

Minutes of the January 20, 2010 TAC meeting, are enclosed as [Attachment 3](#).

**TAC Action:** Approve minutes of January 20, 2010 TAC meeting.

**Consent Agenda**

All items on the consent agenda are considered to be routine and may be enacted by one motion. If a Councilor requests discussion on an item, the item will be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately. The following items are presented for TAC consideration on the Consent Agenda:

4. **Consent Agenda**

4A. **Regional Transit Planning**

The MPO has been involved with several transit planning initiatives in recent months. The Comprehensive Transportation Plan now underway for the region will include a long-range (30+ year) vision for transit in the Capital Area MPO region. At the same time, an intermediate vision for transit in the region is currently being developed by Triangle Transit and Wake County.

These plans are just getting underway and it will become increasingly important for the Capital Area MPO TAC to be involved in the planning processes. This topic will be a main focus of the upcoming Joint Capital Area MPO/DCHC MPO TAC meeting on March 31, 2010.

**TAC Action:** Receive as information.

**4B. TIP Amendment #2**  
(Attachment 4B)

Project I-5141 is a diamond-grinding project on I-85 in Granville County. A small portion of the project falls within the MPO's planning boundary and thus the project should be added to the MTIP. [Attachment 4B](#) shows the Amendment needed.

**TAC Action:** Schedule a public hearing for MTIP Amendment #2 to be conducted at the March 17, 2010 TAC meeting.

**4C. MTIP Amendment #3**  
(Attachments 4C and 4C1)

Project U-4716 is a railroad alignment at Hopson Road and Church Street that needs to be added to the MTIP to match the project description in the STIP. [Attachment 4C](#) shows the Amendment needed. This project also requires an update of the Air Quality Conformity Report. The TAC received a copy of the Conformity Report at its January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**TAC Action:** Schedule public hearings for MTIP Amendment #3 and the updated Air Quality Conformity Determination Report to be conducted at the March 17, 2010 TAC meeting.

**4D. Triangle Regional Model Data Collection Pilot Program.**  
(Attachment 4D)

The Triangle Regional Model is calibrated on facility volumes and travel speeds, typically collected using traffic and speed counters that are both labor-intensive and expensive. A vendor that compiles speed data down to the collector street level using cell phone signal triangulation has been identified. This data is used both nationally by companies such as Google and locally by companies such as WRAL-TV. The data obtained would be used to inform the Triangle Regional

Model and to monitor the progress made by projects in the Congestion Management Process.

The cost of collecting this data by vehicle, which has traditionally been done, would cost approximately \$300,000. The pilot project being proposed will collect over 830 miles of speed data, collecting data every 15 minutes, every day for a month, for a cost of \$25,000 ([Attachment 4D](#)). The TCC has reviewed the proposal and recommends funding this pilot project.

**TAC Action:** Approve the \$25,000 data collection pilot project.

**4E. Town of Cary Revision of Scope in 2007 STP-DA Award.**

The Town of Cary applied for, and received, an STP-DA competitive grant award in 2007 for the implementation of sharrows (shared-use arrows indicating a travel lane should be shared by bicycle and vehicular traffic) along Kildaire Farm Road. The project is scheduled to move forward this year. Due to some NCDOT resurfacing underway and additional sharrow implementation by the Town, the initial project can be expanded to join with other sharrow projects, making for a more complete bicycle network.

Using the same amount of funding and local match, the Town can now expand the project to include Waldo Rood Road from Cary Parkway to Davis Drive, Kildaire Farm Road from Walnut Street to Palace Green Lane, and NW Maynard Road from Olde Weatherstone Way to Lake Pine Drive. The TCC reviewed this scope revision and recommends that the TAC approve it.

**TAC Action:** Approve the revision to the Town of Cary 2007 competitive STP-DA grant award to expand the project limits.

**4F. American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) Update (Attachments 4F and 4F1)**

There were 17 projects approved for ARRA funding throughout the MPO area; one project was cancelled due the bid received being well in excess of the engineer's estimate. [Attachment 4F](#) shows the current status of MPO members' projects.

In late January the Federal Government announced plans to use ARRA funding on various rail improvements along the Southeast High Speed Rail corridor as shown in [Attachment 4F1](#).

**TAC Action:** Receive as information.

**4G. American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) Part II  
(Attachment 4G)**

As was reported at the January 20, 2010 TAC meeting, Congress has been discussing the release of a second stimulus package. The U.S. House passed HR 2847 ([Attachment 4G](#)), but there has been no movement in the U.S. Senate with this issue yet. Recently received information indicates that Congress may act on ARRA Phase II soon and that the deadlines may be much shorter than those in the original ARRA Act. An update will be provided with information and possible course of action.

**TAC Action:** Receive as information.

**4H. Urban Loop Prioritization  
(Attachments 4H, 4H1 and 4H2)**

The NCDOT Strategic Planning Office for Transportation (SPOT) released a strategy for prioritizing completion of the remaining urban loops in North Carolina in November 2009. At the November 18, 2009 SPOT staff presented information to the TAC. The TAC prepared, and submitted to SPOT, comments ([Attachment 4H](#)) on the prioritization methodology. SPOT reformulated the proposed prioritization methodology as shown in [Attachment 4H1](#), and discussed changes at a meeting/webinar on January 27, 2010.

The DCHC MPO developed Comments ([Attachment 4H2](#)) which reflect many of the same concerns held by Capital Area MPO staff and members. NCDOT has requested that final comments be submitted by February 28, 2010.

MPO staff is currently preparing an analysis of alternatives to the NCDOT SPOT prioritization strategy. The MPO analysis is being primarily based on user benefits where NCDOT's SPOT prioritization is oriented toward a needs based analysis. Additional information will be presented at the meeting.

**TAC Action**:- Receive as information and authorize staff to submit comments to NCDOT by February 28, 2010 deadline.

4I **North Carolina's Transportation Equity Formula**  
(Attachments 4I and 4I1)

Recently, the Raleigh City Council passed a Resolution in Support of Evaluating and Revising the North Carolina Transportation Equity Formula. [Attachment 4I](#) is a copy of the resolution. Following that action, Raleigh's Mayor sent a letter to other Mayors in the MPO area requesting their town boards or councils take similar action.

Staff has prepared a resolution for TAC adoption should they be so inclined. [Attachment 4I1](#) is a copy of that resolution.

**TAC Action**: Receive information and adopt resolution as presented.

**THIS IS THE END OF THE CONSENT AGENDA.**

5. **Organizational Review**  
(Attachment 5)

Joe Bryan, TAC Chair  
Vivian Jones, TAC Vice Chair  
Ed Johnson, MPO Director

Following the November 2009 TAC meeting, a meeting was held with the TAC Chair, Vice Chair, the MPO Director, and the Member Services Manager to discuss various organizational issues. [Attachment 5](#) is a memorandum outlining items discussed at that meeting.

Since that meeting, several items shown on the memorandum have been addressed including:

1. Staffing - Four additional staff positions were authorized in 2008. To date, three of the four have been filled.
  - Grants Manager hired
  - Transportation Planner hired
  - Transportation Planner hired by promotion from within
  - vacancy created: (GIS position) being advertised
  - Transportation Planning Manager should be onboard 3/1

2. Committee on the Organizational study has been formed  
Chaired by TAC Vice Chair - Vivian Jones  
This committee is made up of TAC, TCC and MPO staff members. It will begin meeting shortly and continue to meet over the next several months to discuss the need for an updated organizational study or MPO organizational improvements.
  
3. TCC Committee on Policy and Procedures has been formed  
Committee has met and is reviewing a two-phase scope, with the first phase being conducted this year, and the second phase to concentrate on filling in policy/procedure holes and determining technology needed for implementing recommendations from the first phase report.
  
4. Comprehensive Transportation Plan work has begun.  
The CTP will be handled on a district basis with members being welcome to attend meetings in districts other than the one in which their jurisdiction resides. Those meetings will begin on February 18<sup>th</sup>.

Other Items have been or are being addressed and updates will be provided at upcoming meetings.

**TAC Action:** Receive as information for discussion as appropriate.

6. **FY 2010-2011 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**  
**(Attachments 6, 6A and 6B)**

Diane Wilson, MPO Staff  
Richard Epps, MPO Staff  
Kenneth Withrow, MPO Staff

Each year the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization is required to adopt a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) outlining the tasks that will be performed by MPO staff in the coming fiscal year. At the January 20, 2010 TAC, and February 4, 2010 TCC meetings, possible special study projects for funding in the coming year's program were discussed. The TCC will bring forth a recommendation for the UPWP in March.

The TAC requested a review of the operational budget for the MPO. Staff is currently working on a document showing information on the previous 3 years' budgets including revenues expenditures as well as projections for the

upcoming two years. [Attachment 6](#) will be distributed via e-mail as soon as it is complete.

A member dues fund balance ([Attachment 6A](#)) has been identified which would provide funding above the usual identified limits. These funds could be used in a variety of ways, including application as a credit against member dues, or for special projects. The TCC recommends deferring the billing of dues and possible member local contribution to special studies as the preferred method of depleting these funds. This method would deplete funds within a 3-5 year period.

As part of the UPWP development, the MPO is required to perform a self-certification of its planning processes. This process certifies to the FHWA and FTA that the MPO's planning process addresses major issues facing our area and is being conducted in accordance with all applicable transportation planning requirements. ([Attachment 6B](#)) is a copy of the self certification checklist.

The draft UPWP is under development and is expected to be ready for release following the March 4, 2010 TCC meeting.

The UPWP and Self Certification documents should be released for public review and comment as soon as practicable. Staff is requesting that authorization for release of the UPWP, for public review and comment, following the March 4, 2010 TCC meeting be given; and that public hearings be scheduled at the March 17, 2010 TAC meeting to receive public comment. The TAC will be asked to take formal action on the UPWP at its April 21, 2010 meeting.

**TAC Action:** Authorize release of the 2010 UPWP and MPO Self Certification for a minimum 30-day public review and comment period following the March 4, 2010 TCC meeting; and schedule hearings for both to be conducted at the March 17, 2010 TAC meeting.

## 7. **Federal Rescission**

Ed Johnson, MPO Director

The federal rescission impacting STP-DA and CMAQ funds took place in August, 2009. Since that time, NC Capital Area MPO and other MPO's in the state have worked to determine the local projects impacts that would be felt as a result of the rescission. The rescission was a Congressionally-mandated part of balancing the SAFETEA-LU budget, with details as specific as which programs should have funds rescinded from each state. NCDOT advised the Capital Area

MPO in October 2009 that the MPO would lose \$13.2 million in unprogrammed STP-DA obligation authority.

NCDOT has yet to advise the MPO on how rescinded Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds will be applied across the state. The CMAQ fund rescission totals \$55 million statewide and \$13.2 million of our MPO's STP-DA funds. On January 20, 2010, the TAC directed staff to postpone any recommendations on the source of this \$13.2 million in STP-DA funds until more information could be collected.

On February 9, 2010, a meeting on rescission issues was held with representatives of FHWA and NCDOT. [Attachment 7](#) is a memorandum from Raleigh Mayor Meeker summarizing the meeting.

**TAC Action:** Receive for discussion and action as appropriate.

8. **STP-DA and CMAQ Project Tracking Update**  
**(Attachment 8)**

Richard Epps, MPO Staff  
Shelby Powell, MPO Staff

The Capital Area MPO has requested, and has been receiving, monthly updates from NCDOT regarding the status of STP-DA and CMAQ projects. On January 19, 2010, MPO staff received an email explaining that the man-power to produce these reports simply was not available within NCDOT and that a team was being organized to produce a regular report. This team is being formed since this same information has been requested by all MPO's following the rescission. Staff is maintaining contact with NCDOT on this issue.

The statewide CMAQ rescission in North Carolina totaled \$55 million. In January, NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch Manager Mike Bruff indicated that in late February or early March, the new Capital Area MPO CMAQ allocation figures would be available, and that the MPO could use the new allocation level to prioritize CMAQ projects (as the TCC requested). On February 5, NCDOT CMAQ Manager Terry Arellano indicated via email to MPO staff that the CMAQ projects must be prioritized prior to knowing the new CMAQ allocation and that the prioritization must be completed by February 12, 2010. [Attachment 8](#) is a chart showing various methods of ranking the CMAQ projects. Additional information will be presented at the meeting.

**TAC Action:** Receive as information.

9. **NC Turnpike Authority Update**  
(Attachments 9 and 9A)

Jennifer Harris, NC Turnpike Authority

The North Carolina Turnpike Authority (NCTA) is in the process of planning, environmental and engineering studies for the proposed Triangle Expressway Southeast Connector project in Johnston and Wake Counties.

In November, the Turnpike Authority notified FHWA that planning, environmental and engineering studies had begun, and in December, FHWA issued a notice to the public that an EIS was being prepared. [Attachment 9](#) contains a copy of these two notices and a letter prepared by the Turnpike Authority to residents in the study area.

Construction of the Southeast Connector is currently scheduled to be completed in phases.

Phase I: NC 55 in Apex to I-40 near the Johnston County line  
Phase II: I-40 to the US 64/US 264 Bypass in Knightdale

The NCTA anticipates developing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will consider all alternatives for the future roadway. Beginning this month, the NCTA will provide monthly updates on the project at the TAC and TCC meetings. These updates will serve as part of the coordination plan ([Attachment 9A](#)) required by the National Environmental Policy Act.

**TAC Action:** Receive as information.

10. **Report From The TCC Chair**  
Chip Russell, TCC Chair

11. **MPO Staff Reports**  
Ed Johnson, MPO Director

12. **NCDOT Reports**  
Scott Walston/Rupal Desai - Transportation Planning Branch  
Richard Greene - Division 4  
Wally Bowman/Joey Hopkins - Division 5  
Terry Gibson - Division 6

**Adjourn**

**PENDING ITEMS**

Holly Springs LRTP Amendment Request - Friendship Road/US 1 Interchange Request

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

March 4, 2010 10 a.m.	Capital Area MPO TCC Meeting Professional Building 127 W. Hargett St, Suite 800, Raleigh
March 17, 2010 4 p.m.	Capital Area MPO TAC Meeting Professional Building 127 W. Hargett St, Suite 800, Raleigh
March 31, 2010 8:30 a.m.	Joint Capital Area/Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro MPO TAC Meeting RDU Airport Authority Room 100 A RDU Airport