

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

March 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 February 7, 2010 TAC Meeting**
(Attachment 3)

Minutes of the February 17, 2010 meeting, are enclosed as [Attachment 3](#).

TAC Action: Approve minutes of February 17, 2010 TAC meeting.

Consent Agenda

4. **2009-2015 MTIP Amendment #4 and Amendment #5**
(Attachments 4A and 4B)

David Eatman, Capital Area Transit

In an effort to be better positioned for possible stimulus funding or other grant opportunities that may come available, the Capital Area Transit is requesting two MTIP amendments. These amendments will add two unfunded projects to the MTIP as follows:

Amendment #4: New Bern Avenue/College Park Corridor Project

A 7.5-mile roundtrip bus rapid transit route connecting downtown Raleigh with Wake Medical Center and Wake Technical Community College. The project will serve a large redevelopment area along the corridor, known as College Park.

The total cost for projects is \$13,947,250. A 20 percent local match commitment of \$2,789,450 from the City of Raleigh results in an Urban Circulator grant request for \$11,157,800 which is broken down as follows:

New Bern Rehab/Reconstruction - \$6,389,750: Includes the roadway rehabilitation/reconstruction along New Bern Avenue, including paving, streetscape, sidewalk, curb and gutter, utilities, etc.

BRT Hybrid Vehicles - \$3,000,000: The purchase of five hybrid vehicles; four peak hour vehicles and one reserve vehicle.

Support Facilities - \$500,000: Construction: hybrid vehicle charging station.

Signals, Signs, AVL, Pre-emption - \$557,500: Installation of pedestrian signals, signs, automatic vehicle locaters (AVL), signal priority for transit.

Transit Stations - \$3,500,000: Construction and amenities for 12 transit stations.

[Attachment 4A](#) shows the MTIP amendment requested and provides a map and background data for review.

Amendment #5: Capital Area Transit Park & Ride - Poole Road

Capital Area Transit (CAT) currently owns approximately 7 acres of property located on the east side of Office Way, directly across from the new Transit Operations and Maintenance Facility under construction on Poole Road. CAT intends to build a 200+ park and ride facility on this site. This location will provide a convenient park and ride link for all buses departing and returning to the new Transit Operations Facility from the Downtown Area. The frequent service to and from this lot will provide a high quality alternative for single occupancy vehicles entering the Downtown Raleigh area. In addition, the park and ride lot is proposed to be located directly adjacent to Fire Station 12. The large volume of parking immediately adjacent to the Fire Station will allow the location to be used as an emergency staging area for natural disaster responses.

The site was purchased with 100% local funding. It is anticipated that the value of the land will be used as the in-kind match for this project. The project is budgeted at 3.5 Million. [Attachment 4B](#) shows the MTIP amendment requested and provides a map and background data for review.

TAC Action: Release Amendments 4 and 5 to the 2009-2015 MTIP for public review and comment beginning on March 19 with a written comment deadline of April 19, and schedule a public hearing to be conducted at the April 21, 2010 TAC meeting.

5. **Wake County Transit Planning Update**
(Attachments 5A)

Tim Gardiner, Wake County

Following the passage of House Bill 148 in the 2009 Session of the North Carolina Legislature, a project to compile information such as transit route data, transit ridership data, and funding data needed to address the Wake County Board of Commissioners' and the Wake County Manager's interests regarding planning and implementation of transit services is underway. The Wake County Commissioners are requesting that the data above, along with proposed land use plans, service plans, and financial plans be compiled into a written report for their review prior to scheduling a public referendum for a ½ cent sales tax on transit. Details on the documentation produced and being gathered are included in the attachment. Several groups including the Wake County Managers, Transit Providers, the Land Use-Community Infrastructure-Development (LUCID) Group, Wake County planners, CAMPO Staff and affordable housing providers have already been approached for information and input on this effort. Several town boards have also requested information on this effort, as well as a general update on the area's transit strategies. Upcoming town meetings are scheduled:

March 9th	6:30pm	Town of Morrisville
March 22nd	7:00 pm	Town of Wendell

A Joint TAC Meeting to be held on Wednesday, March 31 will feature a discussion on the status of the Wake County Transit Plan, and how Wake County is proceeding to prepare for a future referendum.

[Attachment 5A](#) is a copy of the draft Wake County Transit Documentation View.

TAC Action: Receive as information

6. **Resolution Concerning H1451: Bicycle Protection Act**
(Attachments 6A and 6B)

Kenneth Withrow, MPO Staff

The Capital Area MPO's Bicycle/Pedestrian Stakeholders Group (BPSG) has concerns about interpretation of H1451 (entitled: an act to amend the laws related to the operation of bicycles) that could limit on-road bicycle use to designated bicycle lanes only. The TCC reviewed the position paper ([Attachment 6A](#)), created by the BPSG, and a draft resolution endorsing the

paper at the January 7 TCC meeting, and generally concurred with the statements made in the position paper, which identified these major points:

- Reaffirms the League of American Bicyclists Cyclists Equity Statement, which encourages states to adopt fair, equitable and uniform traffic laws that are “vehicle-neutral” to the greatest extent possible
- State laws should allow the use of the right arm to signal a right-turn where applicable
- While existing state law specifies a minimum two-foot safe passing distance between motorists and cyclists, the State of North Carolina should examine others states’ minimum safe passing laws to determine their effectiveness
- Legal strategies to combat harassment against any bicycle users along a highway should be suited for efficacy, enforceability and compliance with first amendment rights
- Any additions or revisions to the state traffic laws concerning bicycle usage should be integrated into other applicable sections.

The BPSG adopted the Position Statement at their October 27, 2009 meeting, and the Resolution at their December 8, 2009 meeting. The BPSG recommends the MPO adopt a resolution of support for the Position Statement. After considering the resolution at the February 4 TCC meeting, the TCC decided by consensus to delay adoption of the resolution to give members time to make edits to the proposed resolution. The revised resolution is enclosed as [Attachment 6B](#).

TAC Action Adopt Resolution in support of Position Statement by the Capital Area MPO Bicycle Pedestrian Stakeholders Group Regarding House Bill 1451.

THIS IS THE END OF THE CONSENT AGENDA.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

7. **2009-2015 MTIP Amendment #2**
(Attachment 7A)

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 7A](#) shows the Amendment needed. The TAC released this item in January for public review and comment today is conducting a public hearing to receive comment. Following the close of the public hearing the TCC and MPO staff recommend adoption of Amendment #2.

TAC Action: Conduct public hearing and adopt 2009-2015 MTIP Amendment #2 for project I-5141.

8. **MTIP Amendment #3**
(Attachments 8A)

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 8A](#) 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 20th meeting.

The TAC released this item in January for public review and comment today is conducting a public hearing to receive comment. Following the close of the public hearing the TCC and MPO staff recommend adoption of Amendment #3.

TAC Action: Conduct public hearing and adopt 2009-2015 MTIP Amendment #3 for project U-4716 and the updated Air Quality Conformity Determination Report.

9. FY 2010-2011 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), Self-Certification and Public Involvement Policy
(Attachments 9A, 9B, and 9C)

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 MPO staff will perform 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. At its February 17, 2010 meeting, the TAC pre-authorized release of the FY 2011 UPWP and associated documents, on March 8, 2010, for a 40-day public review and comment period. The proposed schedule for the UPWP is as follows:

March 8	Public Review and Comment Period opened for the FY 2011 UPWP, Self-Certification and PIP
March 17	Public Hearing is conducted by TAC (the hearing may be left open until April 21 TAC meeting)
April 1	TCC recommends adoption of FY 2011 UPWP, Self-Certification and PIP, pending additional public comments
April 16	Public Review and Comment Period closes
April 21	TAC closes Public Hearing and adopts final FY 2011 UPWP, Self-Certification and PIP

[Attachment 9A](#) is a copy of the Draft FY 2011 Unified Planning Work Program [Attachment 9B](#) is a copy of the MPO Self-Certification Checklist and the corresponding responses. [Attachment 9C](#) is a copy of the current Public Involvement Process.

TAC Action: Conduct Public Hearing to receive comment on 2011 UPWP and MPO Self Certification and Public Involvement Policy.

THIS CONCLUDES THE PUBLIC HEARINGS

10. Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Projects
(Attachment 10A)

Shelby Powell, MPO Staff

The statewide CMAQ rescission in North Carolina totaled \$55 million. In January, the TCC requested information on the Capital Area MPO's CMAQ allocation figures for planning purposes. NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch Manager Mike Bruff indicated that in late February or early March, allocation figures would be available for use in prioritizing CMAQ projects for the 2011-2017 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

On February 5, NCDOT CMAQ Manager Terry Arellano indicated to MPO staff, via email, that prioritization of CMAQ projects must be completed by February 12, 2010. Further discussions between the MPO and NCDOT Staff revealed that the prioritization was to be used as a tool to determine rescission impacts. It was also indicated and that the Strategic Planning Office for Transportation (SPOT) was hoping to use local priorities to inform decisions made about the rescission. NCDOT further indicated that if the MPO submitted no priority ranking for CMAQ projects, the benefit/cost ratio numbers identified on individual applications would be used to determine priorities.

The TCC's CMAQ subcommittee has met, and at the direction of the TCC, presents a list of projects to be funded using CMAQ funds. This list is based on funding allocations originally presented to the MPO by NCDOT, and is subject to change based on revised funding allocations when that information becomes available. The recommended CMAQ program funding allocation and accompanying documentation for submittal to NCDOT is shown in [Attachment 10A](#).

TAC Action: Endorse, for submittal to NCDOT, the prioritized list of CMAQ projects as presented by TCC subcommittee.

11. Federal Rescission
(Attachments 11A, 11B and 11C)

Ed Johnson, MPO Director

The federal rescission impacting STP-DA and CMAQ funds took place in August 2009. Since that time, the Capital Area MPO and other MPOs in the state have worked to determine the local project 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 \$13.2 million in unprogrammed STP-DA obligation authority would be lost.

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 by the MPO with representatives of FHWA and NCDOT. [Attachment 11A](#) is a memorandum from Raleigh Mayor Meeker summarizing the meeting.

As a result of these events, the TAC discussed establishing a master list of projects that could be used to quickly address the request for projects of certain types or criteria when new funding streams are developed. This list could be used annually to obligate all STP-DA funds for the MPO. The list of projects would be developed by submissions from member governments and agencies, and could include preliminary engineering/design, right-of-way acquisition, construction, planning studies, enhancements, operational improvements, ITS projects, or other projects that met criteria that would be established.

On February 15, 2009, a working group of the TCC met to begin process of establishing the framework for a MPO multi-year transportation improvement projects implementation and tracking program. This program would schedule and track status of all individual phases of projects to fully utilize all possible sources of existing and future funding (federal, state, and local) available for use by the MPO and its members.

Possible project selection criteria would include:

- Projects that are highly effective transportation solutions for currently identified problems
- Projects that can be advanced quickly
- Projects that meet all eligibility requirements for funding type, such as successfully completing appropriate type of environmental study
- Member government grant recipient must agree to administer all phases of project either directly, or through qualified contracted services

- Member government grant recipient must agree to front the projects costs, pay the required local share of project costs, and be reimbursed for the state/federal/other share(s) after completion

- Geographic equity would be taken into account.

The following day, NCDOT officials advised staff that progress was being made on establishing financial reports to track the status of both MPO projects and funding availability. CAMPO staff is to be among first outside NCDOT to review, with review anticipated tentatively the week of February 22, 2010. Funding reports will be available first as monthly reports in MS Excel (editable) formats, eventually transitioning to direct system access.

On February 23rd, a meeting was held with representatives of NCDOT and Capital Area and Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro staff. [Attachment 11B](#) is a recap of that meeting provided by NCDOT.

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro MPO has developed spreadsheets that will assist with tracking of projects and their phases. [Attachment 11C](#) is a copy of those spreadsheets.

A committee will be convened on March 15 to discuss this issue further. The TAC will be updated on the outcomes of that meeting.

TAC Action: Receive for discussion and action as appropriate.

12. **NC Turnpike Authority Scoping Comments**
(Attachment 12A)

Chris Lukasina, MPO Staff

The Turnpike Authority presented information at the February TAC and the March TCC meetings regarding the Environmental Impact Statement being prepared for the southern portion of the I-540 Loop. The Turnpike Authority invited comments on the Scope of the project from the MPO, local governments, and the public. These comments are requested by March 31, 2010. Staff has developed proposed comments ([Attachment 12A](#)) for submittal.

TAC Action: Approve comments for submittal to NCDOT and the NC Turnpike Authority.

13. MPO Joint Legislative Agenda
(Attachment 13A)

Ed Johnson, MPO Director

The Joint Legislative Agenda, adopted by the TAC's of the Capital Area and Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro MPO's in April of 2006, is enclosed as [Attachment 13A](#). The TCC discussed this topic at their March 4, 2010 meeting. The Joint Legislative agenda was adopted by each MPO's TAC during the month of April 2006. Since adoption, several of the agenda items have been addressed and it may now be time to add items of importance to the region to the agenda. It is anticipated that this topic will be discussed at the Joint TAC meeting on March 31, 2010.

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

14. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- The TAC approved funding for the Pilot Program to collect speed data via cell phone triangulation using the contractor AirSage. This project will cost \$25,920 and will provide data to enhance the MPO's modeling and congestion management process work.
- All ARRA projects in the area are now under contract. Members are reminded to submit their monthly employment and budget reports to NCDOT, and to copy Richard Epps, MPO Staff, on these reports.
- Urban Loop Prioritization comments were submitted by staff to NCDOT prior to the deadline. A copy of comments submitted on behalf of the MPO are enclosed as [Attachment 14A](#)
- NCDOT's Strategic Prioritization Office of Transportation (SPOT) released the draft statewide list of unconstrained transportation needs, available on their website: <http://www.ncdot.org/performance/reform> .
 - Additional data was released the first week of March, allowing MPO staff to analyze the statewide list of priorities against the Division and MPO priority lists.
- Our current year UPWP operating budget is \$1,780,100 and as of 03/14/2010 we have spent \$816,154. This includes ARRA funding for the NC 50 Corridor Study. Please see [Attachment 14B](#) for more details. [Attachment 14C](#) also provides a recap of the members' share fund balance.

- The next Subarea meeting for Comprehensive Transportation Planning (CTP) work has been scheduled on March 23 at 9:30 a.m. at the Clayton Town Hall Conference Room. This meeting will focus on issues in the Southeastern Wake and Johnston County areas.
- **Organizational Review Subcommittee Update**
The Organizational Review Subcommittee, Chaired by Mayor Jones has scheduled its first meeting to be held at 2:00 pm on March 17. Members have received copies of the 2003 Organizational Study completed by the Center for Urban Transportation Research for review prior to the meeting.
- **Policy Development Committee Update**
The Policy Development Subcommittee has met and drafted a Scope of Work that outlines the MPO's needs for this project. The Committee met with representatives from ITRE in February to discuss their capabilities as related to the tasks outlined in the draft Scope of Work. After receiving additional information from ITRE, the Subcommittee will meet again to discuss next steps.

15. Report From The TCC Chair
Chip Russell, TCC Chair

16. MPO Staff Reports
Ed Johnson, MPO Director

17. NCDOT Reports
Scott Walston/Rupal Desai - Transportation Planning Branch
Richard Greene - Division 4
Wally Bowman/Joey Hopkins - Division 5
Greg Burns - Division 6
Jennifer Harris - NC Turnpike Authority

Adjourn

PENDING ITEMS

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

UPCOMING MEETINGS

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
April 1, 2010 10 a.m.	Capital Area MPO TCC Meeting Professional Building 127 W. Hargett St, Suite 800, Raleigh
April 21, 2010 4 p.m.	Capital Area MPO TAC Meeting Professional Building 127 W. Hargett St, Suite 800, Raleigh