

**TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AUGUST 17, 2005
MINUTES**

The Transportation Advisory Committee met on Wednesday, August 17, 2005 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Raleigh Municipal Building, 222 W. Hargett Street, with the following present:

Members

Chairman Bryan, presiding
Charles Meeker
Sam Bridges
John Byrne
Jan Faulkner
Ann Franklin
Vivian Jones
Ernie McAlister
Nina Szlosberg
Dick Sears

Representing

Wake County
Raleigh
Garner
Fuquay-Varina
Morrisville
Triangle Transit Authority
Wake Forest
Cary
NCDOT
Holly Springs

Staff

Chip Russell
Ed Johnson
Kenneth Withrow

Representing

TCC Chair
CAMPO Director
CAMPO Staff

Others Present

Robert Ahlert
Lynnwood Buffalo
John Hodges-Copple
Jenny Edwards
Hubert Gooch
Buck Kennedy
Sarah Smith
Kaye Yadusky
Gudrun Elise Thompson

Representing

Clayton
Franklin County
TJCOG
Franklinton
Granville County
Garner
NCDOT
Youngsville
Southern Environmental Law Center

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

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS – NO CHANGES MADE – APPROVED AS PRESENTED

There were no changes made to the agenda. Mayor Sears moved approval of the agenda as presented. His motion was seconded by Mayor McAlister, unanimously passed, and ruled adopted by Chairman Bryan.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – NONE RECEIVED

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

MINUTES – JUNE 15, 2005 – APPROVED AS PRESENTED

Minutes of the June 15, 2005 meeting were provided to members in their agenda packets. Mayor Jones moved approval of the minutes as presented. Her motion was seconded by Mayor Sears, and unanimously passed. Chairman Bryan ruled the motion adopted.

FY 2006-2012 MTIP AND AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY REPORT – PUBLIC HEARING – HEARING HELD OPEN – MS. SZLOSBERG TO COORDINATE MEETING WITH NCDOT OFFICIALS

Mr. Johnson reviewed this item as outlined in the agenda. He presented a brief history of the 2006-2012 MTIP beginning with the N. C. Board of Transportation's approval on July 7, 2005. This item was placed on this agenda for the purpose of conducting the required public hearing. Final approval of the 2006-2012 MTIP could occur at either the August or September TAC meeting. The approval will include the determination that the FY 2006-2012 MTIP conforms to the State's implementation plan for attaining the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Members received a copy of the MTIP in their agenda packet. CAMPO's Project Priority Subcommittee met on July 15, 2005 to address scheduling of the projects covered in the plan and expressed concern over the lack of funding for the Raleigh Signal System upgrade, the delay of funding for the Western Wake Expressway and US 401 in Wake and Franklin Counties. Other regionally significant projects were reviewed including I-40, I-440, and US 70 with regard to their scheduling within the MTIP. Staff was requested to address these projects and present possible revisions to those schedules. CAMPO staff reviewed the transit element and made corrections that will be incorporated into the MTIP. Members proposed revisions to the highway element of the MTIP as follows:

The schedules for the following projects were adjusted in years four through seven and do not affect the first three year period of the TIP schedule.

- (1) Project I-4744 – I-40 widening
- (2) Project R-2635 – Western Wake Expressway
- (3) Project U-2719 – Widening I-440 between I-40 & Wade Avenue
- (4) Project U-4709 – Rehabilitation of Raleigh's existing signal system

NCDOT may move projects and change the phasing of projects listed in the first three year period of the MTIP without additional programming or project approval by the MPO, provided the air quality conformity and financial constraint criteria are met..

CAMPO staff reviewed the transit portion of the MTIP and found a number of inconsistencies between the proposed MTIP and the submitted transit list adopted by the TAC on November 17, 2004. Members received a copy of correspondence from CAMPO staff addressing these errors and providing corrections.

Mr. Johnson explained that following discussion during the August 4 TCC meeting, it was determined the best course of action for the FY 2006-2012 CAMPO MTIP was to:

- (1) Recommend that the TAC adopt the initial draft 2006-2012 MTIP and the 4 changes outlined along the corrections to errors found in the transit element, and
- (2) Recommend that the TAC restate to NCDOT the importance of the Raleigh Signal System.

CHAIRMAN BRYAN DECLARED THE HEARING OPEN.

Joe Milazzo, Executive Director of the Regional Transit Alliance, expressed support of the acceleration of the projects as outlined. He noted the signal system improvements are critically needed. Mr. Milazzo expressed appreciation for whatever could be done to accelerate these items.

Attorney Gudrun Thompson, of the Southern Environmental Law Center, expressed concern that if we fail to meet air quality standards by the deadline, we risk sanctions including loss of Federal Highway funds. She noted a margin of error should be left in meeting these standards. She stated that attainment measures must meet standards on the ground and not in the model. She spoke to the requirement to demonstrate transportation conformity and that failure to do so results in a lower image of the area and the delay of projects. The most important aspect is that the potential loss of highway funding is the negative effects on human health. Poor air quality causes children to develop asthma. She noted that of 96,000 local residents who suffer from asthma, 1/3 of them are children. She stated this area ranked 4th in the nation in vehicular noxious emissions per capita and that urban sprawl is the problem. Between 1991 and 2000, land consumed by urbanized areas in the Triangle grew 74% and the per capita vehicle miles traveled are 13th in the nation. She indicated there are few transportation options available so we drive everywhere. 85% of Wake County residents in 2000 drove alone to work. She stressed the need to get people out of their cars; therefore, we must increase funding for transportation alternatives. She noted the 2006-2012 TIP funds overwhelmingly go to road projects and pointed out that this is worse than the last TIP; which is a step in the wrong direction for air quality, sprawl and the quality of life in this area. The TTA rail system will help reduce smog emissions. She urged CAMPO to implement other transportation strategies including increasing funding for bike/pedestrian projects, etc. Ms. Thompson stated that as other regions have discovered, the Triangle can't build its way out of congestion by constructing more highways. Chairman Bryan indicated the hearing would be held open until the next TAC meeting.

Mayor Sears questioned the status of Project R-2635. Mr. Johnson responded that originally this project was the Western Wake Freeway beginning at US 1 south at Apex and continuing to NC 55 near RTP and that an additional unfunded piece extends the project to the NC55 Bypass. That portion was originally added project R-2635 but subsequently it was decided to shorten the first phase so that it only goes to US 64 north of Apex with construction scheduled for 2012. The remainder from US 64 to NC 55 Bypass was shown in that project as post year (no funding commitment between now and 2012). Mayor Sears indicated old Project 2635 was a dog leg that is gone now.

Mr. Johnson reviewed the TCC's recommendations included in the agenda packets.

Mayor Meeker expressed disappointment there was no improvement in the TIP situation, and that Wake and the surrounding counties are donors to other parts of the State. He indicated that on projects where we designated funds, the State match is missing and that he would not vote to approve the MTIP. Mayor Sears stated he would concur with Mayor Meeker's disappointment in the MTIP as proposed.

Ms. Szlosberg stated that time is needed to work on technical issues due to ongoing discussions about reauthorization and the need to see if any new money is available. She indicated that she has been out of town and would like an opportunity to see what positive gains can be made. Ms. Szlosberg suggested allowing an additional 30 days to see what work can be done and still meet the October deadline for federal requirements. Mayor Meeker reiterated there need to be some changes or there would not be an affirmative vote on this MTIP. Chairman Bryan indicated that historically CAMPO has voted to approve the TIP and questioned the result if there is no affirmative vote. Mr. Johnson referred to the previous TIP where a portion of the Wake Forest Bypass, in year 3 of the TIP, on which NCDOT and CAMPO agreed to disagree. FHWA approved the rest of the TIP without that one phase of the project. He spoke to the effect of CAMPO not approving the TIP noting it is within the State's prerogative to vote down the entire TIP if it is not approved by CAMPO. He stated hopefully when the next TIP comes out some time next year, an improvement will be seen.

Mr. Russell indicated that in past years, we have concurred with NCDOT's draft and sent an attachment explaining our displeasures; however, that does not seem to have helped the situation. He indicated if changes to emphasize the need to have certain project accelerated could be made in later years of the plan that would be more successful.

Chairman Bryan stated there are only 30 days remaining to approve the MTIP and he hopes we will not be in a position where there is disagreement. He wants to be sure everything possible is explored noting he does not want CAMPO to vote down transportation for the region. Mayor Meeker stated the problem is in the City of Raleigh and most of the surrounding municipalities where \$25 million per year is paid in state gas tax and if you look at this plan there is no money allocated to the City of Raleigh. He indicated the funds are going outside Wake County and the same is true for the next 6 years. He stated this area gets no return and he feels it is not reasonable to expect any

member to vote for that. He stated that this group has indicated to NCDOT it is not going to approve the plan and NCDOT should come back with an alternate plan.

Ms. Szlosberg indicated that since the state adopted the TIP in July, CAMPO cannot offer amendments to the TIP until October and cannot move the signal system forward until that time. She suggested setting up a meeting next week with key people, including representatives of NCDOT, Secretary Tippet, and Ken Spaulding to avoid getting into a problem. Mayor Meeker stated that the plan could be approved subject to the needed amendments coming October 1. He pointed out that we go to meetings with NCDOT but nothing happens. He stated it would make sense for NCDOT representatives to come to CAMPO and say \ what they are willing to do. Ms. Szlosberg stated, given the timeline, such a meeting might move things along.

Mr. Johnson explained the state tells us how much funding is available and we are supposed to set the priorities and let them concur with what we have developed. He stated CAMPO might desire to develop an MTIP for 2007-2013 first and adopt it before NCDOT comes out with the State MTIP next year which would put CAMPO in a leadership position.

Chairman Bryan noted it is the sense of this body that some compromise is needed and hoped solutions would be proposed. He noted if there are no solutions offered, we will be at a stalemate. He spoke to the need to find some hope other than just business as usual. He stated he would be willing to attend the meeting as suggested by Ms. Szlosberg but indicated sometime there must be some compromise. He expressed appreciation for the work done by the TCC

Mayor Sears spoke to the frustration of spending the time developing the TIP and then this region still receives no funding. He referred to Project R-2635 noting we were told it was funded but it is shown as unfunded. He indicated there seem to be two different programs going in two directions and this is very confusing.

It was agreed Ms. Szlosberg would coordinate a meeting with Secretary Tippet, NCDOT representatives, CAMPO and others in order to get answers to the questions as outlined.

CAPITAL AREA MPO 2007-2013 REGIONAL PROJECT PRIORITY LIST – PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AUTHORIZED – PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD SEPTEMBER 21, 2005

Mr. Johnson reviewed this item noting that TCC and TAC members had agreed, during the May meetings, on a schedule for development of the 2007-2013 Project Priority list. The schedule of activity for the 2007-2013 Project Priority list was included in the packets. CAMPO's TIP Project Priority Subcommittee met on July 15, 2005 and discussed the process for prioritizing transportation projects from throughout the region. This will incorporate the priority TIP projects submitted by the governments of counties in the process of becoming official members of the Capital Area MPO. Those counties (Franklin, Granville, Harnett, and Johnston) were in previous years solely members of Rural Planning Organizations (RPOs) and had developed their transportation priority lists accordingly. High

priority corridors identified by the RPOs include US 401 in Franklin County, I-40 in Johnston County, NC 55 and US 401 in Harnett County and NC 50 and I-85 in Granville County.

Chairman Bryan, at the June TAC meeting, requested, given the time frame allowed, that the priority list undergo objective technical analysis as part of its development. The subcommittee directed staff to initially compile the list of projects from throughout the region, perform an update of the user benefits analyses and score those projects based on criteria developed during the previous comprehensive transportation priority setting exercise. It was discovered that a criteria other than that used by Wake County was used for projects submitted by new member jurisdictions. Those jurisdictions used a criteria developed by the RPO to which they belonged. After review during three TIP Subcommittee meetings, the staff determined that the best approach to scoring projects should come from the results of the User Benefit Analysis and the Highway Benefits Comparison Model. Members received an attachment in their packets outlining roadway projects that have been sorted by estimated project costs. Members also received attachments outlining bicycle pedestrian, enhancement and Intelligent Transportation System projects and the listing of CAMPO's top twenty highway projects. He noted the top twenty listing represented a good geographical distribution of projects that have acceptable technical merits as generated through the User Benefit Analysis tool and the Highway Benefits Comparison Model tool. He explained staff was not asking for action at today's meeting. Mr. Petrosky explained the bicycle/pedestrian information noting we have been successful in getting our bicycle pedestrian priorities funded through the TIP and are submitting a listing of the top 20 bicycle/pedestrian projects. Mr. Johnson reviewed the Transit portion noting there are a number of transit planners working on this and trying to come up with recommendations that address the need for greater Triangle regional services rather than just the three core counties. He noted there is support for the top priority projects. Chairman Bryan spoke to his desire to have a technical strategy that benefits the entire region.

Ms. Szlosberg stated the TAC has a retreat on October 19 and would like to see this item on that agenda because the priorities need to be as objective as possible.

It was agreed to place this on the retreat agenda for discussion.

Mayor Meeker moved authorizing a 30-day public comment period from August 22, 2005 to September 21, 2005 concluding with a public hearing at the September 21, 2005 TAC meeting. His motion was seconded by Mayor Sears, unanimously passed.

JOINT MPO SOCIOECONOMIC DATA EXERCISE – PROPOSED FORECAST METHODOLOGY – RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

Mr. Withrow reviewed this item noting staff members from DCHC and CAMPO met to address socioeconomic data collection for the Triangle Regional Model. The initial meeting was held on May 3 and discussion took place regarding refreshing the 2002 base data in the TRM as well as collecting data for 2005. Wake County Public School System representatives noted the school system was growing at a rate of 5,000 students per year and the school bond is scheduled to be moved to 2006. The school system plans to

provide geocoding for every student in the county. Mike Miller of N. C. State's OR/Ed. Lab participated in the meeting and commented that he is currently working on a project that would utilize a parcel-resolution land use analysis, based on the school system's node geometry layer. Data will be collected at the parcel level for a given base year and forecasted for future years.

Mr. Withrow indicated the subcommittee met in June to gather information about the exercise Mr. Miller is working on and determined that both data collection efforts for the TRM and school system can be combined. With the goal of finalizing the 2005 socioeconomic exercise by the end of January, 2006, the municipalities will need direction in completing the socioeconomic data gathering for both transportation and school planning. The subcommittee agreed that the July 12, 2005 meeting of the Joint S. E. Data Subcommittee of the Whole should be cancelled to allow for the following actions to take place:

- 1) Mid-July completion by the OR/Ed. Lab of a planning region geodatabase for all of Wake County,
- 2) Mid-July completion of TAZ structure for the new model area by the TRM Model Team
- 3) Testing of the methodology being developed by the OR/Ed. Lab that the Wake County municipal planning agencies will use in creating forecasts for both school and transportation infrastructure by the technical team, in conjunction with planning staff from Raleigh, Cary and Wake Forest.

Mr. Withrow explained a smaller committee is working with Mr. Miller to define development profiles to be used during the socioeconomic data gathering exercise.

Ms. Szlosberg indicated placement of schools is a national issue; noting that people buy land to build a school and municipalities have to provide infrastructure and find the funds. She noted this would have a huge impact on transportation dollars. Mr. Withrow indicated data gathering will be done this fall and will have this completed by mid winter or early spring of next year.

This was received as information.

REPORT FROM TCC CHAIR – RECEIVED

Mr. Russell in referring to the U.S. 1 Corridor Study noted there is a committee meeting on this item and the subcommittee will meet monthly until the item is completed. He noted the Comprehensive Transportation Plan subcommittee is meeting on an as-needed basis in order to meet the deadline of this time next year.

REPORT OF MPO STAFF – RECEIVED

Mr. Johnson reported there would be a strategic planning retreat on October 5 from 9 a.m. until 12 noon at the Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority building.

Mr. Johnson introduced new CAMPO staff member Diane Wilson.

NCDOT REPORT – RECEIVED

Jon Nance reported on several ongoing road projects. He indicated in Cary, the US1/64 project is just a matter of days from making a traffic shift. This project will continue for the next several months and is 25% complete. He referred to the Outer Loop project noting the bridges at US 64 and Milburnie are complete. The Knightdale Connector is on schedule and is 63% complete. US 64/264 opened recently and the ramp and loop will be completed in September. NC 55 in Fuquay-Varina is 88% complete with a construction deadline of October 1. US 70 Bypass (Clayton Bypass) is moving along well and the contractor has been focusing on the new location on Highway 42. The Fuquay-Varina Revitalization project should be completed by Labor Day. I-540 from Triangle Town Center to new 64/264 Bypass will be under contract in August/September. Discussion followed regarding safety issues involved in road projects and the need for improved public communications.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Hunt