

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MARCH 21, 2007
MINUTES

The Transportation Advisory Committee met on Wednesday, March 21, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. at Wake County Commons, Raleigh, N. C. with the following present:

Members

Chairman Bryan, presiding
Robert Ahlert
Dan Andrews
Lynn Buffaloe
Don Bumgarner
Jenny Edwards
R. H. Ellington
Jan Faulkner
Anne Franklin
Vivian Jones
Frank Eagles
Ronnie Williams
Russ Stephenson
Nina Szlosberg

Representing

Wake County
Clayton
Harnett County
Franklin County
Zebulon
Franklinton
Angier
Morrisville
TTA
Wake Forest
Rolesville
Garner
Raleigh
NCDOT

Staff

John Burris
Ed Johnson
Robert McCain
Jake Petrosky
Chip Russell
Diane Wilson
Kenneth Withrow

Representing

CAMPO Staff
CAMPO Director
CAMPO Staff
CAMPO Staff
TCC Chairman
CAMPO Staff
CAMPO Staff

Chairman Bryan called the meeting to order. The following items were discussed with actions taken as shown:

ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA - NONE RECEIVED - AGENDA APPROVED AS PRESENTED

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS - NONE RECEIVED

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

Mr. Stephenson reported the Raleigh City Council, on February 20, 2007, adopted a Resolution endorsing Senate Bill S-610 which is for Wake local funding options. He provided members with a copy of the Resolution and asked that members consider requesting endorsement by their town boards. Chairman Bryan reported Senator Cowell introduced this legislation noting having a senator knowing problems of local governments is of great benefit. Mr. Stephenson noted the bill was co-sponsored by Senator Malone.

MINUTES - FEBRUARY 21, 2007 - APPROVED AS PRESENTED

Members had received a copy of the February 21, 2007 minutes prior to the meeting. Mayor Sears moved approval of the minutes as presented. His motion was seconded by Mayor Jones, unanimously passed. Chairman Bryan ruled the motion adopted.

2030 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN AMENDMENT AND AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY DETERMINATION - 30 DAY COMMENT PERIOD AUTHORIZED

Mr. Johnson provided the history of this item as outlined in the agenda. Members were provided with a copy of the Air Quality Conformity determination document at the meeting. CAMPO's Public Involvement Policy requires that this document be released for a 30-day public review and comment period. He explained the Tryon Road project in the area of the old municipal airport was to have a regional rail project completed by next year and this is now on hold due to inability to obtain federal funding. The LRTP includes these and has expected completion dates. Air quality conformity analyses are based on the analysis done with these projects in place. He noted the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan Amendment and Air Quality Conformity Determination should be released for a 30-day public review and comment period. He noted John Hodges-Copple with Triangle J-COG has been working on this and it is ready to go forward for comment.

Mayor Jones moved that these documents be released for 30-day public comment period. Her motion was seconded by Mayor Sears, unanimously passed. Chairman Bryan ruled the motion adopted.

2007-2013 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM - 30 DAY COMMENT PERIOD & PUBLIC HEARING AUTHORIZED

Mr. Johnson provided the history of this item as outlined in the agenda. He reviewed changes between the draft 2007-2013 TIP and the N. C. Board of Transportation's adopted 2007-2013 TIP. Two projects contained in the STIP being highlighted for discussion are (1) widening of I-40 from US 1/64 in Cary to Wade Avenue and (2) STP-DA funds for 2013 and post years. He explained the MPO feels the widening of I-40 should be accelerated and options for STP-DA funds beginning in 2013 be shown. He

stated the MPO has expressed a desire to make the decision on where these funds could best be used and these issues will require discussion between the MPO and NCDOT and may need to be proposed to NCDOT as TIP revisions. Mr. Johnson explained the TIP and the Air Quality Conformity Determination Report are ready to be released for a public comment period of 30 days (March 21, 2007 through April 20, 2007) and a public hearing scheduled for the TAC's April 18, 2007 meeting. Final approval is scheduled for the TAC's May 16, 2007 meeting. Mr. Johnson noted \$7 million is received annually that is the MPO's discretion to spend. He reported he had hoped to have information relating to this today in order to determine if the TAC would like to include appropriations in the plan. NCDOT is in the process of updating numbers and will have that ready in 2 weeks; therefore, the TAC will be able to take action next month when this information is available.

Discussion followed regarding the I-40/US 64 project. Chairman Bryan questioned the cost with Mr. Johnson explaining the TIP shows \$60 million which includes widening from 4 lanes to 8 lanes and replacing all asphalt pavement with concrete. He noted the cost for adding 1 lane in each direction without replacing the pavement is \$14 million which accomplishes less but possibly could get it done. DOT developed a 6-lane option that would cost \$33 million. Mr. Johnson indicated this is the main regional choke point and hoped it could be addressed with Garvey funding but it was not. Mr. Bowman indicated this would involve repairing broken seals and an overlay with 5" layer of pavement. He stated NCDOT could do something less if they come up with the money but cannot do more. Mayor Byrne expressed concern this would cause restrictions elsewhere if this project is done. Mr. Johnson indicated at either end there is substantially more capacity plus the traffic splits in multiple directions.

In response to questions, Mr. Johnson indicated the TAC did not need to do anything on this project today and it is an issue that should be considered as part of the TIP that is approved. He noted the TAC could wait until the meeting in April when the public comments are received and further analysis is provided for consideration.

Chairman Bryan questioned if anything is being done in the Triangle over the next 7 years. He indicated we send in \$200 million per year and now we are getting \$20 million and it sounds like we will lose \$20 million on the massive mistake made by DOT on I-40. Mr. Johnson noted essentially in Wake County there are no additional projects that will start over the next 7 years except bridge replacement projects. There is a major project in Durham which is the East End Connector NCDOT is committed to fund which would benefit this area but that is in Durham County. Chairman Bryan indicated last time we tried to speed up a project, we were asked what we would take off. Chairman Bryan questioned if any projects were planned for other counties with Mayor Edwards noting no projects were being funded. Ms. Franklin indicated it is time to lay out what is needed and noted we do not have much to lose. She noted we are coming up on the time when we will be selecting new leadership for the state and would like to know that the people leading us know what we want. She noted we are always told to "suck it up" and this is not moving forward. Mayor Byrne indicated Fuquay is looking at doing a bypass through a bond referendum to be held in May and felt more and more places would be looking at ways to come up with their own funds and partnering for projects in the best interest of their communities.

Following discussion, Mayor Sears moved that the committee authorize the release of the 2007/2013 TIP for 30-day public review. His motion was seconded by Mr. Williams, unanimously passed. Chairman Bryan ruled the motion adopted.

Mayor Ahlert indicated at the League of Municipalities meeting the previous day, Ellis Hankins stated there is beginning to be a glimmer of hope that the legislature will permit towns to have land transfer fees. Mr. Stephenson noted this resolution was passed by the Raleigh City Council and encouraged others to do the same.

REGIONAL TRANSIT VISION PLAN UPDATE - VARIOUS ACTIONS APPROVED

Mr. Johnson reported on August 18, 2006 the TTA announced that its bid for federal New Starts Funding for Phase I of the Regional Rail project would not be pursued at this time. As discussed at the TAC's meeting on September 20, 2006, TTA's Board of Trustees requested that the MPOs take the lead, through their respective LRTP processes, in setting regional priorities for public transit in the Triangle. The Board has also indicated a need for expanded public involvement in setting regional transit priorities. At the January 17, 2007 meeting the TAC endorsed appointing a joint MPO Special Advisory Commission to develop a recommended regional long-range vision plan for major transit investments. The TAC approved a Commission consisting of 14 appointments from CAMPO and 10 appointments from the DCHC MPO. It was noted that former Progress Energy CEO, Bill Cavanaugh, had been asked to serve at the CAMPO Co-Chair for the Commission. On February 14, 2007 the DCHC MPO appointed a list of 10 members, 2 alternates and 2 ex-officio members and on February 21, 2007 the CAMPO TAC appointed 17 members and 5 ex-officio members to the commission. Members received a list of the appointed members from both CAMPO and DCHC. CAMPO, DCHC, TTA and NCDOT have solicited a proposal from the Institute for Transportation Research and Education (ITRE) to provide logistical and technical support services for the committee. The proposal provided from ITRE was provided. The total proposed cost for logistical and technical support by ITRE is \$173,296 to be shared as follows:

- 30% CAMPO
- 20% DCHC
- 25% Triangle Transit Authority
- 25% NCDOT

Mr. Johnson noted at the March 14, 2007 DCHC MPO meeting this item was discussed. He provided members with an amended Appointment and Charge for the commission. He provided an update from this meeting noting the membership has grown. Chairman Bryan indicated the list of CAMPO's appointments is impressive. He stressed it is critical that there be a fresh look at transit and this group has the support necessary from the professional staffs to get this done. He noted this group needs to be funded and provided the necessary support to accomplish this task. He noted a lot of work has already been done to get to this point. He complimented the staffs that have worked on this and it is now time to start to work.

Mr. Johnson indicated the DCHC TAC decided if CAMPO is going to have 5 ex-officio members, they wanted 2 more. He reported a motion was made at the DCHC meeting that, subject to approval of CAMPO, they would like to have 2 additional members.

Chairman Bryan moved approval of the listing of members as submitted. His motion was seconded by Mr. Stephenson, unanimously passed. Chairman Bryan ruled the motion adopted.

Discussion followed regarding the Proposal on Logistics and Technical Support Services for the Joint MPO Special Transit Advisory Commission. Mr. Johnson indicated this provides for \$100,000 worth of service and will be completed by the end of December, 2007. Mr. Johnson indicated this group is to have support from the service agreement with ITRE. He indicated the mechanics of getting this together is substantial but felt everyone is operating on good faith. Mr. Johnson indicated the agreement as provided today was not handed to DCHC and had to reconcile this since they approved a different one. He indicated he would provide members with a revised funding scope and ask for support to enter into this agreement resulting in ITRE being under contract and details would be worked out. He indicated CAMPO's share would be 30% spread over the next 2 fiscal years. Ms. Szlosberg moved approval of the agreement as discussed at this meeting. Her motion was seconded by Mayor Bryne.

Mayor Ahlert indicated there is \$14,000 difference in the DCHC proposal and CAMPO's proposal and suggested that CAMPO pay the extra \$14,000 and spread it among us and get this job done right.

At this point Ms. Szlosberg clarified her motion noting she was in favor of the full \$173,000. Chairman Bryan noted he was in favor of the full \$173,000 noting CAMPO's desire is to get this project done right.

A vote on the motion was taken and unanimously passed. Chairman Bryan ruled the motion adopted.

Chairman Bryan indicated this is being approached from a regional basis.

2007-2008 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM - PUBLIC HEARING HELD

This was a hearing to consider the 2007-2008 Unified Planning Work Program.

Chairman Bryan declared the hearing open.

Mr. Withrow reviewed this item. He noted annually CAMPO is required by federal regulations to prepare a UPWP detailing and funding the urban area transportation planning activities. The Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration provide funding for the UPWP. This provides yearly funding allocations to support the ongoing transportation planning activities of CAMPO and identifies MPO planning tasks to be undertaken with the use of federal transportation funds. Tasks are identified by alphanumeric task code and description. At the January 17, 2007 meeting, the TAC was presented with the schedule for development of the 2007-2008 UPWP and at the February 21, 2007 meeting preauthorized release of the 2007-2008

UPWP for public review and comment, upon completion of draft document by staff. A date of March 21, 2007 was set to receive public comment on the document and was anticipated the UPWP would be adopted in April and forwarded to NCDOT in May 2007. Members were provided with a Draft UPWP released for public review and comment on March 12, 2007. CAMPO also annually conducts a self-certification review as part of approving its UPWP. The self-certification process takes the form of CAMPO adopted a resolution that certifies that the MPO is fulfilling all federal requirements for the 3-C transportation planning processes. Members received a checklist of items reviewed during this process and copy of the draft resolution self-certifying the MPO is fulfilling all requirements for the transportation planning process as put forth by the Federal guidelines.

No one was present to make comments.

Chairman Bryan closed the hearing.

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA AND FUNDING ISSUES

The agenda indicated CAMPO TAC adopted a legislative agenda for transportation funding initiatives on April 19, 2006. The legislative agenda was cooperatively created by CAMPO and DCHC during a Joint Task Force meeting on March 31, 2006 to address the growing need for additional transportation funding in the Research Triangle region. The adopted legislative agenda is consistent with that of both the North Carolina Blue Ribbon Commission on Transportation Needs and the Triangle Regional Transportation Alliance. At the February 21, 2007 TAC meeting, members expressed a desire to have this agenda updated if needed. A committee of TAC members is scheduled to meet on Friday, March 16, 2007 to discuss this item. It was pointed out during the last session of the General Assembly; a bill was passed (SB-1381) which addressed toll financing and its application to the Triangle region. Members received a copy of information on Turnpike Gap funding provided by the RTA and a resolution urging the State to provide the necessary recurring State turnpike gap funding commitment, exempt from the State allocation formula in order to support the construction of both I-540/Western Wake and Triangle parkway as proposed turnpikes. Mr. Safran reported a Turnpike Authority meeting was held prior to this meeting. He noted Mr. Joyner came back from the General Assembly with Richard Stevens wording on the \$18 million. He noted, in regard to the turnpike gap funding, that he would prefer leaving it open-ended at this point. Members received a copy of the "Proposed 2007 Update of the Joint MPO Transportation Funding Initiatives Task Force Legislative Agenda" with new items indicated in red ink. Mr. Johnson indicated this is a joint legislative agenda that DCHC and CAMPO approved one year ago and the TAC's proposal is to update it and take it to DCHC and ask them to endorse it. Mr. Johnson indicated he would get this proposal to DCHC. Discussion followed regarding bullet #3 which stated:

"Create transportation and infrastructure local revenue option authority including transportation related taxes such as a sales tax on motor fuels; and general taxes, such as a sales tax or and real estate transfer tax."

Chairman Bryan indicated he did not think more gas tax is needed. Mr. Stephenson questioned if we wan to start limiting some of the options out there. Ms. Franklin noted the committee discussed this and proposed what the Blue Ribbon Task Force endorsed. Chairman Bryan questioned if we are trying to tie this to the Blue Ribbon Commission noting the only consensus solution was sales tax and to have a real estate transfer tax involved a 17/16 split contentious vote. Mr. Johnson indicated in discussing this with DCHC, they were concerned about being specific on that item and the decision made was to support increasing local revenue without being specific.

Following lengthy discussion, Ms. Franklin moved approving the updated agenda to be taken to DCHC for their review with the exception that the wording in red on the 3rd bullet be deleted. Her motion was seconded by Mr. Stephenson.

Discussion followed relating to bullet 4 which read:

“Ensure that any toll new revenue generated in a region stays in that region.”

Mr. Johnson noted the issue is primarily making clear if any new sources of revenue come up, they should not be run through the equity formula. He indicated that could be stated a number of different ways.

Chairman Bryan indicated we have an existing donor situation in this state. He stated if we add additional tax, that is not helping this, noting we need to get all that revenue and not share it with the entire state. He noted any new revenue we extract from our citizenry, we need to be able to have it. Mr. Johnson indicated he had heard the possibility of raising the highway user fee and that is increasing a current source of income. If that occurs, there is no understanding where that money would go and what it would be used for. He noted bullet 4 says if you are going to increase revenues by any means, it should stay in the region where it is generated. It was agreed to leave bullet 4 as written. Mr. Millazzo indicated it is not so much whether a fee is related to transportation, it is more where proceeds will go.

TURNPIKE AUTHORITY COMMENTS - RECEIVED

Mr. Joyner, representing the Turnpike Authority, provided an update. He noted the Authority remains on schedule and under budget and are looking at letting the bids on this project in 2 offerings on June 1. The first section is Triangle Parkway and the section of Western Wake to US 64 will be the 2nd. He then referred to gap funding noting their financial plan there are basic assumptions that have not changed noting there would be a \$12 million annual funding gap. He noted since they are a start up agency, the rating agency may require them to set aside or reserve more funds. He indicated they are saying the gap is somewhere between \$12 million and \$18 million and they are told by experts this is the most they will need. In regard to the legislative agenda, he noted it is a mystery where this money is coming from and various possibilities are being discussed. He noted currently there is not a unified proposal to address this funding gap. There is discussion in the House and Senate that there could be a large bill in the budget of approximately \$200 million that would go to transportation issues. If that occurs, a percentage would take care of gap funding

for toll roads. He asked everyone to stay tuned noting these things are incredibly important to everyone.

REPORT FROM THE TCC CHAIR - RECEIVED

Mr. Russell reminded members to advise their staffs the next MTIP submittals are due at the end of this month and to be sure they are on time. He noted a subcommittee meeting was held to discuss the process for allocating STP DA funds for pedestrian enhancement projects.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Bryan reported he had attended a meeting relating to airports and ports and movement of freight. He felt it would be beneficial to have a broader view and discuss moving freight and how truck traffic impacts our roadways. He noted there are other transportation modes beyond what we spend so much time discussing.

Mr. Johnson indicated members received as attachment 9A a Resolution by the Regional Transportation Alliance/ Chamber of Commerce, Etc., in Support of a Recurring State Gap Funding Commitment for Turnpikes to Accelerate Freeway Construction in the Triangle. He indicated it was not expected that it would be approved at this meeting but requested that members provide staff direction if they would like to have this resolution sent forth on behalf of CAMPO. Mr. Milazzo indicated DCHC is currently reviewing this resolution and it is basically the same as the legislative agenda.

Following discussion, Mayor Ahlert moved approval of the proposed resolution. His motion was seconded by Ms. Franklin, unanimously passed. Chairman Bryan ruled the motion adopted.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Hunt