



TAC MEETING AGENDA

July 25, 2007 / 2:00 p.m.
Blue Room
(County Commissioners' Briefing Room)
Old Guilford County Courthouse

Action Items

1. Approve Minutes of June 27, 2007
2. MTIP Priority Needs
3. STP-DA Program Recommendations & MTIP Amendment
4. Reports, Concerns, and Discussion from MPO Area Towns
5. Citizen Comments

Business Items / Potential Action Items

1. Bicycle and Pedestrian Update
2. Scenic Byways
3. Jordan Lake Rules
4. Project Updates
5. MPO Strategic Reports

Other Items

1. Board Member Report
2. Regional Transportation News
3. Wrap-Up

Planning for the transportation future

Key Acronyms and Technical Terms Defined

Acronym or Term	Description
CE	Categorical Exclusion – a document that examines the environmental impacts of a project to a lesser extent than an EA or EIS.
Conformity Analysis	Demonstration that the area will not exceed allowable motor vehicle emissions budgets when the projects planned in the MTIP and LRTP are implemented.
Conformity Finding	A determination that the LRTP or MTIP is consistent with a valid conformity analysis.
CMAQ	Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program. A federal highway fund category for projects intended to improve air quality.
CMP	Congestion Management Process (formerly Congestion Management System). A program of strategies for monitoring, evaluating, and addressing traffic congestion. Required for Transportation Management Areas.
CTP	Comprehensive Transportation Plan. Identifies future multimodal transportation needs and proposes conceptual solutions. It is not financially constrained.
DENR	North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources.
EA	Environmental Assessment – a document that examines the environmental impacts of a project to a lesser extent than an EIS.
EAC	Early Action Compact. Allows areas to defer the impacts of air-quality determinations by agreeing to start reducing air pollution earlier than otherwise required.
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement. Technical review of a project’s impacts on the environment. Required by NEPA.
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency.
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration (US Department of Transportation).
FTA	Federal Transit Administration (US Department of Transportation).
HTF	North Carolina State Highway Trust Fund.
LRTP	Long Range Transportation Plan. A federally required, fiscally constrained, multimodal transportation plan for at least 20 years into the future.
MAB	Metropolitan Area Boundary. The boundary of the area within the transportation planning jurisdiction of an MPO.
Merger Process	A state process for transportation project development in which multiple agencies meet to approve stages of project development and address permitting issues.
MTIP	Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program. The official, fiscally constrained funding schedule for transportation projects in the metropolitan area.
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act. Federal law that requires consideration of environmental impacts for all major expenditures of federal funds.
NO _x	Oxides of nitrogen. Produced during the combustion process and considered a precursor to PM 2.5.
PDEA	NCDOT’s Project Development and Environmental Analysis Branch.
PM 2.5	Particulate matter that is 2.5 micrometers in diameter and smaller. These fine particles are unhealthy to breathe and have been associated with premature mortality and other serious health effects.
PTIA	Piedmont Triad International Airport.
RPO	Rural Planning Organization. RPOs are partnerships among non-MPO counties, established to provide rural areas a greater voice in state transportation decisions affecting those areas.
SAFETEA-LU	Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: a Legacy for Users. Current federal highway funding legislation. (TEA-21 and ISTEA are the acronyms for former legislation.)
Section 4(f)	Federal requirement for consideration of impacts to historic and natural areas for transportation projects.
Section 104(f) PL	Funds distributed through the Federal Highway Administration for transportation planning tasks.
Section 5303	Funds distributed through the Federal Transit Administration for conducting transportation planning activities.
Section 5307	Funds distributed through the Federal Transit Administration for public transportation capital assistance, operating assistance, and planning needs.
SIP	State Implementation Plan. The modeling analyses and the state and federal regulations demonstrating that the air in an area will meet National Ambient Air Quality Standards.
STIP	State Transportation Improvement Program
STP-DA Funds	Surface Transportation Program – Direct Apportionment funds, which MPOs may direct to priority projects.
TMA	Transportation Management Area: an urbanized area over 200,000 in population. The Greensboro Urban Area was classified as a TMA as a result of the 2000 Census.
TPB	The NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch, formerly Statewide Planning Branch.
UA or UZA	Urbanized Area. The census-defined boundary that is the basis for establishing an MPO.
UPWP	Unified Planning Work Program, an accounting document for the use of planning grant funds. It lists approved activities that these funds may reimburse and guides transportation planning activities for the year.

Transportation Advisory Committee

Agenda Item Summary

July 25, 2007

Action Items

1. **Approve Minutes of June 27, 2007** – N/A
2. **MTIP Priority Needs** – MPO staff will present a priority needs list of area transportation projects for review and consideration for approval. This list is an input into the upcoming 2009-2015 Transportation Improvement Program.
3. **STP-DA Program Recommendations & MTIP Amendment** – The MPO may direct some of its Surface Transportation Program funding for specific purposes. Staff will recommend projects to be funded using STP-DA, along with a corresponding amendment to the current Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program, for review and consideration of action.
4. **Reports, Concerns, and Discussion from MPO Area Towns** – N/A
5. **Citizen Comments** – N/A

Business Items / Potential Action Items

1. **Bicycle and Pedestrian Update** – MPO staff will discuss recent and current bicycle and pedestrian projects, including the bicycle map, bicycle lanes and edgelines, major sidewalk projects, and bicycle rack installations.
2. **Scenic Byways** – NCDOT Scenic Byways give travelers an opportunity to experience a slice of local history, geography or culture through the unique landscapes found along roads less traveled. Staff from the Piedmont Triad Council of Governments (PTCOG), which has studied the potential for additional scenic byways in the Triad, will discuss a proposed Scenic Byway that traverses part of the MPO area.
3. **Jordan Lake Rules** – The draft Jordan Lake Rules provide the mechanism for the State to address the quality of water that eventually reaches Jordan Lake. In their current form, these will be the strictest watershed rules to date in North Carolina. They include unprecedented measures requiring stormwater retrofits for existing development and will likely cost local governments and other organizations over \$750 million to implement. Staff from the PTCOG will discuss the rules, estimated costs of implementation, and potential impacts to transportation projects.
4. **Project Updates** – MPO staff will provide updates on area projects.

5. **MPO Strategic Reports** – MPO staff will provide responses to issues raised in previous meetings and discuss other topics.

Other Items

1. **Board Member Report** – Please note the NCDOT Active Projects Report included with the meeting materials.
2. **Regional Transportation News** – N/A
3. **Wrap-Up** – N/A