



**TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of December 17, 2009**  
**11:00 a.m., Greensboro, NC**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room**  
**Old Guilford County Courthouse**

**ATTENDANCE**

Tyler Meyer	<i>GDOT / TCC Chair</i>	Andrew Spiliotis	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>
Mike Mills	<i>NCDOT, Division 7</i>	Hanna Cockburn	<i>Piedmont Triad RPO</i>
Adam Fischer	<i>GDOT</i>	Chris Spencer	<i>GDOT Engineering</i>
Lydia McIntyre	<i>GDOT / MPO</i>	Bill Bruce	<i>Guilford County Planning</i>
Craig McKinney	<i>GDOT / MPO</i>	George Linney	<i>GTA</i>
Peggy Holland	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>	Hanna Cockburn	<i>Piedmont Triad RPO</i>

Tyler Meyer called the meeting to order at 11:18 a.m.

**Action Items**

**1. Approve Minutes of October 26, 2009**

Adam Fischer moved for approval of the minutes. Hannah Cockburn seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 26, 2009 meeting.

**2. Modify 2009-2015 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program**

Andrew Spiliotis presented modification amendments to the 2009-2015 MTIP. The amendments include 7 projects. The funded project changes shifted PART funds from 2009 to 2010 for unobligated funds for expansion buses and for unobligated funds for developing regional park-and-rides. The other funded project change included shifting 2009 funds to combine with 2010 funds for the development of a regional multimodal transportation center. The unfunded projects with GTA include modifications to reflect changes in vehicle costs and to reflect changes in the vehicle replacement and expansion schedules for buses and the replacement schedule for paratransit vehicles. There is also an unfunded modification for PART's multimodal transportation center to correct a computational error in the local match.

Adam Fischer moved for approval of the amendments, George Linney seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the TAC approve the amendment to the 2009-2015 MTIP.

### **3. 2009 New Freedom Award Modification**

Andrew Spiliotis explained that the New Freedom program is a federal grant program for transit related projects that go beyond the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Last spring the MPO awarded funding to the GTA and the Joy A. Shabazz Center for Independent Living. The Shabazz Center no longer needs funds for their Greensboro Area Travel Education (GATE) program. MPO staff recommends that the funds previously allocated to the GATE project shift to the GTA project. Staff based the recommendation on GTA's approved project of Mobile Data Terminals has been approved and was developed out of the Coordinated Plan, as required under the New Freedom application process. GTA has pledged to use the funds on this project.

Adam Fischer asked how much is available for the New Freedom program. Andrew Spiliotis noted approximately \$84,000 was made available in 2009.

Hannah Cockburn moved for approval of the award modification, George Linney seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the TAC approve the 2009 New Freedom Award Modification.

### **4. Letter of Endorsement for the Town of Oak Ridge's NCDOT Pedestrian Planning Grant**

Andrew Spiliotis presented the letter of support for the Town of Oak Ridge's application for a NCDOT Pedestrian and Bicycle Planning grant. The Town of Oak Ridge plans to use the funds for a Pedestrian Master Plan. The application requires a resolution of endorsement from the MPO.

Chris Spencer moved for approval of MPO endorsement, Hannah Cockburn seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the TAC approve the MPO letter of endorsement.

## **Business Items / Potential Action Items**

### **1. 2010 Proposed Meeting Schedule**

Andrew Spiliotis presented the proposed 2010 TCC and TAC meeting schedule for the TCC to review and submit schedule conflicts.

### **2. Update: MPO Airport Area Roadway Network Evaluation & Sandy Ridge Road Feasibility Study**

Tyler Meyer began by noting the last airport area transportation study, completed in 2003 had produced a recommended future roadway network including new freeway connections that was subsequently included in the Thoroughfare Plan and Long Range Transportation Plan. MPO staff is reevaluating those findings to validate the need for the freeways and to identify needed and feasible near term improvements to Sandy Ridge Road. Sandy Ridge Road improvements can be implemented independent of the future freeway connections. The study looked at roads in LRTP and Thoroughfare Plan in the airport area. The study also examined potential Sandy Ridge Road improvement options. The study examined the 2035 existing and committed network to evaluate phasing for all possible combinations for 12 projects. The study examined which projects are needed and the most effective order of project implementation.

Lydia McIntyre presented additional information on the modeling of the airport area which examined all of the potential phasings of projects to determine the most effective strategy. The study used performance measures such as Vehicle Hours of Delay (VHD) which measures congestion. The study also divided VHD by cost to measure the cost/benefit performance of different project scenario combinations.

Three strategies were compared. The first was to minimize costs, the second was to maximize congestion reduction, and to maximize congestion reduction per cost. The strategy of maximizing congestion reduction per cost was selected. Other considerations such as funding and alternative mode enhancements were considered.

Detailed land use planning for this area is recommended. That, along with future development will lay the land use pattern, which will in turn help to determine what kind of longer range roadway network will be feasible and appropriate. Planning staff anticipates higher densities and therefore roadways providing accessibility are desired. She also noted that traffic patterns may change and that new roads may affect development patterns.

Meyer noted that the ordering of projects matters because some local roads are planned to tie into freeways that may not be built .

The recommendation includes widening Sandy Ridge Road and Pleasant Ridge Road. An extension of Sandy Ridge Road may be development driven. The study does not alter freeways in the Thoroughfare Plan but does note that the I-73 / I-74 Connector project may be more appropriate as an arterial rather than as a freeway because it would be easier to construct, would better meet access needs, and might be better scaled to currently anticipated future traffic demands. More detailed land use plans will help the freeway decision making. The recommendations include focus on building the surface streets early since freeways will need local roads for access and connectivity, will take a long time to develop, are subject to further evaluation in the future.. This option provides for future flexibility.

### **Sandy Ridge Road Feasibility Study**

The Sandy Ridge Road study examined three alignment combination alternatives. The evaluations took into considerations future commitments from NCDOT on I-73 and the prohibited future access to the airport from Bryan Boulevard once the I-73 connector to the is built. The final recommendation was to widen Sandy Ridge Road from I-40 to West Market Street and Pleasant Ridge Road from West Market to NC 68, taking advantage of the West Market Street widening (R-2611) slated to start in 2011. NC-68 will probably eventually be recommended to be widened to the north. A public workshop is planned will be held January 12, 2010 to receive public feedback.

### **3. Transportation Project Updates**

Tyler Meyer presented a transportation project update on the new GTA maintenance and operation facility groundbreaking. GTA has to rebid because bids did not meet the DBE requirements and Buy America documentation was not submitted as required under projects receiving ARRA funding. The City Council recommended a schedule including a new bid opening in late January,

A public workshop was held for Phase 2 of the Downtown Greenway on December 8, 2009. Phase 2 travels along Murrow Blvd. and Fisher Ave. between Lee St. and Eugene St. The public workshop was well attended and the online survey received lots of responses. The next step is to consolidate design elements from the different design concepts and to present a final proposed design at the next meeting.

Tyler Meyer presented updates on ARRA projects. The Elm/Eugene Street project and street resurfacing projects have passed all the required paper work and reviews are are now under contract with work to commence soon. The Lake Jeanette Road project will be ready for a contract award soon.

Meyer noted that the upcoming public meeting for Sandy Ridge Road feasibility study is January 12. Mike Mills presented an update on the US 220 project alignment. The alignment stays same except where the

roadway connects with NC 68. Hannah noted there will be a lot of interest from Rockingham County and that she will share with interested parties.

#### **4. MPO Strategic Topics**

Tyler Meyer provided an update on the MPO's research on town representation. MPO staff sent out questionnaires to town on communication and representation. Discussion regarding town representation is scheduled for the January TAC meeting.

NCDOT has moved into a design phase for their proposed underpass on Lee Street and are currently working with city staff on the design.

### **Other Items**

1. **Board Member Report** - Please note the NCDOT Active Projects Report included with the meeting materials.

Mike Mills noted that NCDOT is working to get stimulus projects out. The new Division 7 BOT representative Mike Fox will be sworn in after the January BOT meeting.

Hannah Cockburn noted PTCOG is wrapping up a trails plan for the 12 county area. She said she will be asking the MPOs to meet with RPOs to go over trails in that plan and to develop goals and regional strategies, priorities, and methods of working cooperatively.

George Linney provided an update that GTA is continually searching for additional funding to address unmet service requests.

Bill Bruce from Guilford County Planning updated that they recently kicked off a land use planning effort in the Forest Oaks part of the county. PART has also shown interest in having a park-and-ride in this area. Bruce said there is potential for a mixed use town center in this area that could include trails.

#### **2. Regional Transportation News**

#### **3. Wrap-Up**

Tyler Meyer adjourned meeting at 12:06