



TCC MEETING AGENDA

January 27, 2010
MPOB Council Chambers
300 W. Washington St.

Action Items

1. Approve Minutes of October 26, 2009 and December 17, 2009
2. Approve the Letter of Endorsement for the Town of Oak Ridge's Pedestrian Planning Grant Application.
3. Modify 2009 New Freedom Awards
4. Approve Letter of Endorsement for GTA's Bus Livability Grant application
5. Approve Letter of Endorsement for PART's Bus Livability Grant application
6. Modify 2009-2015 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program

Business Items / Potential Action Items

1. Town Representation Discussion
2. Finalize and approve 2010 Meeting Schedule
3. Yadkin River Bridge Air Conformity Process Briefing
4. Introduce 2010-2011 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
5. Transportation Project Updates
6. MPO Strategic Topics

Other Items

1. NCDOT Update
2. TCC Member Reports

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.

Technical Coordinating Committee

Agenda Item Summary

January 27, 2010

Action Items

1. **Approve Minutes of October 26, 2009 and December 17, 2009**
2. **Approve the Letter of Endorsement for the Town of Oak Ridge's Pedestrian Planning Grant Application** - The Town of Oak Ridge requests MPO endorsement of its application for a NCDOT Pedestrian and Bicycle Planning Grant. Oak Ridge will use the grant to develop a Pedestrian Plan.
3. **Modify 2009 New Freedom Awards** – Consider a shift of federal New Freedom transit program funds between 2008 grant recipients. The Shabazz Center for Independent Living no longer wants funding for the GATE project. Recommended action is to shift funds from GATE to GTA for SCAT Mobile Data Terminals.
4. **Approve Letter of Endorsement for GTA's Bus Livability Grant application** -- GTA requests MPO endorsement of its application for the Bus and Bus Facilities Livability Initiative Program grant (FTA Section 5309). GTA is applying for two bus facility projects that are included in this meeting's MTIP amendments. The first project would fund expansions and renovations to the Depot to accommodate crowded staff and passenger facilities. The second project would update the signs and bus stop amenities at select stops. Both projects would enhance use of real time bus arrival information.
5. **Approve Letter of Endorsement for PART's Bus Livability Grant application** – PART requests that the MPO endorse its application for the Bus and Bus Facilities Livability Initiative Program grant (FTA Section 5309). PART is applying for funding to aid the development of their Regional Intermodal Transportation Center. The project is currently included in the unfunded portion of the TIP.
6. **Modify 2009-2015 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program** – Consider transit TIP amendments for PART and GTA. The amendment will shift PART's 2009 funding to 2010 for park-and-ride development, bus fleet expansion, and investment in the regional multi-modal transportation center. The amendment will also modify the GTA's bus replacement and expansion schedule to better reflect the anticipated bus schedule needs. The MTIP amendment will also add two GTA projects to the unfunded TIP so that the projects will meet the eligibility criteria for the FTA Livability Bus Program grant. The unfunded GTA projects include renovations and expansions of Depot facilities and the installation of new signs and bus amenities at select stops.

Business Items / Potential Action Items

1. **Town Representation Discussion**-- TAC will review the results of the MPO area town survey, staff findings on practices among peer MPOs, consider the results of the questionnaire sent out to the GUAMPO member governments, hear any additional input from town officials, and consider action on this item as appropriate.
2. **Finalize and approve 2010 Meeting Schedule** – The TAC will discuss and approve a MPO meeting schedule for the 2010 year.

3. **Yadkin River Bridge Air Conformity Process Briefing** – The Yadkin River Bridge project will replace the I-85 bridge in the portion of Davidson County outside of an MPO but within the Triad air quality conformity boundary. It must therefore be included within the Triad Air Quality Conformity Determination to be eligible to move forward. NCDOT is currently seeking an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act TIGER grant, and is actively considering additional funding options to move this important project forward. Since NCDOT omitted this project from the current conformity determination, steps are underway to include it. This item is currently open for public review. The MPO needs to approve the revised conformity report at the February MPO meeting to allow the project to move forward once funding is committed.
4. **Transportation Project Updates** – MPO staff will provide updates on area projects.
5. **MPO Strategic Topics** – MPO staff will provide responses to issues raised in previous meetings and discuss other topics.

Other Items

1. **NCDOT Update** – Please note the NCDOT Active Projects Report included with the meeting materials.
2. **TCC Member Reports**