



# GREENSBORO URBAN AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

January 26, 2005

11:00 a.m. Greensboro, NC

Blue Room (County Commissioners' Briefing Room)

Old Guilford County Courthouse

### ATTENDANCE

Jim Westmoreland	TCC Chair/GDOT	Frank Wyatt	Greensboro Engineering & Inspections
Tyler Meyer	GDOT/MPO	Wayne Davis	NCDOT – TPB
Jeff Sovich	GDOT/MPO	Patty Eason	NCDOT, Division 7
Craig McKinney	GDOT/MPO	Chris Spencer	GDOT
Lydia McIntyre	GDOT/MPO	Hanna Cockburn	PTRPO/PTCOG
Kelly Doss	GDOT/MPO	Greg Niles	Guilford Co. Planning & Development
Laura Boothe	NCDAQ	Heidi Galanti	Greensboro Planning Department
Mike Abraczinskas	NCDAQ	Mark Kirstner	Guilford Co. Community & Economic Development Department
Brent McKinney	PART		

Jim Westmoreland called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

Greg Niles introduced himself as the new director of the Guilford County Planning and Development Department. He previously worked for the city of Marco Island, Florida, in coordination with the Collier MPO and is now looking forward to working with the Greensboro MPO.

### Action Items

#### 1. Approve Minutes of December 16, 2004

Tyler Meyer advised that under Business Item 1, the reference to the “Triad Transportation Forum” should be corrected to read “North Carolina Transportation Forum.” Mark Kirstner moved for approval of the minutes as corrected. Frank Wyatt moved for approval of the minutes as corrected. Tyler Meyer seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes as corrected.

## **2. Approve Proposed CMAQ Projects**

Tyler Meyer advised that in October 2004, during the annual conference of the North Carolina Association of MPOs, NCDOT announced its call for CMAQ project submission for fiscal year 2006. NCDOT has attempted to allocate funds among the MPOs based on the severity of air quality problems. NCDOT has requested that MPOs submit their proposals by the end of January 2005. MPO staff have developed two proposed projects to submit for CMAQ funding. The first project is GTA's proposed University and College Service, which is designed to meet the needs of the growing student community. With over 40,000 students among 6 major colleges and universities, the student community represents a substantial, but under-served transit market with the potential to expand GTA's ridership base. The second project is PART's Regional Air Quality Outreach and Public Awareness Program, which was developed to promote air quality and public transportation ridership. This program replaces the Air Awareness program formerly operated by the Forsyth County Environmental Affairs and expands the coverage of the program to the entire PART service area. The Greensboro MPO's CMAQ fund allocation for the 7-year period is approximately \$8.6 million. The MPO proposes to distribute approximately \$8.2 million over 3 fiscal years to the UCS program and approximately \$60,000 over 3 fiscal years to the Outreach and Awareness program. The requested action is to recommend that the TAC approve the proposed CMAQ Projects as presented.

Mark Kirstner moved to recommend that the TAC approve the proposed projects as presented. Frank Wyatt seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the TAC approve the proposed projects as presented.

## **3. Intent to Direct FY '07 STP-DA Funds**

Jeff Sovich advised that NCDOT has requested that TMAs take official action in the early stages of each TIP development cycle, to indicate their intent to direct STP-DA obligation authority. This resolution expresses the MPO's intent to do so, for fiscal year 2007. The MPO will program the funds to specific projects at an appropriate time in the TIP development cycle. As with the FY '05 STP-DA project listing, MPO staff have identified projects in the TIP that are likely to be delayed from FY '07. The MPO can take advantage of these anticipated project delays, by reallocating the associated STP funds to other needed projects. Because there are currently no similarly situated projects programmed for FY '06, the MPO is not proposing to direct its STP-DA obligation authority for FY '06. The requested action is to recommend that the TAC approve the resolution of intent to direct '07 STP-DA funds as presented.

Tyler Meyer moved to recommend that the TAC approve the resolution as presented. Heidi Galanti seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the TAC approve the resolution as presented.

## **4. Amend 04-10 MTIP**

Jeff Sovich advised that the TAC adopted 04-10 MTIP in August 2003. Since that time, the North Carolina Board of Transportation has adopted a series amendments to TIP. However not all of those amendments has been preceded by corresponding action from the Greensboro MPO. This amendment reflects modifications to existing projects and the additions of new projects to the 04-10 TIP, which were enacted by the NC Board of Transportation between October, 2003 and December, 2004, without prior notification to the MPO. The amendment brings the 04-10 MTIP into consistency with those

changes, by formalizing the action that has already been taken at the state level. This amendment affects the funding levels and implementation schedules of 16 different projects. The requested action is to recommend that the TAC approve the amendment as presented.

Frank Wyatt moved to recommend that the TAC approve the amendment as presented. Hanna Cockburn seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the TAC approve the amendment as presented.

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

#### **1. PART Update: Transit Alternatives Analysis Study**

Brent McKinney advised that PART's Regional Mobility Major Investment Study has progressed to the phase during which the various corridor and mode alternatives are evaluated and a Locally Preferred Alternative is selected. The preferred corridor alternative has been selected, namely an east-west corridor from Hanes Mall on the west side of Winston-Salem, to North Carolina Agricultural and Technological State University on the east side of Greensboro. The mode alternatives, including heavy passenger rail, monorail, bus rapid transit, and express bus, are still under evaluation. Mode alternative selection will rely heavily upon data and forecasts obtained through development of the Triad Regional Travel Demand Model, which is expected to be complete by July, 2005.

This MIS comes at a particularly significant point in the Piedmont Triad's development. Each day, Guilford and Forsyth counties experience large in-flows of commuter traffic from surrounding counties. Without intervention, this trend is expected to continue and increase over the next 30 years at a rate that will surpass the capacity of available roadways. To help address this situation, PART has developed land use and transit connection policies that have been adopted by the planning boards and governing bodies of 29 of PART's member jurisdictions. The results of the TRTDM will help to validate the need for a region-wide public transit system to foster mobility and preserve quality of life in our communities.

As another proactive effort to provide for the Triad's long-term growth and stability, PART has guided local policy makers in coordinating general planning for a currently under-developed area that straddles the boundaries of Guilford and Forsyth Counties, surrounding the I-40 / Business 40 interchange. The aim is to evaluate land use and transportation alternatives for future development of this roughly 7,500 acre area, which has been dubbed the "Heart of the Triad." This Heart of the Triad has been envisioned as the potential home for a major office and industrial development, on par with the Research Triangle Parkway.

Upcoming steps in the MIS process will include additional study of the preferred corridor, inclusion of the Locally Preferred Alternative in the TIP, application for federal funding, refinement of the alternatives, and initiation of preliminary engineering.

#### **2. Air Quality Update**

Laura Boothe advised that Guilford and Davidson Counties were designated as a non-attainment area for the Fine Particulate Matter (PM 2.5) air quality standard on December 17, 2004. Fine particulate matter is a complex mixture of extremely small particles and liquid droplets which can be linked to premature death and heart and lung disease. The designation becomes effective on April 5, 2005, after which new sources of PM 2.5 emissions are subject to review by EPA. Although this designation does not effect the Triad's Early Action Compact process currently under way for the 8 Hour Ozone standard, Guilford County must demonstrate transportation conformity by April 5, 2006. EPA is expected to issue a

proposed rule for transportation conformity in Spring 2005. The state is required to develop a State Implementation Plan (SIP) by April 5th, 2008 for Guilford County to attain the PM 2.5 standard by April 5, 2010.

Several initiatives are in place or under way that will help to reduce PM 2.5 emissions in Guilford County, including federal: acid rain and fuel content programs, non-road vehicle and equipment rules, the Clean Air Interstate Rule, the Clear Skies Initiative; state: participation in the Southern Appalachian Mountain Initiative, Clean Air Bill of 1999, adoption of the NOx SIP Call Rule, Adoption of the Clean Smokestacks Act, and participation in the southeast's regional haze planning organization; and local: diesel engine retrofit programs, clean vehicle fleet programs, diesel idling and smoking cars reduction programs, wood stove retrofit incentives, and open burning impact reduction. The results of these efforts are expected to enable all air quality monitors in Guilford and Davidson Counties to attain the PM 2.5 standard by the end of 2005. Doing so would enable EPA to redesignate the area to attainment status as early as Summer 2006.

### **3. FY '06 Unified Planning Work Program**

Tyler Meyer advised that the Planning Work Program accounts for planning grant funds which will be received over the next year, from July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2006. The UPWP includes accounting of expected costs by various work tasks as well as a summary of the sources and amounts of funding that will be available from each. The basis for each year's UPWP is the range of planning tasks that MPO staff will conduct during the year. Staff are currently developing the FY '06 UPWP and provide more information at upcoming meetings.

### **4. 06-12 TIP Development Update**

Tyler Meyer advised that the 06-12 TIP development process has been impeded this year due to the ongoing delays within the Congress regarding reauthorization of the federal surface transportation. MPO staff will continue to keep the TAC informed of progress on this front at upcoming meetings.

### **5. MPO Strategic Reports**

Tyler Meyer introduced Lydia McIntyre who recently joined the GDOT Planning Division and MPO staff.

### **Other Items**

#### **1. TCC Member Report**

Greg Niles introduced himself to the TCC. Greg is the new Planning Director for Guilford County and was previously the Community Development Director for the City of Marco Island, Florida.

Next TCC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11:00 am. The TCC adjourned at 12:45 pm.