



GREENSBORO URBAN AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

January 25, 2005

11:00 a.m. Greensboro, NC

Blue Room

(County Commissioners' Briefing Room)

Old Guilford County Courthouse

ATTENDANCE

Tyler Meyer	GDOT / MPO	Heidi Galanti	Greensboro Planning
Jeff Sovich	GDOT / MPO	John Hunsinger	NCDOT Highway Division 7
Craig McKinney	GDOT / MPO	John Button	NCDOT Regional Traffic Office
Chris Spencer	GDOT	Wayne C. Davis	NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch
Adam Fischer	GDOT	Hanna Cockburn	PTCOG / PTRPO
Sharon Smiley	GTA	Jonathan Jones	<i>Greensboro News & Record</i>
Scott Rhine	PART		

Tyler Meyer called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

Action Items

1. Approve Minutes of November 16, 2005

Scott Rhine moved for approval of the minutes, as presented. Adam Fischer seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2005 meeting, as presented.

2. Amend 05-06 UPWP

Tyler Meyer advised that the UPWP is an accounting document adopted each year, that details the transportation planning work that will be conducted over the course of the year. The UPWP identifies the basic major transportation planning activities, as well as special studies and projects that the MPO plans to conduct over the year. The UPWP documents the receipt of Federal Transit Administration and

Federal Highway Administration planning grants, and how the funds received are used for planning purposes. This funding is used to fund staff positions, intern support, consultant services, and various ancillary costs.

During the September and November 2005 MPO meetings, UPWP amendments were made programming additional PL funds. This amendment programs an additional \$100,000 in previously unobligated PL funds which have recently come available, along with the accompanying 20% local match. Adding these funds into the budget now ensures that anticipated work is not delayed due to funding shortfalls. It is generally advantageous to make these amendments as the funds become available to allow planning projects to proceed, rather than waiting to do them all at once. This amendment will bring the amount of programmed PL funds into the planning work program to a total of \$701,081. The requested action is to recommend that the TAC approve this amendment as presented, which is anticipated to be the last amendment to this UPWP.

Hanna Cockburn moved to recommend that the TAC approve the UPWP amendment as presented. Adam Fischer seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the TAC approve the UPWP amendment as presented.

3. Approve Draft PM 2.5 Conformity Determination Report

Tyler Meyer advised that the PM 2.5 air quality standard refers to airborne particulate matter that is 2.5 microns or larger in diameter, which ordinary people would refer to as dust. In April of 2005, Guilford and Davidson Counties were designated as non-attainment areas for the PM 2.5 standard. All of the air quality monitoring stations in Guilford County were below the standard limits, however due to close proximity to Davidson County, Guilford County was also designated as a non-attainment county. The deadline for completing the analysis and documentation of the actual air quality status on the ground is April 5, 2006. PART has taken the lead in coordinating the analysis process and has prepared the draft conformity determination report, which was presented to the TAC in November for endorsement, prior to release for a 30-day public review and comment period, from December 15, 2005 through January 13, 2006. No comments were received from the general public, although several comments were received from federal and state reviewing agencies. The draft document was revised as appropriate to address those comments, and is presented to the TAC today, for adoption. Following adoption the report will be submitted to the federal agencies for final review and approval. The results of the analysis show that Guilford County was well under the limits for PM 2.5 and as a result, will probably receive a maintenance designation. This designation means that although the standard had been previously exceeded in Guilford County, they are currently being met. This maintenance designation will be in place for twenty years. The requested action is to recommend that the TAC approve the PM 2.5 Conformity Determination Report and submit it for final review.

Adam Fischer moved recommend that the TAC approve the PM 2.5 Conformity Determination Report as presented. Wayne Davis seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the TAC approve the PM 2.5 Conformity Determination Report as presented.

Business / Potential Action Items

1. TIP Update / Eastern Urban Loop Status

Tyler Meyer advised that although the 07-13 TIP is now under development, the exact timeline and process for developing the 07-13 TIP is currently unknown. NCDOT estimates that it will not be able to finalize the process and schedule until April or possibly May. The delay is a result of several factors, one of which is determining how to deal with the State's anticipated sale of GARVEE bonds. The current TIP document which covers the 2006-2012 period, became effective on October 1, 2005, and is valid through September 30, 2007. NCDOT's efforts to transition to an odd year TIP development schedule, means that the next document will cover the 2007-2013 period. Once information on the schedule for the 07-13 TIP development process is received from NCDOT, we will have a much better idea as to which projects will be affected in terms of their scheduling.

In previous TIP cycles, funding for the Eastern Urban Loop (U-2525) was programmed for construction to begin by 2012. However, in the 06-12 TIP, this portion of the Urban Loop has been shifted to "Post Years," signifying that no funding is formally assigned to the project. The only portion of the Urban Loop that is still shown as funded in the TIP is right-of-way acquisition for the section from US 70 to US 29. Based on previous directives and actions it would seem that it would be well advised to take action urging NCDOT to restore funding to this section of the Eastern Urban Loop. A resolution expressing the importance of restoring funding to this project has been prepared for the TAC's consideration.

2. 2006-2007 Unified Planning Work Program

Tyler Meyer advised that MPO staff are currently developing the FY 06-07 UPWP and that a completed package of materials and recommendations will be ready in February for the TAC's review and approval. A more detailed presentation, including additional background information will be given at that time. The UPWP package will include a list of the priority planning areas that have been identified at the Technical Coordinating Committee level. The deadline for submitting the UPWP to the state is March 1, 2006.

Studies currently under way include a reviews of roadway connectivity needs in eastern Guilford County and a preliminary assessment of the Battleground Avenue / Lawndale Drive Corridor in anticipation of the future removal of the Norfolk Southern rail line.

The Greensboro Metropolitan Area Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Greenways Plan, which is now under way, and the Collector Street Plan, which is now nearly complete were both major implementation projects arising from the 2030 LRTP. The Collector Street Plan is still awaiting adoption in Oak Ridge, Pleasant Garden, and unincorporated Guilford County.

3. MPO Strategic Reports

Scott Rhine advised that PART and the regional Chambers of Commerce will host a public meeting regarding the "Heart of the Triad" economic development planning project.. The purpose of this meeting is to inform citizens about what the project could potentially mean for the Piedmont Triad Region and to receive public input on preferred development forms for the H.O.T.T. area. The meeting will be held on Thursday, February 2, from 6 to 8pm in Triad Park.

Craig McKinney advised that the environmental permitting process is currently under way for the Eastern Urban Loop. A field inspection of the alignment that was conducted in January found no significant environmental obstacles for constructing the project. This progress is important because it will allow the project to continue to move forward if construction funding is eventually restored.

MPO staff recently received the final feasibility study for the Pegg Road/Thatcher Road connection and grade separation project. The findings recommended that the project be constructed as a four lane median-divided facility with a minor re-alignment south of I-40. The current cost estimate for the project is \$25.6 million.

MPO staff also recently received a draft of the final Environmental Impact Statement for the High Point Road widening and relocation project. The deadline for MPO staff to review and submit comments is February 5. The EIS will be finalized by April 1, with a Record of Decision to be issued by May 31, barring any unforeseen delays. The merger team of federal and state permitting agencies will be meeting on February 23 to review and approve Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative (LEDPA).

Tyler Meyer advised that a TCC work session on the BiPed plan is tentatively scheduled for the week of February 13. Informational materials will be distributed for the TCC to review in advance of the workshop.

Other Items

1. TCC Member Report

Hanna Cockburn advised that the RPO bicycle route study has been completed and the information is available for public distribution. The study designates bicycle routes in the RPO counties that did not have previously mapped bicycle routes.

Applications for the Share the Road specialty license plate have reached the minimum threshold of three hundred. These plates will enter production very soon.

Next TCC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 22, at 11:00 a.m. The TCC adjourned at 11:56 a.m.