



GREENSBORO URBAN AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

September 28, 2005

11:00 a.m. Greensboro, NC

Conference Room 401 (County Commissioners' Briefing Room)

Old Guilford County Courthouse

ATTENDANCE

Jim Westmoreland	GDOT / MPO	Srinivas Varanasi	PART
Tyler Meyer	GDOT / MPO	Mark Kirstner	Guilford Co. Community & Economic Dev.
Jeff Sovich	GDOT / MPO	Greg Niles	Guilford Co. Planning & Development
Craig McKinney	GDOT / MPO	John Button	NCDOT Triad Regional Traffic Office
Peggy Holland	GDOT / MPO	Wayne C. Davis	NCDOT-TPB
Adam Fischer	GDOT	John (Andy) Bailey	NCDOT-TPB
Scott Rhine	PART	Jonathan Jones	<i>Greensboro News & Record</i>

Jim Westmoreland called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m.

Action Items

1. Approve Minutes of September 28, 2005

Scott Rhine moved for approval of the minutes. Wayne Davis seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2005 meeting as presented.

2. Amend 06-12 MTIP

Jeff Sovich advised that this amendment consists of three parts. The first part is related to the establishment of a project for GTA's University and College Service program. Service will begin by Fall 2006, with funding available to continue through at least 2009. Establishment of this program is accomplished through a series of five MTIP projects. There are four operations projects for each of fiscal years, '06, '07, '08, and '09, in addition to a capital acquisition project in FY '07 for three buses and seven small buses. The total capital cost of the project is \$1.4 million, while the operations total is \$6.75 million. This project is primarily funded through CMAQ funds and a local match, which is contributed partly through the six participating colleges and universities.

The second portion of the amendment involves changes to portions of the Battleground Rail Trail, project E-4709. This project was originally scheduled for construction starting in FY '06, but is being shifted back to FY '07 in order to allow additional time for completion of the property drawings and right-of-way acquisition process. The amendment also incorporates \$800,000 in federal earmark funds and accompanying 20% local match though it will be necessary to verify the eligible uses and availability timeline of these funds through additional discussion with NCDOT staff. Finally, this amendment corrects a clerical error in the local match amount by adding in \$100,000 that was inadvertently omitted in a previous amendment. The new total project cost is \$2.3 million.

The third part of this amendment involves modifications to the Greensboro Signal and ITS System Replacement and Expansion, project U-4711. This amendment brings the project into a fully funded status by adding \$10 million in federal earmarked funds and accompanying 20% local match, as well as \$2 million in STP-DA funds and accompanying 20% local match. The amendment also divides the CMAQ funding across fiscal years '08 and '09 in order to match the level of funding available from the state. The total project cost is \$23.8 million. The requested action is to recommend that the TAC approve this amendment as presented.

Tyler Meyer advised that the NC Board of Transportation adopted a corresponding amendment to the State TIP in October to approve a slate of CMAQ projects, including the University Connector Service. He also advised that NCDOT has concurred with the proposed STP-DA allocation to the Signal System project,

Scott Rhine moved to recommend that the TAC approve this amendment as presented. Greg Niles seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the TAC approve the amendment as presented.

3. Amend 05-06 UPWP

Tyler Meyer advised that the UPWP is an accounting document that details the transportation planning work that will be conducted over the course of the year, and the federal transportation planning grants funding those projects. At the last MPO meetings, a UPWP amendment was made programming an additional \$148,867 in PL funds and accompanying 20% local match. This amendment programs an additional \$37,217 in PL funds which have 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 probable that another amendment will be made later in the year as additional funds become available for the 2005 work program. It is more 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 \$601,081. The requested action is to recommend that the TAC approve this amendment as presented.

Adam Fischer moved to recommend that the TAC approve this amendment as presented. Scott Rhine seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the TAC approve the amendment as presented.

Business / Potential Action Items

1. 2006 MPO Meeting Schedule and December 2005 Meeting Date

Jeff Sovich advised that MPO staff have developed a tentative schedule for the 2006 TAC and TCC meetings. This schedule has been distributed for the TAC and TCC to review, discuss, and advise staff of any recurring conflicts or major events that would preclude attendance. The tentative meeting dates for 2006, which mirror those of 2005, are typically set for the fourth Wednesday of every month with the exception of October, November, and December. This item will be presented to the TAC for discussion and approval.

Tyler Meyer advised that at this time, it looks as though the December, 2005 MPO meetings can be cancelled. If an opportunity or need to schedule a TCC work session to discuss the BiPed Plans and other items should arise, staff will contact TCC members to determine a suitable date and time.

2. Preliminary Draft PM 2.5 Conformity Determination Report

Scott Rhine advised that on April 5, 2005, both Guilford and Davidson counties were designated as non-attainment areas under the PM 2.5 air quality standard. According to federal air quality rules, one calendar year is given to show conformity following this designation. The Triad is currently in the process of conducting the necessary analysis and procedures in order to demonstrate conformity. This conformity process is much like the conformity processes for NOx and Ozone which we have gone through before. However, this conformity process does differ from past conformity determinations in that all four MPOs are going through the process at the same time because all four planning boundaries include part of either Guilford or Davidson County. With the four MPOs and PART working together as a region, we are increase efficiency and effectiveness by conducting planning tasks at a truly regional scope.

The Draft Triad Air Quality Conformity Report for PM 2.5 has been refined with some input from the NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch. The Executive Summary is complete and the document is now undergoing internal review by the NCDENR Division of Air Quality as well as by FHWA and FTA. Beginning in mid-December, the document will be released for the required 30-day public review and comment period. Due to the fact that there is not a SIP budget for PM 2.5, the Triad must conduct a baseline emissions test. The baseline year is 2002 because that is the base year of the travel demand model. The baseline test must show that emissions forecast for the horizon years 2010, 2020, and 2030 are lower than the base year emissions. We are requesting the MPO's endorsement of the draft document in order to maintain the current schedule and have the document out for the public review and comment period by mid-December. This will be brought back as an action item to all MPOs in January.

3. Regional Travel Demand Model Update

Scott Rhine advised that PART, NCDOT and the four regional MPOs have worked together to develop the new Triad Regional Travel Demand Model, which is now very near completion. In order to keep the project on schedule, the consultant team, led by Parsons-Brinckerhoff, has brought in additional assistance from Caliper Software, the company that developed the TransCAD modeling software platform of the Triad's model. Development of the model began in 2001 with creation of an agreement among the regional partners, regarding their respective responsibilities, funding contributions, and overall model structure. The model development team began meeting regularly in Spring 2002, and received additional insights from local governments, planning agencies, school districts, business leaders, and private consulting firms/services throughout the process. Major input datasets include updated socio-economic forecasts, an on-board transit rider survey. The crucial point to bear in mind regarding the model development process is that the forecasts produced by finished model will only be as accurate as the input data that is used, and the model's overall structure. Accordingly, annual updates of the input data will be essential.

Current activities consist of developing scripts to automate TransCAD's processing of the modeling sequence; calibration testing to ensure that the equations accurately represent existing conditions at previously observed points in the network; and validation testing to ensure that the model can accurately predict existing conditions for points in the network which were not part of the initial inputs. Training for MPO staff and other model end-users will occur in December. Final documentation and formal adoption by the MPOs and NCDOT will take place early in 2006.

Srinivas Varanasi advised that the steps in the development of the travel demand model have included gathering input data, developing the zone and subarea structures, disaggregating the base year data to the TAZ level, forecasting socio-economic data to the four future horizon years, followed by the traditional four-step modeling process, which consists of trip generation, trip distribution, mode choice, and traffic assignment.

4. Eastern Urban Loop (U-2525) Traffic Forecast Update

Wayne Davis advised that Triad Unit of the Transportation Planning Branch was assigned to prepare updated traffic forecasts for the eastern section of the Greensboro Loop. This project was led by Andy Bailey, the TPB coordinator for the Piedmont Triad RPO.

Andy Bailey advised that the Eastern Urban Loop, project U-2525 extends from is from US 70 northwest to Lawndale Drive, passing US 29. This section will connect to the Western Urban Loop, project U-2524, which runs from Lawndale Drive to I-85. The NCDOT Roadway Design Unit requested that the forecasts be updated for use in developing a construction design for U-2525. However, considering that schedule for this project has been delayed to right-of-way acquisition in fiscal year 2009 or 2010, and construction sometime thereafter, there is a high possibility that the forecasts will need to be updated again before construction begins. Recent and anticipated population growth and development in the vicinity of the U-2525 corridor in the northeast, as well as near proposed I-73/I-74 corridor could produce more traffic than these facilities can accommodate. It is hoped that this update will be completed by January, when a more detailed presentation of the numbers can be given. MPO staff will be notified of the completion within the next several weeks.

5. MPO Strategic Reports

Tyler Meyer advised that the public workshops for the BiPed Plan were successfully held on October 12, 13, 19, and 20, and that while overall attendance was good, it was a bit uneven in size at the various locations. MPO staff are now waiting on the consultant team to come back with their technical analysis and initial recommendations. It is expected that additional public workshops will be held some time in the spring, once the draft plan is completed.

The Collector Street Plan, which has been transmitted for review and consideration by the MPO's seven local jurisdictions, was deferred for further consideration by the Guilford County Board of Commissioners, during their latest meeting. The plan will be brought to the Commissioners hopefully in February or March with a more detailed presentation about its implications.

The draft 07-13 MTIP has been submitted to NCDOT and MPO staff are currently awaiting their findings.

In regards to the proposed NC-150 study requested by the Town of Summerfield, opportunities for future expansion of the scope and funding are being discussed.

Other Items

1. TCC Member Report

None.

Next TCC meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, January 25th, 2006 at 11:00 am. The TCC adjourned at 12:19 pm.