



# Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

December 12, 2018, 2:00 pm  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Greensboro City Council Chamber  
300 W. Washington Street

## Attendance

Marikay Abuzuaiter	<i>TAC Chair</i>	Mike Mills	<i>NCDOT Division 7</i>
Tammi Thurm	<i>TAC Member, City of Greensboro</i>	Russ Clegg	<i>Greensboro Planning Dept.</i>
Alan Branson	<i>TAC Member, Guilford County</i>	Gray Johnston	<i>GTA/GDOT</i>
Dena Barnes	<i>TAC Member, Town of Summerfield</i>	Cheryl McQueary	<i>GDOT Board</i>
Tyler Meyer	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>	Joe Geigle	<i>FHWA</i>
Lydia McIntyre	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>	Nicole Lindahl	<i>BIG</i>
Craig McKinney	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>	Taft Wireback	<i>Greensboro News and Record</i>
Yuan Zhou	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>		

***Marikay Abuzuaiter called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM***

## Introductory Items

### 1. Conflict of Interest Policy Statement

Marikay Abuzuaiter read the Conflict of Interest Policy Statement required by the State Ethics Act: it states that it is the responsibility of each committee member to avoid conflicts of interest and if there are any to identify them now. *No conflicts were raised by members.*

### 2. Reports, Concerns, and Discussion from MPO Area Towns:

*There were none.*

### 3. Public Comments:

**Planning for the transportation future**

Cheryl McQueary encouraged TAC to approve the replacement buses item (TA-4771 MTIP Amendment). With currently identified funding resources it could take up to two years to add more buses but more replacement buses are needed now. Also, Mobility Greensboro 2040 will require expansion buses and new funding to support maintaining and expanding fixed route operations. Currently usage of fixed route buses has declined due to under investment and a lack of improvements in fixed route services while usage of SCAT ADA and premium city paratransit use and expenses have grown dramatically over the last several years.

## Action Items

### 1. Minutes of October 24, 2018

*Tammi Thurm motioned to approve the minutes of October 24, 2018. Alan Branson seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to approve the minutes of October 24, 2018.*

### 2. MTIP Amendment: B-5356, I- 40 Bridge Replacement over Buffalo Creek

Tyler Meyer presented the MTIP Amendment: B-5356, I- 40 Bridge Replacement over Buffalo Creek:

- An MTIP Amendment is needed to modify the schedule in coordination with the I-40 widening project. The construction schedule will shift from FY 2019 to FY 2022.
- Marikay Abuzuaiter noted several action items are similarly coordinating timing with existing projects.

*Alan Branson moved approval. Tammi Thurm seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to approve the item.*

### 3. MTIP Amendment: U-2581 BA, US 70 Widening Improvements

Tyler Meyer presented the MTIP Amendment U-2581 BA, US 70 Widening Improvements:

- An MTIP Amendment is needed to increase in construction funding based on recent cost estimates.
- The action will add \$470,000 for construction in FY 2020, bringing the total to \$5,900,000. The schedule will not change.
- Tammi Thurm asked why the cost estimate increased. Tyler Meyer noted the change is based on a detailed cost estimate based on an actual design while the original estimate was a general “planning level estimate.” Mike Mills confirmed that having design work at or near completion enables this more precise cost estimate.

*Alan Branson moved approval. Tammi Thurm seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to approve the item.*

### 4. MTIP Modification: U-5713, Willow Ridge Bridge Replacement over I-40

Tyler Meyer presented the MTIP Modification: U-5713, Willow Ridge Bridge Replacement over I-40:

- This MTIP modification will shift construction from FY 2019 to FY 2020 to provide more time for design and to coordinate the construction schedule with the bridge replacement on Patton Ave over I-40.

*Alan Branson moved approval. Tammi Thurm seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to approve the item.*

### 5. MTIP Amendment: U-5841, Friendly Avenue Improvements

Tyler Meyer presented the MTIP Amendment: U-5841, Friendly Avenue Improvements:

- Project U-5841 requires a MTIP amendment to reflect changes in funding source from federal funds to state highway funds and to shift the right of way and construction one year, from FY 2019-2020 to FY 2020-2021.

*Tammi Thurm moved approval. Dena Barnes seconded the motion. The TAC unanimously approved the item.*

### 6. MTIP Modification: EB- 5876, Holden Road Sidewalks

Tyler Meyer Presented the MTIP Modification: EB-5876, Holden Road Sidewalks:

- Project EB-5876 was not able to achieve construction authorization in FY 2018 and requires an MTIP modification to shift the schedule one year, from FY 2018- FY 2019.

*Alan Branson moved approval. Tammi Thurm seconded the motion. The TAC unanimously approved the item.*

## Planning for the transportation future

## 7. **MTIP Amendment: TA- 6690 PART Replacement Vehicles**

Tyler Meyer presented the MTIP Amendment: TA- 6690 PART Replacement Vehicles:

- PART drew down its Section 5339 FY 2018 replacement bus funding prior to release of full year appropriations numbers. The available amount was \$11,641 more than expected. This MTIP amendment will roll that \$11,641 over so PART can draw it down in FY 2019.

*Tammi Thurm moved approval. Alan Branson seconded the motion. The TAC unanimously approved the item.*

## 8. **MTIP Amendment: TA-4771 GTA Replacement Buses**

Tyler Meyer presented the MTIP Amendment: TA-4771 GTA Replacement Buses:

- GTA has learned of \$955,000 CMAQ funding availability left over under FY 2016 project TA-4771 Clean Diesel Replacement Buses. FTA has advised that this funding can be reprogrammed at this time to permit the purchase of two additional clean diesel replacement buses at this time.
- Adam Fischer commented that this item will be beneficial. GTA needs more replacement buses than it can currently afford so it needs all the new buses it can get, and though this grant requires purchase of clean diesel buses and not electric buses, this is still a much needed project for GTA. Ten electric buses acquired with FY 18 & 19 CMAQ funding and transportation bond funds will go into service in the near future, with efforts underway to identify additional funding for more electric bus purchases in the near future.
- Alan Branson asked about the ribbon cutting for the first electric bus. Adam Fischer commented that the ribbon cutting is slated for January 28, 2019 at a location still to be determined.
- Tammi Thurm asked for clarification on the term clean diesel and how it differs from a regular diesel bus. Adam Fischer noted all diesel buses manufactured after 2007 are required to be clean diesel, a term which means low sulfur diesel fuel is used with enhanced emissions scrubbing technology. Alan Branson commented that the same holds true for commercial truck fleets and the engines burn hotter and use filters that are quite costly to maintain.
- Marikay Abuzuaiter asked if there was a way to use the funding for electric buses. Tyler Meyer commented that there is not as for reasons stated earlier.

*Alan Branson motioned to approve the MTIP Amendment: TA-4771 GTA Replacement Buses. Tammi Thurm seconded the motion. The TAC unanimously approved MTIP Amendment: TA-4771 GTA Replacement Buses.*

## **Business Items**

### 1. **Greensboro Comprehensive Plan Update**

Russ Clegg presented the Greensboro Comprehensive Plan Update:

- The Greensboro comprehensive plan is a long range plan that sets goals for policies, land use, and community change for the next 20 years.
- The current plan, Connections 2025, which was adopted 2003. This plan has influenced or led to revised zoning ordinances, Neighborwoods, the BiPed plan, redevelopment areas, and other city initiatives.
- A new plan is being created to provide an updated guide for decisions and investments that fully considers community changes since 2003.
- The update process began several years ago. The process is now in the crafting visions and setting goals stage. A vision statement should be ready for public feedback by the fall.
- On October 5, 2018 there was a kick-off event that 40 people attended. There has also been outreach at the Folk Festival, the Run 4 the Greenway, the Festival of Lights parade, the Farmer's Market, and at Libraries. There have also been six meetings at recreational centers.
- A speaker series was held including speakers Geoff Anderson and Majora Carter. There will be more such events in the spring.

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## **Planning for the transportation future**

- A new focus group called Next Generation made up of young professionals is providing input, as is an advisory committee with 22 members from different departments.
- An analysis of the previous plan is under development, as is a schedule for more events and a new webpage.
- The new plan will focus on new challenges and opportunities, changes in technology and demographics, and changes to retail and manufacturing. Major changes since 2003 include a decrease in unemployment, a decrease in manufacturing jobs, an increase in service jobs, \$5.3 billion in building permits, an increase in the median age, an increase in diversity, and an increase in size and population.
- During a public survey participants were asked what made Greensboro special and the top three answers were the sense of community, the parks and open space, and the arts and culture. When asked what changes are needed to make Greensboro better participants replied: transportation related items, downtown improvements, vibrancy and place making, economic development, equity, and housing. When asked what they wanted Greensboro to be known for participants replied arts and culture, sense of community, and diversity.
- The vision statement from the current plan is “Greensboro is known for its exceptional livability defined by three essential factors: the quality of our relationships with each other, the quality of the place, and the quality and vitality of the economy.”
- There are six different goal areas: community, neighborhoods, identity and experience, economic prosperity, connections, and built environment.
- Marikay Abuzuaiter acknowledged the hard work that has been put in to the plan and thanked Clegg for the progress report.

## 2. Vision Zero Greensboro Update

Lydia McIntyre presented the Vision Zero Greensboro Update:

- The Vision Zero Greensboro public initiative began in November, 2018. Since that time Vision Zero Greensboro has conducted meetings with internal and external groups (including recent engagement with the Police Department, the Public Health Department, businesses, and the community) and has been meeting with three working groups based off the three identified objectives: to prevent crashes resulting in serious injuries and fatalities, promote a safe system approach to transportation in Greensboro, and to engage partners and the public to foster a culture of safety.
- The meetings have also crystalized a goal to make transportation safety the top priority. Stakeholder collaboration and community engagement will be key. The three main objectives are to prevent crashes resulting in fatalities and serious injuries, promote a safe systems approach in Greensboro, and to engage partners and the public to foster a culture of safety.
- There have been two surveys held at different Walmart’s in Greensboro that had about 100 participants. There has been a public outreach on Nextdoor that has had over 200 responses. Additional outreach is being planned.
- Three emphasis areas have been determined: speed and keeping drivers safe, run off road and protecting all users, and protecting vulnerable users.
- So far in 2018 there have been 32 crashes leading to 33 fatalities of which 26 were motor vehicle occupants and 7 were pedestrians.
- Marikay Abuzuaiter noted that railway safety issues are a significant concern and said that there will be a railway safety week in September.
- The next steps include: the Greensboro action plan, short term behavior modification, infrastructure projects, and policy/ legislative changes. There will also be a large kick-off event in April for the entire city.
- Adam Fischer passed out Vision Zero stickers that go on a car window.
- Tammi Thurm noted that at a recent neighborhood meeting in The Cardinal there was a conversation about Vision Zero Greensboro. One of the subjects talked about was the usage of curved mirrors on street corners in neighborhoods. Lydia McIntyre commented that she would take note of that.

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### Planning for the transportation future

- Marikay Abuzuaiter acknowledged the work from the group on this item. Abuzuaiter also mentioned that she had noticed people slowing down at speed limit signs that reflect the drivers speed. Adam Fischer commented that there are plans to install more such variable speed notice signs speed limit signs.

### 3. **Division Engineer Updates:**

Mike Mills presented division engineer updates:

- Division 7 is installing four new traffic signals: at Church and Archergate, Hicone and Eckerson, US 70 and Golf House Road West (east of Sedalia), US 70 and Birch st rd (South of McCleansville.). The lights at Church st and Archergate rd, and Hicone Rd and Eckerson rd have been installed and are waiting on utilities.
- A \$176 million bridge replacement project recently started on Little Alamance Creek Road
- An intersection improvement project on Pleasant Garden rd that will begin in January, 2019.
- Project U-2581BA will widen US 70 to the new Publix distribution center. Work on the project is well underway with right of way acquisition complete by late 2019.
- Mike Fox will attend the NC Transportation Summit January 9 and 10 at the Raleigh Convention Center.
- Marikay Abuzuaiter asked if snow removal was going well. Mike Mills commented that it was.

### 2. **Project Updates:**

Craig McKinney presented the following project updates:

- A public meeting was recently held for Project U-5892 for widening on Battleground Ave (US 220) from the Urban Loop to the Westridge Road to six lanes. Right of way is set for FY 2021 with construction in 2022.
- A public meeting was recently held for Project P-5713 Hilltop Road railroad grade separation. Right of way is set to begin in 2020 with construction set for 2021. Four alternative designs were considered for this project, all with different bridge placements and impacts to the surrounding land uses.
- The Greensboro City Council will award contracts for U-5306B *Battleground and Westridge* and English Street Sidewalks on December 18, 2019. Once the City awards the contract the projects will go through NCDOT for concurrence approval.

### 3. **Strategic Reports:**

Tyler Meyer presented the strategic reports:

- The State Ethics Board newsletter was included in the packet of handouts for the meeting. The 2019 filing deadlines for Statements of Economic Interest and Real Estate Disclosure forms is April 15.
- The next meeting will be held on January 23, 2019.

## **Other Items**

1. **Board Member Update:** *Mike Fox was not in attendance.*

2. **Regional Updates:** *None given.*

3. **Wrap-Up:**

*Tammi Thurm motioned to adjourn the meeting. Alan Branson seconded the motion. The TAC unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.*

**Marikay Abuzuaiter adjourned the meeting at 3:00 PM.**

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## **Planning for the transportation future**