



TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Minutes of May 12, 2020 2:00 p.m., Greensboro, NC WebEx Online Virtual Meeting

Attendance

Tyler Meyer	GDOT/MPO	Gray Johnston	GDOT/GTA
Hanna Cockburn	GDOT/MPO	George Linney	GTA
Craig McKinney	GDOT/MPO	Elizabeth Jernigan	GSO Parks and Recreation
Chris Spencer	GDOT/MPO	Oliver Bass	Guilford County
Lydia McIntyre	GDOT/MPO	Scott Whitaker	Summerfield
Tram Truong	GDOT/MPO	Mike Mills	NCDOT Division 7
Yuan Zhou	GDOT/MPO	Michael Abuya	NCDOT TPD
Chandler Hagen	GDOT/MPO	Mark Kirstner	PART
Deniece Conway	GDOT/MPO	Joe Geigle	FHWA
Jai Daniels	GDOT/MPO	Glen Ayes	Division of Aviation

Tyler Meyer called the meeting to order at approximately 2:22 PM.

Introductory Items

1. Orientation to WebEx Software

Lydia McIntyre welcomed everyone to the combined May virtual meeting. Virtual meetings are required during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the MPO anticipates having virtual meetings until the state deems it safe for in-person meetings.

A special arrangement was made for all public comments to be submitted prior to the TAC meeting via email or by phone. Information about the new process was posted on the MPO website and comments were due by the end of the business day on May 12.

McIntyre described the voting procedures for TCC members. All voting is to be done verbally, with a motion first then a second. Members must state their last name as they make the motion and second. Members will not be asked who is in favor, but instead be asked if there are any “nos” or abstentions. Those who are voting against an item under discussion must also state their last name.

McIntyre gave a brief overview of the Cisco WebEx software, detailing the layout and features.

McIntyre introduced the new Director of Transportation, Hanna Cockburn.

2. Roll Call

McIntyre took a roll call of everyone in the meeting for the record.

Action Items

1. February 26, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Chris Spencer moved to approve the minutes of February 26, 2020. Oliver Bass seconded the motion. The TCC voted unanimously to approve.

2. Program of Projects: Public Hearing and Adoption

Tyler Meyer described the FY 2020 Program of Projects, an annually updated and public reviewed document to account for expected transit grants for the current fiscal year. The report covers formula programs and discretionary funds for GTA, PART, and TAMs, and provides more information beyond what is found in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). There was a public comment period from April 8 to May 8, but no comments were submitted.

Mark Kirstner moved to approve the recommendation for TAC approval of the FY 2020 Program of Projects. Hanna Cockburn seconded the motion. The TCC voted unanimously to approve.

3. Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program Projects Award

Tyler Meyer described the 5310 Elderly and Disabled transit funds as recurring formula funds that the MPO can direct to area projects. These funds are directed under the terms of the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan. The amount of funding available for FY 2020 is \$239,026. The MPO called for projects from area transit providers and eligible nonprofits during a thirty-day period. This year there were two applicants, TAMs and GTA, for funding to continue 5310 support for long established services with good performance history. TAMs requested \$35,000 for operating assistance. GTA requested \$210,774 for expanded hours for SCAT, their shared-ride transportation service for disabled riders that runs before the fixed route begins. The applications were reviewed and scored by a team that consisted of Greensboro MPO staff and Winston-Salem MPO staff. Both applicants scored well and are recommended for funding. The combined requests were slightly more than available funding, so the recommended funding awards were reduced proportionally, to \$34,043.26 for TAMs and \$204,983.50 for GTA.

Scott Whitaker asked if scoring impacted how funding was awarded. Meyer said that it was only proportional and not based on scoring.

Scott Whitaker moved to approve the recommendation for TAC approval of Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program Projects Award funding. Michael Abuya seconded the motion. The TCC voted unanimously to approve.

4. FY 2020-2029 MTIP Modification: C-5555E College Road/New Garden Road Sidewalks & U-5532 Funding

Tyler Meyer noted this project will complete sidewalks along College Road and New Garden Road near Guilford College. The amendment reflects the project's updated schedule. The project was previously set for construction in Fall 2019 but was delayed in part to administrative technicalities during the right-of-way review process. This amendment moves construction from FY 19 to FY 20, changes the funding source to exclusively BGDA, and updates the construction funding amount. The project was initially

funded by both CMAQ and BGDA, but the CMAQ funds have already been spent on procuring the right-of-way. Even though the right-of-way process took longer and cost more than expected, all pre-construction work for the project has been completed, including right-of-way certification and the environmental document. The project is now ready for construction authorization, although, construction authorization will have to wait until NCDOT's financial situation improves.

Chris Spencer moved to approve the recommendation for TAC approval of the FY 2020-2029 MTIP Amendment: C-5555E College Road/New Garden Road Sidewalks & U-5532 Funding. Hanna Cockburn seconded the motion. The TCC voted unanimously to approve.

5. FY 2020-2029 MTIP Amendment: Delete U-5898 US 29/NC 150 Interchange

Tyler Meyer presented the NCDOT request to delete U-5898 US 29/NC 150 Interchange project. The project was originally submitted by Division 7 in Prioritization 4.0 but has now been incorporated into the new R-5889 US 29 Upgrade to Interstate project submitted by the Department in Prioritization 5.0. The R-5889 project will update US 29 to interstate standards which includes modifying the US 29/NC 150 interchange.

Mark Kirstner moved to approve the recommendation for TAC approval of the FY 2020-2029 MTIP Amendment: Delete U-5898 US 29/NC 150 Interchange. Oliver Bass seconded the motion. The TCC voted unanimously to approve.

6. FY 2020-2029 MTIP Amendment: Add New Projects W-5807A & R-5968

This amendment adds two new projects.

R-5968 is a statewide umbrella project, also described as a grouped project, which provides for work to be conducted across the state in different areas as needed. This particular project is for environmental permitting needs, specifically supporting environmental mitigation costs to support water quality permits. The action sets up \$900,000 per year for the regional and division needs tiers projects, and \$1,200,000 per year for the statewide tier projects. As part of the Strategic Transportation Investments Act, NCDOT breaks all eligible roadways into these three categories allowing the Department to provide for environmental mitigation work to be done across the state on all types of roadways where the Department is planning projects. This funding is established each year from 2020 to 2029.

W-5807A is a local safety project that was identified by the Traffic Safety Branch of NCDOT using the Highway Safety Improvement Plan methodology that the Department uses to identify safety projects. This project will realign and improve the interchange at Wendover Avenue and Summit Avenue, specifically the southwestern ramp from eastbound Wendover Avenue onto Summit Avenue. It will address hazards for car traffic and pedestrians and cyclists. This project is scheduled for construction in 2022, and it will complete part of the scope of a larger Complete Streets project on Summit Avenue that was submitted in P5.0 that extends the bike, pedestrian and street improvements to be constructed by the City from downtown to Sullivan Street. The larger Complete Streets project that will extend improvements to Fourth Street is a carryover project subject to reprioritization with construction currently listed as FY 2029.

Michael Abuya moved to approve the recommendation for TAC approval of the FY 2020-2029 MTIP Amendment: Add New Projects W-5807A & R-5968. Mark Kirstner seconded the motion. The TCC voted unanimously to approve.

7. FY 2020-2029 MTIP Amendment: U-6108 Accelerated Project

This project originated as an MPO submitted mobility project under P5.0. It will reconfigure Battleground, Lawndale, and Westover between Fernwood and Wendover connections for improved traffic flow and safety while accommodating bicycles, pedestrians and the A&Y Greenway. Initially, the

right-of-way for this project was scheduled for FY 25, and construction was scheduled for FY 28. The project was subsequently delayed by NCDOT via TIP amendment, with right-of-way pushed back to FY 28 and construction to after FY 29. The Department has since reviewed the scope of the project, using consultants to conduct a preliminary study of the operations and improvement needs of the corridor and to scope the probable cost for the project. At this time, NCDOT is adjusting the scheduling and cost information project back to the original timeline and updating funding levels per the new cost estimates.

Hanna Cockburn moved to approve the recommendation for TAC approval of the FY 2020-2029 MTIP Amendment: U-6108 Accelerated Project. Chris Spencer seconded the motion. The TCC voted unanimously to approve.

8. FY 2020-2029 MTIP Amendment: NCDOT Project Delays and Adjustments B-5356, B-5718, C-5555E, I-5712, I-6004, R-2577B, U-5841, U-5892, U-6016, U-6019, Y-4807B, AV-5711 & AV-5715

This amendment adjusts the construction schedules of several NCDOT projects and two PTIA projects. These projects are being delayed for financial balancing in response to NCDOT funding challenges. B-5356 and B-5718 are bridge replacement projects that are tied to a larger project reconstructing and upgrading of I-40 through the center of Greensboro. I-5712 and I-6004 are I-40 interchange improvement projects at Sandy Ridge Road and Rock Creek Dairy Road. U-5841, U-5892, U-6016, U-6019, and Y-4807B are all MPO submitted STIP projects. AV-5711 and AV-5615 are aviation projects for the Piedmont Triad International Airport (PTIA). The NCDOT funding for the PTIA is \$500,000 per project. It is possible that the change in schedule of these aviation projects is to allow time for PTIA to collect the additional project funding. R-2577B, US 158 widening, is a cost adjustment with no impact to the construction schedule.

Hanna Cockburn moved to approve the recommendation for TAC approval of the FY 2020-2029 MTIP Amendment: NCDOT Project Delays and Adjustments B-5356, B-5718, C-5555E, I-5712, I-6004, R-2577B, U-5841, U-5892, U-6016, U-6019, Y-4807B, AV-5711 & AV-5715. Mark Kirstner seconded the motion. The TCC voted unanimously to approve.

9. UPWP FY 2020 & 2021 Amendment: Household Travel Survey

This amendment is for UPWP FY 20 and UPWP FY 21. This combined amendment accounts for a new grant that NCDOT has awarded to the City in cooperation with PART to support costs for the next Household Travel Survey, an essential part of updating and developing travel demand models. This grant will allow the City, PART, and our regional partners to implement a survey to support future model development needs. Under the terms of this project, the City will administer the grant in cooperation with PART. PART will take care of daily oversight of the contractor. The action sets up to receive \$560,000 of federal State Planning and Research (SPR) funds along with \$70,000 of state funds, which will together reimburse 90% of the project costs. PART will collect funds from Winston-Salem, High Point, and Burlington to reimburse 7% of the costs, and the City of Greensboro will reimburse the remaining 3% of the costs. The action accounts for funding in FY 20 and provides for funding to roll over into FY 21. It additionally rolls over \$89,000 of FY 20 planning funds into FY 21 to support year 2 costs of a StreetLight Data subscription, which is a traffic-counting and travel analysis software package, as well as year 2 costs for Remix Streets which MPO staff has acquired to support project development and planning activities.

Oliver Bass moved to approve the recommendation for TAC approval of the UPWP FY 2020 & 2021 Amendment: Household Travel Survey. Michael Abuya seconded the motion. The TCC voted unanimously to approve.

Business Items

1. Division Engineer Updates

Mike Mills gave updates on certain projects. The contractor is still working on the Western Loop from US 29 to Lawndale Avenue. He is trying to open the section from Lawndale Avenue to Elm Street by the end of this year. The US-70 widening project connecting the Publix Distribution Center has been let, and the contractor will start working on that project in June or July. Some projects have been delayed. Most notably, the let for the Reedy Fork Interchange project (R-4707) has been delayed from June to August.

NCDOT has fallen below the statutory cash floor established in state law, and this prevents the Department from entering into any new contracts, which has led to the delay of many short-term projects including MPO directed locally administered projects. It has been projected that the Department will be \$300 million short in gas tax revenue by July 2020 and an additional \$370 million short by July 2021.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Mills noted Division 7 was working on PE activities for 30 projects, including 13 projects in Guilford County. After adjusting to the pending budget shortfalls, the Division is only able to continue working on 10 projects, with 6 projects remaining in Guilford County.

Mowing operations have been suspended until June 1, 2020, and there will only be three mowing cycles. The Department has laid off around 50% of the Department's temporary workers and embedded consultants. There may be furloughs for NCDOT in May or June. All of the litter and weeding contracts have been canceled.

Scott Whitaker asked Tyler Meyer for an update on the removal of rail tracks that had been scheduled for April of this year because Summerfield is interested in acquiring some of those tracks for a local project. Meyer recommended reaching out to the local Norfolk Southern office to follow up.

2. Project Updates

Tyler Meyer expanded on the current revenue situation for NCDOT. NCDOT had financial issues prior to the COVID-19 pandemic relating to Hurricane relief costs, MAP Act lawsuit settlements, and other reasons. The economic fallout from the pandemic has greatly exacerbated these issues: the significant drop in fuel consumption and vehicular sales resulted in an unprecedented drop in revenue.

The Department is focusing on continuing active construction projects and putting the issuance of new contracts on hold. As Mike Mills noted, NCDOT has fallen below the minimum cash floor established in state law, and this prevents the Department from entering into any new contracts. This extends to the Department's grantees, which has led to the delay of many short-term projects including MPO directed locally administered projects. The only new projects possibly able to move forward at present are Garvee or Build NC bond-funded projects, such as the US 29 at Reedy Fork Parkway Interchange Project R-4707, since they can access bond financing.

All locally administered projects that had been slated for approvals to enter new phases or contracts have been deferred for the time being. This includes two projects that had already obtained preconstruction approvals and funding authorization, U-5532A Josephine Boyd – Walker Roadway and Sidewalks and B-5553 Ballinger Road Bridge Replacement. Both projects had been about to go out to bid.

Action to allow locally administered projects could resume as early as FY 2021 if the cash floor situation improves or NCDOT finds other ways to enable key priority projects to proceed. One scenario under which locally administered projects could resume in early FY 2021 would be if Congress reauthorizes the

Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act set to expire this year, or at a minimum Congress provides a full year of funding to NCDOT.

The City of Greensboro received 14.2 million dollars in COVID-19 relief funds allocated for local transit agencies through the FY 20 CARES Act. GTA will receive \$12,416,786; PART will receive \$1,700,000; and TAMs will receive \$95,000. PART was awarded a larger amount than the adopted Transit Resource Allocation Plan indicated in consideration of the agency's almost exclusive reliance on tax revenue from rental cars for local funding, one of the more vulnerable industries impacted by COVID-19.

3. Strategic Reports

- The P6.0 deadline has been extended until July 31.
- The MTP update timeline has been extended by two months. It had been slated for approval in October, but it is projected to be approved in November instead.
- The next TCC meeting will be Tuesday, June 23, at 2PM.

Other Items

1. Member Updates

There were none.

2. Wrap-Up

The next meeting will be June 23, 2020 at 2PM.

Scott Rhine moved to adjourn the meeting. Chris Spencer seconded the motion. The TAC unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned by Tyler Meyer at approximately 3:30 PM.