



TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Minutes of October 29, 2013
10:30 a.m., Greensboro, NC
3rd Floor GDOT Conference Room
Melvin Municipal Office Building

ATTENDANCE

Tyler Meyer	<i>TCC Chair</i>	Michael Abuya	<i>NCDOT/TPB</i>
Lydia McIntyre	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>	Bill Marley	<i>FHWA</i>
Craig McKinney	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>	Bill Bruce	<i>Guilford County</i>
Daniel Amstutz	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>	Scott Whitaker	<i>Town of Summerfield</i>
Tram Truong	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>	Scott Rhine	<i>PART</i>
Deniece Conway	<i>GDOT</i>	Mark Kirstner	<i>PART</i>
Chris Spencer	<i>GDOT</i>	Alex Rosser	<i>PTAA</i>
Hanna Cockburn	<i>GSO PCD</i>	Mike Mills	<i>NCDOT/ Div. 7</i>
Ted Partrick	<i>GSO Engineering</i>	Ed Lewis	<i>NCDOT/ Div. 7</i>
George Linney	<i>GTA</i>		

Tyler Meyer called the meeting to order at 10:33 am.

Action Items

1. Approve Minutes of September 25, 2013

Bill Bruce moved to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2013 meeting. Scott Rhine seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2013 meeting.

2. Prioritization 3.0 Project Overview and Endorsement

Lydia McIntyre presented the projects that have been submitted to the MPO for Prioritization 3.0 for inclusion into NCDOT's 2016-2020 TIP. The member jurisdictions that submitted projects for prioritization are the Town of Summerfield, the Town of Oak Ridge, the City of Greensboro, PART, and GTA. Projects submitted include nine new roadway projects, four rail projects, five transit projects, and 63 bicycle and

Planning for the transportation future

pedestrian projects, which will be narrowed down. Rail and aviation projects are not ranked by the MPO, but were still noted.

Existing road projects were allowed to stay in the prioritization database, but all other types of projects have been taken out and must be resubmitted. Newly submitted roadway projects include: 1) an interchange reconfiguration at I-40 and Sandy Ridge Road; 2) widening Alamance Church Road from Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. to the Greensboro city limits; 3) widening Vandalia Rd. from Elm-Eugene St. to Pleasant Garden Rd.; 4) widening Randleman Rd. from Glendale Dr. to Elmsley Dr.; 5) widening Pleasant Ridge Rd. from NC 68 to Old Oak Ridge Rd.; 6) widening Friendly Ave. from Wendover Ave. to Lindell Rd. which includes a culvert replacement; 7) intersection improvement at Aycock St. and Walker Ave.; 8) the Youngs Mill Rd. Extension from McConnell Rd. to US 70; and 9) intersection improvements at NC 150 and NC 68 in Oak Ridge, which will include roadway and bicycle/pedestrian enhancements.

McIntyre highlighted certain existing projects, including the western and eastern portions of the Urban Loop (U-2524D and U-2525C), which will now be subject to prioritization at the Statewide Tier. The interchange replacement at US 29 and Reedy Fork Parkway is awaiting an environmental assessment. The widening project at NC 68 (U-5607) scored well last submittal and is expected to score well again. There has been a request from the Town of Summerfield to remove the NC 150 relocation from the existing project list. Battleground Avenue (U-5306B) may need to be reprioritized, depending on the construction schedule. The Youngs Mill Road Extension is being proposed as a substitution for the Florida Street Extension project. Certain projects which are considered modernization projects will stay in but are not expected to do well because the NCDOT ranking criteria are heavily weighted towards congestion. Additionally, shoulder widening projects that may be considered specifically as bicycle improvements may need to be removed pending further guidelines from NCDOT

Tyler Meyer noted that shoulder widening improvements can provide safety benefits for automobiles as well as provide bicycle accommodations. McIntyre stated that this case needs to be made to NCDOT, and there will be discussions with them before these projects are removed.

Based on the NCDOT criteria for roadways, statewide and regional projects in the MPO were analyzed and given a ranking strength for how well they could expect to do in Prioritization 3.0. These criteria are travel time, congestion, multimodalism, and economic competitiveness. Regional tier projects do not receive a score for the multimodal and economic competitiveness metrics. Roads that are heavily congested will score well in the congestion category. Multimodal refers to any project that carries increased freight and is a direct line to an airport terminal, rail, bus depot, or other alternative freight mode. Economic competitiveness is based off of travel time savings; therefore any project scoring well in travel time will score well under economic competitiveness. Projects that are expected to do well are the Urban Loop, the Airport Connector, NC 68, I-40/Sandy Ridge, and NC 150/NC 68. How the US 29/Reedy Fork Parkway interchange will score is an unknown since the way in which interchanges are scored has changed significantly.

Tyler Meyer asked if the reassessment of the US 29/Reedy Fork Parkway interchange will be finished in time for submitting the project. The cost estimate is thought to be reduced significantly with the new interchange design thereby increasing the project's likelihood of being funded, however the design has not been approved yet. Lydia McIntyre asked Mike Mills if there was an existing cost reduction estimate regarding the three possible design types. Mills responded that he would need to look up the numbers for her. Meyer suggested changing the design plan in the submittal while waiting on the environmental assessment to keep the project competitive.

Bicycle and Pedestrian projects must be resubmitted as they do not persist in the database from prior submittals. The list of projects will be cut down to 20 of the top scoring projects. Ideal projects will be cost-effective, dense, and with varied land use connectivity. The final list of recommended bicycle and pedestrian projects to be submitted to NCDOT will be presented at the December TCC meeting. Unlike roadway projects which are calculated by NCDOT, bicycle and pedestrian project costs must be calculated by the submitting team and should be as accurate as possible.

Rail projects are submitted directly to the rail division and are not prioritized by the MPO.

The date for submitting projects to NCDOT has been pushed back to February, but the MPO's schedule will remain the same. MPO staff will analyze the projects from the list of submittals and present a final list at the December TCC meeting. The TAC will vote on the final list of projects at the January meeting. In April the MPO will need to submit their local public input process to NCDOT for review. Public review of the MPO methodology for ranking and scoring projects will take place in June.

Mark Kirstner asked when the roadway list was put together and who put the list together. McIntyre answered that the list was put together through communication with the individual jurisdictions to submit projects by the deadline posted.

Tyler Meyer moved to endorse the project list for Prioritization 3.0 and send to the TAC. Ted Partrick seconded the motion. The TCC voted unanimously to endorse the project list for Prioritization 3.0.

Business Items

1. Strategic Transportation Investment Update

Tyler Meyer presented on the Strategic Transportation Investments update. Although the Department has at one time indicated agreement with giving more weight to local jurisdictions on projects at the Regional Impact Tier, NCDOT has made the point split even between the NCDOT division office and the local jurisdictions. Also, an accessibility and connectivity measure has been added to the regional impact category. The three components of this measure are: 1) commuting time by census tracts; 2) upgrading roadway functions; and 3) county tier designation for economically depressed areas.

NCDOT is reviewing the existing roadway projects and scoring them. This information will be sent to the MPOs and RPOs to review in order to ensure that all inputs are correct. The scores should be released by the end of the year which will help when submitting the new list of projects for prioritization.

Interchange and intersection projects will be evaluated differently moving forward. The detailed analysis using TransModeler will more accurately analyze the traffic volumes and provide a more realistic scenario of the proposed improvement which should allow for higher interchange scores.

NCDOT has proposed to remove modernization projects that are essentially bicycle and pedestrian projects. This could change since many of these types of projects improve conditions for automobiles as well.

Scott Rhine inquired about the Partner Connect portal and if there is a similar online submittal process for roadways. McIntyre stated that roadway projects will be submitted through a GIS exchange.

Daniel Amstutz inquired whether the removal of modernization projects without automobile improvements applies to adding pedestrian accommodations as well. McIntyre answered that this specifically refers to modernization projects that only widen shoulders. However, due to concerns raised by other MPOs, NCDOT may be flexible about it.

Bicycle and pedestrian projects that are eligible under Safe Routes to Schools criteria may be pulled out by NCDOT since there could be leftover funding for these types of projects. However, NCDOT is not sure they will be able to fund newly submitted projects as they still have other projects to fund first.

2. Transportation Alternatives Program Update

Tram Truong presented on the Transportation Alternatives Program. Eligible jurisdictions must submit their projects to the MPO by Monday, December 2nd. After that, the MPO will score the projects and release those scores to the applicants. Any comments or concerns will then be returned to the MPO for review. A public meeting will be held by the MPO in early December where the projects will be announced. Once the TAC has approved the project list, the projects will be submitted to NCDOT. The TIP will be amended to include the selected projects by the MPO and the STIP will likewise be amended by NCDOT.

3. Bicycle Friendly Community Award

Daniel Amstutz presented an update on the Bicycle Friendly Community Award. Greensboro has been designated as a Bronze level Bicycle Friendly Community for the years 2013-2017. Next steps include

reviewing recommendations from the League of American Bicyclists on how to improve bicycling in the City of Greensboro and a presentation of the award to City Council by the bicycle community. Bicycle Friendly Community signs will be posted in areas more heavily trafficked by bicycles.

4. BiPed Plan Update Progress

Daniel Amstutz presented on the BiPed Plan Update progress. A BiPed Update Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for convening in mid-November for submitting suggestions and recommendations. Outreach to surrounding areas will continue to increase. Internal discussions of bicycle, pedestrian, and greenway recommendations will continue to take place. The member list for the advisory committee was presented.

Hanna Cockburn expressed concern that there were not any members from Guilford County Planning and Development on the list. Amstutz answered that he will look into including members from that group onto the advisory committee.

Tram Truong presented the Pedestrian Crash Analysis. The analysis covered crash trends, where they occurred, why they occurred, when they occurred, and who was involved. A complete analysis will be included in the BiPed Update.

5. Project Updates

Craig McKinney presented on project updates. The US 70 merger team meeting has been rescheduled to November 20th. The team is proposing a best fit location based on the environment surrounding the roadway with widening and some curb and gutter. Five proposed alignments will be trimmed down to three possible alignments with widening the existing roadway likely to be one of the options to act as a baseline.

NCDOT has received bids on constructing the Urban Loop from Bryan Boulevard to Battleground Ave. The low bidder is \$16 million less than the cost estimate.

6. Strategic Updates

NCDOT is revising their state transportation plan to reflect the STI and new administration priorities. A handout from the Ethics Commission was passed out.

Other Items

1. NCDOT Update

Mike Mills reported that the beams over I-73 southbound for the project at High Point Road will be installed over the weekend. A design-build team will be selected for the I-73 project in the next few months.

2. TCC Member Updates

There were none.

3. Wrap-Up

The TAC meeting will take place on October 31st at 10:00 am in the 3rd Floor GDOT Conference Room. The TCC was adjourned by Tyler Meyer at 11:50 pm.