



**TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of November 10, 2014**  
**2:00 p.m., Greensboro, NC**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Greensboro Council Chambers**  
**Melvin Municipal Office Building**

**ATTENDANCE**

Nancy Vaughan	<i>TAC Chair</i>	Adam Fischer	<i>GDOT</i>
Marikay Abuzuaiter	<i>TAC Member, City of Greensboro</i>	Tyler Meyer	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>
Jamal Fox	<i>TAC Member, City of Greensboro</i>	Craig McKinney	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>
Zack Matheny	<i>TAC Member, City of Greensboro</i>	Lydia McIntyre	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>
Jeff Phillips	<i>TAC Member, Guilford County</i>	Tram Truong	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>
Alan Branson	<i>TAC Member, Guilford County</i>	Dan Amstutz	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>
Dena Barnes	<i>TAC Member, Town of Summerfield</i>	Mike Mills	<i>NCDOT/ Division 7</i>
Cheryl McQueary	<i>TAC Member, NCDOT BOT</i>	Michael Abuya	<i>NCDOT-TPB</i>
Carla Strickland	<i>Town of Pleasant Garden</i>	Scott Rhine	<i>PART</i>
		Chris Spencer	<i>GDOT Engineering</i>

*Nancy Vaughan called the meeting to order at 2:04 pm.*

**Action Items**

**1. Conflict of Interest Policy Statement**

Nancy Vaughan read the Conflict of Interest Policy Statement required by the State Ethics Act. The policy statement states that it is the responsibility of each committee member to avoid conflicts of interest and if there are any, to present them before the committee at the beginning of the TAC meeting. There were no conflicts of interest identified before the Committee.

**2. Approve Minutes of September 24, 2014**

Cheryl McQueary moved to approve the minutes of September 24, 2014. Alan Branson seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to approve the minutes of September 24, 2014.

**Planning for the transportation future**

### **3. Reports, Concerns, and Discussion from MPO Area Towns**

There was none.

### **4. Public Comments**

There were none.

### **5. MTIP Amendment & Modifications: Statewide Rail, M-0479, and U5306 B**

Tyler Meyer noted that this item includes a TIP Amendment and two Administrative Modifications. The TIP Amendment for Statewide Rail is requested by NCDOT to delete project C-5552 Various, Fourth Daily Frequency between Raleigh and Charlotte. Work under this project is programmed to be accomplished under TIP Project P-2918. Meyer explained that this change is administrative in nature and needed probably due to a change in funding source.

The first Administrative Modification is necessary to add funding in FY 2015 to M-0479, Statewide Project Planning, Environmental Analysis and Preliminary Engineering. This is an umbrella project for various planning and environmental work done by NCDOT. The second modification is essentially a request from the City of Greensboro to delay right-of-way from FY 2014 to FY 2015 for project U-5306 B, US 220 (Battleground Ave) Intersection with Westridge Road and Approaches. Meyer noted that the project is complicated and some issues came up with right-of-way and design. It is still expected that the project will begin construction in FY 2016. This delay does not affect the schedules for the intersection projects at Cone Boulevard and New Garden Road.

Cheryl McQueary moved to approve the MTIP Amendment and Modifications for Statewide Rail, M-0479, and U-5306 B. Zack Matheny seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to approve the MTIP Amendment and Modifications for Statewide Rail, M-0479, and U-5306 B.

### **6. MTIP Amendment: CMAQ Funded Transit Oriented Sidewalks**

Tyler Meyer discussed how the MPO is able to direct Federal Congestion, Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding to eligible area transportation needs in cooperation with NCDOT. CMAQ funding is fairly restrictive, focused on projects that can display air quality benefits through reduced congestion and reduction of car trips. The MPO has been able to use CMAQ funding for transit buses, new transit services such as HEAT, transit-oriented sidewalks, and intersection projects. Sidewalks that are not transit-oriented have been difficult to justify because of the way that the air quality benefits are calculated. The MPO has been working with NCDOT on the FY 2013-2015 CMAQ allocations, and in order to close out this funding cycle, some changes to the sidewalk projects are necessary. This requires an MTIP Amendment to accomplish.

There are three changes that need to be made: 1) move projects from C-5555 to EL-5101 DL per FHWA; 2) add funding for right-of-way for EL-5101 DL and C-5555 B; and 3) remove construction funding for these projects in FY 2015. The first change is primarily administrative to reassign the C-5555 projects under the correct TIP number so they may be packaged and delivered at the same time. Originally staff thought that these projects could be designed under one TIP number and constructed as they became ready, but FHWA advised staff that they must be delivered at the same time even if they are ready at different times. The second and third changes are needed because the projects are having some delays and cannot be delivered in FY 2015 as expected. The CMAQ funding will be shifted to right-of-way and the funding for construction will be recommended for FY 2016 at a later date. Meyer noted that NCDOT anticipates that FY 2016-2018 CMAQ balances will be available for programming later in FY 2015, and this future funding will go to these transit-oriented sidewalks along with transit buses, among other priorities. The sidewalk projects that are impacted include English St, W Friendly Ave, Lees Chapel Rd, Pisgah Church Rd, Yanceyville St, and College Rd/New Garden Rd.

Cheryl McQueary moved to approve the MTIP Amendment for CMAQ Funded Transit Oriented Sidewalks. Alan Branson seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to approve the MTIP Amendment for CMAQ Funded Transit Oriented Sidewalks.

## **Business Items**

### **1. Proposed MPO Meeting Schedule for 2015**

Daniel Amstutz presented the Proposed MPO Meeting Schedule for 2015. The proposed schedule follows the same pattern as for 2014, with MPO meetings taking place on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month to avoid Greensboro City Council Meetings, Town Council Meetings, Guilford County Commissioners Meetings, and Board of Transportation Meetings. The November and December meetings are on different days due to the holiday time periods.

The TAC voted unanimously to endorse the proposed meeting schedule for 2015.

### **2. PART Presentation**

*\*\*Note: This item was originally planned to be a presentation on the North Carolina Transportation Network Update but was replaced by this presentation the day of the meeting.*

Scott Rhine presented an overview of PART's history, governing structure, and recent projects. PART was created in 1997 in order to help coordinate transportation services between the various jurisdictions in the Triad, starting with highway construction and planning. PART started in five counties (Forsyth, Guilford, Alamance, Davidson, and Randolph) and was provided funding to do planning studies on intercity rail projects. Rhine noted that PART's mission is to deal with regional transportation issues outside of municipal boundaries as an extension of local government. Its Board of Trustees is made up of representatives from the four largest cities in the region, each local Board of County Commissioners, each of the MPOs, the two largest airports, and from the NCDOT Board of Transportation. In general, PART has all the powers of a city or county, including entering into contracts, owning and leasing land, borrowing money, operating public transportation systems, and others.

Rhine continued by describing the activities of PART since the year 2000. Highlights included work on the Triad Major Investment Study (MIS), Western NC Intercity Rail Study, consolidation of the vanpool system within the major Triad cities into RideSharing and Vanpooling in the Piedmont (RSVP), the PPIA Airport Area Study, creation of PART Connections, development of the Piedmont Triad Regional Model (PTRM) in 2002, beginning operations of the PART Express, and jurisdictional expansion into neighboring counties within the Triad. In 2004 PART began regional coordination with MPOs on the LRTP processes as well. Development of a number of park and ride lots occurred over the last decade, and has increased to 17 across the region. Major regional studies included the Heart of the Triad Regional Land Use Planning Study, Triad Alternatives Analysis Study for regional commuter rail, and the Piedmont Together regional sustainability project.

Rhine discussed the revenue sources for PART, including vehicle registration fees from some counties and taxes on car rental transactions in others. The vehicle registration fee funding source is more preferable because it is generally steadier, but the car rental tax is often easier for counties to pass because it does not impact local residents as directly. Rhine also noted that PART has the authority to request a referendum on increased sales taxes for public transportation based on HB 148. In 2010 and 2011, PART was able to utilize American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds directed from member counties. Unfortunately, in 2012 PART had to reduce operations and eliminate some routes due to funding shortfalls partly due to rental car revenues being smaller than expected.

Rhine wrapped up his presentation by noting that as of late PART has been able to maintain its operational levels and is past some difficult organizational restructuring that took place in 2013. PART has also received awards for its TDM program and its work on Piedmont Together. Rhine expressed his hope that the MPO would provide time for other staff members of PART to present on specific programs they operate.

Nancy Vaughan thanked Rhine for his presentation.

### 3. Division Engineer Updates

Mike Mills noted several large projects underway in the Greensboro area, specifically work taking place on the western and eastern Urban Loop, the interchange at Neelley Road, work on the intersection of E Harrell and W Harrell Rd at NC 68, the design-build project for the Taxiway Bridge, and the NC 68 Connector, which is also I-73. Crews are aggressively working on the NC 68 Connector getting as much done before the winter weather and will return in the spring continuing to work quickly.

### 4. Project Updates

Craig McKinney reported on project updates:

- *U-5505 Fleming & Isaacson*: Construction has begun on this project. Bids came in under the estimated cost. Due to the amount of earthwork required for the project, it is not expected to be completed until the end of 2015.
- *C-5555 A*: Bids opened for these CMAQ sidewalk projects, which include Randleman Road and parts of Florida St. Bids appear to be under the estimated cost.
- *EL-5101 DM*: NCDOT has given approval to begin the right-of-way process for Lowdermilk St & Holts Chapel Rd.

### 5. Strategic Reports

*2040 LRTP Update*: Lydia McIntyre noted that the LRTP Update is being done earlier than normal. She has sent out a form to member jurisdictions to report on projects they would like to have reflected in the LRTP. Highway projects in particular need to be in the LRTP for air quality analysis. They need to be returned before Thanksgiving so that model development can begin in early December. McIntyre added that member agencies should also identify projects that they would like to delete from the LRTP as well. MPO staff will be working on the CMP and the MTIP around the same time and will be requesting data from member agencies that will feed into the LRTP development.

*Piedmont Triad Regional Model*: McIntyre reported on progress made on the Freight Modeling Project. There have been challenges getting information from the freight companies because much of their data is proprietary. McIntyre requested that TAC members send her ideas or contacts that they have that will help gather data for this project.

*NC Bike Summit & Better Block*: Daniel Amstutz noted that the NC Bike Summit took place in Greensboro the past month, with about 200 involved as attendees, volunteers, speakers, or special guests. Feedback from attendees on sessions and speakers was very positive overall. A Better Block demonstration at Hamburger Square by McGee & S Elm St in downtown Greensboro was associated with the Bike Summit and many attendees came out to see it. The demonstration included temporarily removing a lane from service under the trestle, narrowing the lanes in the roundabout area, installing a bike lane and sharrows, and adding greenery, seating, and artistic elements to make the area more inviting to pedestrian and bicycle traffic. Around 200 people were engaged with the demonstration even though it was rained out halfway through. GDOT is continuing its conversations with Action Greensboro, ArtsGreensboro, and other stakeholders on developing a more permanent installation for the area.

*NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Counting Program*: Amstutz reported that an additional permanent bicycle and pedestrian counting location is being installed at Elam & Walker Ave in Greensboro. This is a replacement site for another site that had to be eliminated due to electrical interference.

*Watch For Me NC Activities in October*: Amstutz described some of the Watch For Me NC activities done by UNCG, NC A&T, and GPD. UNCG and NC A&T had enforcement efforts from the end of September to the beginning of October, with UNCG extending their efforts through the end of October. GPD also assisted UNCG with their enforcement and did an independent crosswalk enforcement event just before the

NC A&T Homecoming. Two Walk to School Day events took place in early October, at Lindley Park Elementary and Irving Park Elementary. Watch For Me NC materials were used to promote these events. Lindley Park had participation from the whole school, while Irving Park had about 50-60 students participate in the walk to school. Watch For Me NC for 2014 is winding down, but there is interest in continuing to participate in Watch For Me NC in 2015.

Nancy Vaughan raised concerns about residents placing loose leaves in the bike lanes and also parking or putting trash cans in the bike lane on Cornwallis Drive. She suggested that further education is needed about what is allowed in bike lanes and a press release or other outreach would be helpful. Amstutz agreed and thanked her for raising the issue.

## **Other Items**

### **1. Board Member Update**

Cheryl McQueary noted that the STIP will be coming out in early December and TAC members should be very pleased with what they see on it. McQueary also reported that the NC Legislature has asked the Board of Transportation to review NCDOT development fees. These include fees that are charged to developers of large projects for transportation impacts. Utility companies currently do not pay to have their infrastructure in NCDOT right-of-way, but this is something the BOT may look at. Finally, privatization of services such as litter pickup throughout the state and signage for local services along highways will be reviewed as well. A report from the BOT is due to the JLTOC by December 1.

### **2. Regional Updates**

Scott Rhine noted that there will be an equity summit on December 4 at the Clarion Hotel, which is a continuation of a poverty summit from earlier in the year. Several reports from PolicyLink on growth and prosperity in the Triad area will be released as part of the summit.

### **3. Wrap-Up**

*The meeting was adjourned by Nancy Vaughan at 2:41 pm.*