



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes of August 27, 2014
2:00 p.m., Greensboro, NC
2nd 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>
Dena Barnes	<i>TAC Member, Town of Summerfield</i>	Dan Amstutz	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>
Alan Branson	<i>TAC Member, Guilford County</i>	Mike Mills	<i>NCDOT/ Div 7</i>
Alex Rosser	<i>PTLAA</i>	Jimmy Morgan	<i>Citizen</i>
Scott Rhine	<i>PART</i>	Laura Peoples	<i>Bicycling in GSO (BIG)</i>

Nancy Vaughan called the meeting to order at 2:12 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 June 23, 2014

Zack Matheny moved to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2014 meeting. Alan Branson seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2014 meeting.

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

There were none.

Planning for the transportation future

4. Public Comments

Jimmy Morgan, Colfax resident, noted that he had submitted public comments as part of the Prioritization 3.0 process and hoped that TAC members would consider the concerns of the community regarding the Airport Connector project.

Laura Peoples, Greensboro resident and Executive Director of Bicycling in Greensboro, expressed support for the Watch for Me NC campaign, the NC Bike Summit in October, and thanked the City for the new bike lanes on W. Cornwallis Drive.

5. MTIP FY 2012-2018 Amendments: AV-5708 PTIA Taxiway over I-73 & B-5553 Ballinger Road Bridge Replacement

Tyler Meyer presented the MTIP Amendments requested by NCDOT to add construction funding to project AV-5708 in FY 2015 and apply funds to the Ballinger Road Bridge replacement project in 2016.

Zack Matheny moved to approve the MTIP FY 2012-2018 Amendments: AV-5708 PTIA Taxiway over I-73 & B-5553 Ballinger Road Bridge Replacement. Jamal Fox seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to approve the MTIP FY 2012-2018 Amendments: AV-5708 PTIA Taxiway over I-73 & B-5553 Ballinger Road Bridge Replacement.

6. Prioritization 3.0 Local Points Assignment

Lydia McIntyre presented the local recommended by MPO Staff and the NCDOT Division 7 office for Regional and Division Tier projects to send to NCDOT for federal and/or state funding as part of the Prioritization 3.0 process.

McIntyre reviewed the timeline for the Prioritization 3.0 process. McIntyre reviewed step four of the Prioritization methodology that outlines the quantitative and qualitative analysis for assigning the 1700 available points across all modes at both the regional and division tier with a maximum of 100 points per project, for a minimum of 17 projects for each tier. Division 7 projects will be partnered with Division 9 projects. Points can be donated to and by neighboring MPOs but no points have been requested or suggested for donation. McIntyre noted the assignment of local points involves six weighted factors and the largest of the six weights is based on the project's relative performance in NCDOT's quantitative scoring process. The project matrix evaluation is designed to consider how each project performs based on the impact of each factor: green indicates the project has a positive impact on the factor, yellow indicates the project has little or no impact on the factor, and red indicates the project has a negative impact on the factor.

The Draft Assignment of Local Points was released to the public for review from July 18th - August 18th. The MPO held a public meeting on July 22nd with approximately 8 attendees. The MPO received 47 responses, 43 from the public survey and 4 written comments over the public review period, including Mr. Jimmy Morgan's comments. A large percentage of respondents were from Stokesdale. McIntyre reviewed a summary of public responses and noted the greatest needs were identified as roadway improvement/maintenance, bicycle and pedestrian facilities and safety awareness, and increasing public transportation. The written comments were against projects R-2577C (US-I58 widening and bypass) and I-4924 (Airport Connector). McIntyre noted over 50% stated they disagreed with the assignment of local points and a majority of the reasons stated was because they were against R-2577. It is the widening and construction of a bypass around Stokesdale. McIntyre noted based on the stated reason that the large percentage who answered that they disagreed were against R-2577.

Written comments against R-2577 stated they believe it was not needed and would be disruptive to the community. Comments were also received against I-4924 (Airport Connector). The citizens also think the project is not needed and would like to maintain farmland.

McIntyre reviewed the maps and project scoring. She noted an error was made in calculating the scores. The Regional Tier only saw the top two projects switch places. The scoring does include the MPO points and the points as assigned by the Division 7 Office. The MPO did coordinate with the Division Office on points

to be assigned and received more points from the Division Office than expected.

McIntyre noted the MPO staff expects only the top five projects to possibly receive funding. This is due to the Division 7 being in the same Regional Tier with Division 9 which has Urban Loop segments which have cascaded down to this tier.

Project changes since the public review were noted. They included the addition of Ward Road Railroad grade separation, among other projects. Alan Branson asked if Ward Road had already been funded. McIntyre noted it had been studied by NCDOT, but not funded. Meyer noted the McLeansville Road project which is going to construction in 2015.

McIntyre noted points were allocated to public transportation projects although the scoring was low. However, there is a separate funding pot for public transportation.

Marikay Abuzuaiter inquired how the R-2577 project became identified as a need. Meyer noted this project was an intrastate project which was created by legislature in 1989 and given access to State Highway Trust Funds. New points allocation guidelines have caused this project to score much lower than before. Jeff Phillips asked Adam Fischer to expound on the Airport Connector project. Fischer noted this is a long term project to provide for future needs to provide better linkage between Greensboro Urban Loop and Winston-Salem Urban Loop which many decision makers selected. Although it may not appear to be needed now, it is expected to be needed by 2035. The TAC did take action on a study done around the airport area and made changes to some of the roadways. Mayors and City Managers from Winston-Salem, Greensboro, and High Point identified it as a long term need. Fischer noted it would be several years before project would be funded. Mayor Vaughan noted this project was selected as “one of the most important projects” to continue economic development in the region by Winston-Salem.

McIntyre noted the top five or six projects at the Division Tier. She also noted the NCDOT Division Office did not give 100 points to all of the MPO projects, but were able to stretch the points across more projects by giving smaller amounts based on what is expected to be funded. The MPO expects to get the top 5 bicycle and pedestrian projects funded with the additional support from the Division Office.

Project changes since the public review were noted. Points were shifted from Green Valley sidewalk to Lees Chapel sidewalks. Points were also placed on U-3617 (Market Street widening) after discussions with the Division Office.

Jamal Fox moved to approve the Prioritization 3.0 Local Points Assignment. Zack Matheny seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to approve the Prioritization 3.0 Local Points Assignment.

7. Priority Needs List

Lydia McIntyre presented the Priority Needs List, which identifies key projects for the MPO area and serves as a straightforward method to communicate essential priorities.

Alan Branson moved to approve the Priority Needs List. Zack Matheny seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to approve the Priority Needs List.

8. STP-DA and TAP Program Adjustments and MTIP Amendment

Tyler Meyer presented proposed STP-DA and TAP Program Adjustments which included the deletion of project U-5523 Florida Street Extension and modifying schedules and funding amounts for project EL-5101 *Greensboro Urban Area MPO Pedestrian & Bicycle Projects* and schedules for U-5532 *Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Transportation Alternatives Program eligible Projects*. Changes to EL-5101 will accommodate construction of the Downtown Greenway Phase 2. Changes to U-5532 will accommodate sidewalks and curb & gutter improvements on East Lee Street from Willow Road to Florida Street.

Nancy Vaughan requested that the item be deferred following further consultation with Greensboro City Council members and specifically the member for District 1 where the Florida Street Extension project would have been located. Marikay Abuzuaiter concurred.

Jeff Phillips said he believes this is a good allocation of these funds as proposed would support approval

of the decision today. Zach Matheny said he also believes this is a good allocation of the funds.

Nancy Vaughan said she believes there is no harm in delaying the decision until further review can be done. Adam Fischer noted that waiting 30 days would not affect the schedule. Tyler Meyer concurred but noted that it would advantageous to resolve the decision before October.

Zach Matheny inquired who would contact Councilwoman Hightower to alert her to the decision by next time so that the notification is taken care of. Adam Fischer noted he would communicate with her and coordinate with the TAC to let them know that it has been done so that the decision will be made next time.

The TAC deferred a decision until the next meeting.

Business Items

1. Transit Representation

Tyler Meyer stated that MAP-21 requires enhanced transit representation on MPO Policy Boards. USDOT enacted a “transit representation rule” in June to detail what this involves. In a nutshell it requires direct transit representation on the TAC. The reasons stated are concerns about adequate representation for transit as well as to better enhance multimodal performance based planning at the MPO level. The regulation establishes an October 1 deadline for modifying MPO Boards.

The requirements for this representation include that the representative “consider the needs of all eligible public transportation providers that provide service in the metropolitan planning area.” Also “a representative of providers of public transportation should not also attempt to represent other entities on the MPO. For example... a local elected official... [should not seek to] represent his or her local jurisdiction's interests on the MPO [ahead of his or her transit representation responsibilities].” Furthermore, the representative should “have equal decision-making rights and authorities as the other members that are on the policy board”. Finally, “[the MPO should] develop bylaws that describe establishment, roles, and responsibilities of transit representatives. “

Meyer said that three options have been identified for fulfilling these requirements: (1) convert an existing Greensboro City Council seat; (2) add a new Greensboro City Council seat; or (3) add a GTA Board member. The preliminary recommendation given was to convert an existing Greensboro City Council seat.

TAC discussed the matter and determined to convert an existing Greensboro City Council seat. It was determined that Jamal Fox would serve in that role going forward.

Meyer noted that recommended bylaws changes to complete these requirements would be brought to the September MPO meeting in advance of the October 1 deadline.

2. Project Updates

Craig McKinney presented the following project updates:

Interchange US 421 at Neelley Rd (U-2612B): Construction signs are posted and the project is underway.

Eastern Urban Loop (U-2525B): Crews are still working on utility adjustments and construction zones should be posted soon. Work should commence soon after.

3. Strategic Reports

Daniel Amstutz presented information from Watch For Me NC campaign including a kick-off event at the August City Market. Registration is open for the NC Bike Summit that will be hosted at UNC Greensboro from October 9th - 12th.

Lydia McIntyre presented information on the enhancement of the Piedmont Triad Regional Model. The MPO is moving forward with a consultant and the Center of Global Logistics for a Freight Modeling Project. This enhancement will be instrumental in evaluating performance measures for Prioritization 3.0.

Other Items

1. NCDOT Update

There was none.

2. Regional Updates

There were none.

3. Wrap-Up

The next TAC meeting will be held on September 24th at 2:00 pm on the 2nd floor in the Greensboro Council Chambers.

The meeting was adjourned by Nancy Vaughan at 3:12 pm.