



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes of March 25, 2015
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>	Tram Truong	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>
Alan Branson	<i>TAC Member, Guilford County</i>	Dan Amstutz	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>
Jeff Phillips	<i>TAC Member, Guilford County</i>	Lydia McIntyre	<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>	Laura Peoples	<i>Bicycling in Greensboro (BIG)</i>
Alex Rosser	<i>PTAA</i>	Senanu Ashiabor	<i>Intermodal Logistics Consulting</i>
Bill Marley	<i>FHWA</i>	Claire Stone	<i>Transportation Advocacy Center</i>

Nancy Vaughan called the meeting to order at 2:03 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 January 28, 2015

Alan Branson moved to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2015 meeting. Marikay Abuzuaiter seconded the motion. The TAC voted to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2015 meeting, with four

Planning for the transportation future

votes in favor and Cheryl McQueary abstaining due to her absence at the January meeting.

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

There was none.

4. Public Comments

Laura Peoples, Executive Director of Bicycling in Greensboro, noted that Bike Month planning is ongoing, and on Saturday March 28 there will be a Traffic Safety 101 course to teach participants about bicycle safety. Twelve participants are currently signed up, including several Active Routes to Schools Coordinators from across the state. The course is a prerequisite for the League Cycling Instructor course in June and BIG is hoping to certify more LCIs to broaden their bicycle safety outreach.

5. FY 2014-2015 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment

Tyler Meyer explained that this Amendment for the current UPWP is needed to shift funds between line items. Not only does the MPO need to stay within its overall budget but it also must stay within 10% of its targets for individual line items. This Amendment will reallocate funds from Special Studies to data collection, LRTP development, and administration. The overall amount of funding in the UPWP is unchanged.

Cheryl McQueary moved to approve the FY 2014-2015 UPWP Amendment. Alan Branson seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to approve the FY 2014-2015 UPWP Amendment.

6. Prospectus Revision

Tyler Meyer explained that the MPO Prospectus is an umbrella document that provides detailed descriptions of work tasks that appear on an annual basis in the UPWP. The Prospectus is a multi-year document that enables the MPO to simplify the information provided in the UPWP. It also provides guidance so that staff and agencies responsible for overseeing the MPO's use of planning grant funding and compliance with planning requirements (NCDOT, FHWA, FTA) understand what needs to be done, how it is to be done, and the resource needs associated with various work areas. Last updated in 2001, the Prospectus has been revised to better reflect current work tasks and changes over the past decade. The NC Association of MPOs (NCAMPO) developed a statewide prospectus in consultation with NCDOT and the other MPOs, and also consolidated and refined some work tasks for the UPWP. The next UPWP for FY 2015-2016 is based on this document.

Cheryl McQueary moved to approve the Prospectus Revision. Marikay Abuzuaiter seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously approve the Prospectus Revision.

7. MPO Self-Certification

Tyler Meyer explained that the MPO must annually certify to the FHWA and the FTA that its planning process is addressing the major issues facing the area and is being conducted in accordance with all applicable requirements of various laws. These laws include the Clean Air Act, the Civil Rights Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Self-certification is required in conjunction with the UPWP adoption. MPO staff has determined that the MPO is in compliance with these requirements and laws.

Marikay Abuzuaiter moved to approve the MPO Self-Certification. Cheryl McQueary seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to approve the MPO Self-Certification.

8. FY 2015-2016 UPWP

Tyler Meyer presented the FY 2015-2016 Unified Planning Work Program that will go into effect July 1 2015. The UPWP guides MPO planning activities for the year and identifies a program of work for reimbursement under annual planning grants received under the FHWA and FTA programs. Anticipated expenditures are accounted for under a series of task codes defined by the revised 2015 Prospectus. Federal Highway Section 104(f) PL funds are estimated at about \$389,000 and FTA Transit Planning funds are estimated at about \$141,000 from Section 5303 and \$20,000 from Section 5307. Specific task descriptions and funding allocations to tasks are included in the document.

Work highlights include completing the LRTP Update, MTIP and Air Quality Conformity; completing an update to the Congestion Management Process; completing the BiPed Plan Update; prioritization work for the FY 2018-2025 TIP; developing planning performance measures for MAP-21 compliance; and conducting studies to support project development and other MPO work needs. The majority of this work will be conducted by staff.

Cheryl McQueary noted that FHWA has yet to yet to begin work on identifying performance measures as outlined in MAP-21. She inquired why the MPO must comply with the performance measure requirement given that FHWA has not done their part. Meyer noted that most of the performance measures are being addressed by the Congestion Management Program (CMP), which is an ongoing program. In addition, FHWA does have draft regulations for the MPO to review, and he anticipates FHWA will have the regulations finalized within the next fiscal year. McQueary pointed out that MAP-21 will expire May 31 and without a new authorization or continuation of the law, the federal money will disappear. Meyer agreed that this is contingent upon the re-authorization of federal transportation funding.

Cheryl McQueary moved to approve the FY 2015-2016 UPWP. Jeff Phillips seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to approve the FY 2015-2016 UPWP.

9. MTIP Administrative Modification: Battleground at New Garden

Tyler Meyer noted that the City of Greensboro and NCDOT are requesting the MPO to administratively modify the Metropolitan Transportation Program for US 220 (Battleground Avenue) Intersection with New Garden Road and Approaches. This action delays right-of-way acquisition from FY 2014 to FY 2015, but construction remains as scheduled for FY 2015. This is due to some issues with getting to the right-of-way process. Craig McKinney noted that the CE had recently been approved so the project can move forward.

Cheryl McQueary inquired as to what kind of delays are occurring. Meyer explained that there have been some delays getting the environmental document and permitting approved. He noted that even though the right-of-way was shifting to another fiscal year, it may be moving only a few months. Alan Branson requested more information on what is slowing down the process. Craig McKinney explained that the environmental document had been submitted to NCDOT, the City received comments on the document, resubmitted the document, and received more comments. It appears that not all the comments are being identified in the first round of review. Branson inquired if this has been an issue with NCDOT over the last 18-24 months, as it is something he has noticed in his own business. Meyer agreed that it has been a problem, but part of it may also be coming from FHWA, which has changed its processes and requirements recently. McKinney noted that on other projects staff has found that using an outside consultant to do the environmental documentation has speeded up the process.

Jeff Phillips requested more information on how the right-of-way process impacts the construction schedule. Meyer explained that the right-of-way must be purchased and certified before construction can begin. NCDOT certifies the right-of-way by ensuring the property has been purchased appropriately, the property lines are set, and the project can be completed within the right-of-way footprint. Phillips inquired about the date of the start of construction for this project. McKinney stated that the City needs to open bids on the project before October 1st to include it in this fiscal year. Construction would start shortly after that.

Jeff Phillips moved to approve the MTIP Administrative Modification: Battleground at New Garden. Alan Branson seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to approve the MTIP Administrative Modification: Battleground at New Garden.

10. Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Conformity Analysis Project List

Craig McKinney presented on the LRTP Roadway Project List, which went out for public review between February 2 and March 2. A public workshop was held on February 23 and there were 10 attendees. There have been some minor changes from the original draft. I-5110, the I-73 Connector project at NC68 and Bryan Boulevard, had been listed on both the completed projects list and the 2021 roadway project list, and has been removed from the completed projects list and left in the 2021 horizon year where it belongs. In addition, the Youngs Mill Rd/Southeast School Rd Connector was moved from 2040 to the 2030 horizon

year due to a request from a representative of southeast Guilford County. Comments from the interagency review have all been addressed.

Alan Branson moved to approve the LRTP Conformity Analysis Project List. Cheryl McQueary seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to approve the LRTP Conformity Analysis Project List.

11. Watch For Me NC Application

Daniel Amstutz presented on an action endorsing the City of Greensboro's application to be a partner in the Watch For Me NC bicycle and pedestrian safety campaign for 2015. Greensboro's 2014 partner profile is up on the Watch For Me NC website at www.watchformenc.org. The time period of the campaign runs in the fall season. NCDOT provides law enforcement trainings, educational materials, advertising support, and technical assistance. The law enforcement trainings have been especially helpful because officers typically get very little training on bicycle and pedestrian laws. The materials the partners will receive from NCDOT will be the same except for the inclusion of a child-sized reflective arm band along with adult-sized arm bands. GDOT will be partnering with the Greensboro Police Department, UNCG Police Department, and State Highway Patrol. NC A&T Police did not respond to requests to become a partner and the Guilford County Sheriff's Office is interested but not ready to commit to the campaign this year. The application is due March 27.

Marikay Abuzuaiter moved to approve endorsement of Greensboro's Watch For Me NC application. Cheryl McQueary seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to approve endorsement of Greensboro's Watch For Me NC application.

12. Bike Month 2015

Daniel Amstutz presented on an action to designate May as Bike Month for 2015. Activities for the month include a bike-themed Open Streets event on Elm St on May 1st during First Friday; bicycle rodeos at the Newcomer's School on May 8th and at Lindley Park Elementary May 15th; observation of Bike-to-Work Week from May 11 – 15th and Bike to Work Day May 15th; a Ride With the City event to kick off Bike-to-Work Week on May 11th; and the Ride of Silence on May 20th. The Ride of Silence will take a different route than in previous years.

Cheryl McQueary moved to approve the Bike Month Resolution. Marikay Abuzuaiter seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to approve the Bike Month Resolution.

13. Participation in Stand Up for Transportation Day Activities

Tyler Meyer noted that Stand Up for Transportation Day is a national transportation infrastructure day that highlights the critical need to invest in updating our nation's transportation infrastructure. It will be held on April 9, 2015. The Greensboro Transit Authority and Greensboro Department of Transportation will participate in activities on this day related to this event. These events include:

- 7:40 am – 5:30 pm: Info booth at the Greensboro Depot
- 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm: Transportation Infrastructure Reality Tour
- 3:15 pm – 4:15 pm: Triad Partner Press Conference in Winston-Salem at Union Station

Meyer noted that this is an endorsement of the activities that will occur on that day, but the MPO is not providing funding for this. Those costs will be borne by other organizations.

Dena Barnes moved to approve endorsement of participation in Stand Up for Transportation Day activities. Marikay Abuzuaiter seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to approve endorsement of participation in Stand Up for Transportation Day activities.

Business Items

1. State Ethics Act Filing Reminder

Tyler Meyer noted that the Statement of Economic Interest (SEI) and Real Estate Disclosure Form (RED) are due from TAC Members on April 15. If there have been no changes in a member's situation, a No Change Form may be filed which covers both the SEI and RED. Members are encouraged to file as soon as possible because an incomplete form may be returned and fines imposed if the deadline is missed. MPO staff or state Ethics Commission staff can assist members in filling out their forms if needed.

Jeff Phillips inquired if MPO staff receives a notification when members complete their forms. Meyer noted that he does not have an up-to-date list but can check with the Ethics Commission to make sure they have received it. Phillips noted that he had filed and requested confirmation from staff. Alan Branson and Nancy Vaughan noted that they had not completed their filing yet. Cheryl McQueary noted that she would have it done next week. Vaughan requested that staff email TAC members a link to the No Change Form. Meyer stated that he would send the link and confirm who had filed.

Marikay Abuzuaiter requested clarification on the No Change Form and what time frame it covers. Meyer explained that the No Change Form can be applied to the SEI and RED and it would cover the member for 2015.

Phillips and Vaughan thanked Meyer for reminding the TAC Members about filing.

2. Section 5310 Call for Projects

Tram Truong presented on the MPO Call for Projects for the FTA grant program Section 5310, *Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities*. The Greensboro MPO has an estimated FY 2015 funding allocation of \$236,379 for the Section 5310 program, of which about \$215,619 is available for eligible projects. This amount is currently an estimate and is subject to change. Projects will be prioritized through a competitive selection process overseen by the MPO as defined by the 2014 Coordinated Plan update. Eligible entities include GTA, Guilford County TAMS, PART, and non-profit organizations. Funds can be used for capital and operating expenses, but at least 55% must be used for capital projects. The timeline for the Call for Projects is as follows:

- April 14: Call for Projects published, along with the general evaluation criteria
- May 15: Project submittal deadline
- May 26 – June 1: Projects are ranked by the MPO and by outside reviewers
- June 24: Projects are selected for funding by the TAC

The outside reviewers are expected to be staff from the Winston-Salem MPO.

Cheryl McQueary inquired as to whether there had been an issue with a religious organization getting funds through the program in last year's Call for Projects. Tyler Meyer said he did not believe so. Last year the recipients were GTA, Guilford County TAMS, and Senior Resources of Guilford County. He said no religious organizations have expressed any concerns about exclusion from the process, and that all qualified non-profit organizations are eligible to apply. Over the past couple of years the selection methodology and the Coordinated Plan have been revised in response to changes from MAP-21 and public input. Non-profits are eligible to complete for projects and the selection criteria has been tightened up to be more transparent. He noted that staff will clearly document the project evaluations and make the process as transparent as possible.

3. Comments for NCDOT on Potential Designation of NC 68 for Use by Trucks with Double Trailers

Tyler Meyer explained that NCDOT is considering a third party request to designate NC 68 between US 220 in Rockingham County and I-40 in Guilford County for use by twin trailer trucks. They have requested comments from the MPO. MPO staff has reviewed the request, consulted with officials in the Towns of Stokesdale and Oak Ridge which would be directly affected by this designation, and has prepared a response.

In summary, the response says that the MPO understands the need to facilitate the efficient transportation of freight through the area, but this needs to be balanced with considerations of safety. The safety concerns include the topography of NC 68, the many driveways and intersections along the roadway, and the lack of controlled access along the route. Although the MPO has not been provided full information as to why this freight routing is needed at this time, it appears that I-73 (scheduled for completion in late 2016) would facilitate the routing needs for freight movement in this area. MPO staff recommends the MPO send a letter opposing this designation, and the Towns of Stokesdale and Oak Ridge have concurred through town resolutions they have recently adopted. The Town of Summerfield is also planning to send a resolution opposing the designation. Meyer noted that while the NCDOT Board of Transportation will ultimately decide on whether or not to make this designation, there will be additional public involvement if this continues to be considered.

Dena Barnes noted that the Town of Summerfield had passed a resolution opposing the designation the previous night in a special town meeting. Meyer noted that the MPO letter would include the resolutions from each town.

The TAC concurred with the proposed comments.

4. Division Engineer Updates

Mike Mills stated that he did not have specific updates beyond the projects noted in the packet. Work is actively occurring on the Urban Loop projects and other major construction projects around the MPO.

5. Project Updates

Craig McKinney presented two items:

New Project Update Newsletter – MPO staff have created a project newsletter for Spring 2015. Funding and construction schedules are based on information from NCDOT and the draft STIP. The pedestrian project section has been expanded to include future projects as far out as 2017. New projects from prioritization have also been included.

Aycock & Walker Intersection Project – A second scoping meeting for the project has been held. UNC-Greensboro will cooperate on the project and provide information for surveying and utilities. The consultant will expedite the project design to get 50% plans in July and 75% plans in August. It is important to get the 75% plans in August in order to meet the planned construction schedule to start construction in summer of 2016.

6. Strategic Reports

Daniel Amstutz noted that the FHWA Safety Assessment, part of the USDOT's bicycle and pedestrian safety initiative, will be held on April 20 from 1-5 pm. The focus will be on the Aycock & Walker intersection but the Aycock St corridor south of Walker may also be explored. Opening remarks will be given by City Councilperson Nancy Hoffmann, NCDOT Secretary Tony Tata, and FHWA NC Division Administrator John Sullivan. The technical assessment will include background information on the intersection, a field review, and discussion of countermeasures and possible solutions. More than 30 people are expected to take part in the technical safety assessment. TAC Members are welcome to attend the assessment, and should notify staff ahead of time to ensure an accurate headcount.

Meyer noted that the NCAMPO conference will be held in Raleigh on April 29 to May 1. The Greensboro MPO will have representation in three presentations that will be given at the conference. About 300 people are expected to attend. TAC Members are encouraged to attend and MPO funds can cover their registration fee.

Other Items

1. Board Member Update

Cheryl McQueary noted that NCDOT Division 7 will hold a public meeting on March 26 from 4-7 pm to receive comments on the STIP and the STI process. The Greensboro MPO was successful in getting many projects included in the STIP. She encouraged all present to attend the meeting.

McQueary also offered to invite NCDOT CFO David Tyeryar to the next TAC meeting to give a presentation on state transportation funding and the gasoline tax and related legislative proposals. The presentation on general state transportation funding is the same presentations that the state Board of Transportation receives during their orientation. The other presentation is about the gasoline tax. There are two bills working their way through the state legislature, SB 20 and HB 40, which would affect the gasoline tax. The Senate bill would cap the tax at a certain rate and then raise it later, but would also require NCDOT to cut 550 staff positions. The House bill has a different formula for the gas tax. The House and the Senate are currently in conference to resolve the two bills, but a resolution has not been agreed upon. If a compromise is not found, the state stands to lose \$330 million in funding for transportation projects.

2. Regional Updates

There were none.

3. Wrap-Up

The next TAC meeting will be held on April 22nd at 2:00 pm on the 2nd floor in the Greensboro Council Chambers.

The meeting was adjourned by Nancy Vaughan at 2:45 pm.