



**TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of July 27, 2016**  
**10:30 a.m., Greensboro, NC**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor GDOT Conference Room**  
**Melvin Municipal Office Building**

**ATTENDANCE**

Tyler Meyer	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>	Mike Mills	<i>NCDOT Division 7</i>
Daniel Amstutz	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>	Michael Abuya <i>(by phone)</i>	<i>NCDOT/TPB</i>
Tram Truong	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>	Kelly Larkins	<i>PTRC/PTRPO</i>
Lydia McIntyre	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>	Mark Kirstner	<i>PART</i>
Chris Spencer	<i>GDOT</i>	Joe Geigle	<i>FHWA</i>
Hanna Cockburn	<i>GSO Planning Dept</i>	Scott Whitaker <i>(by phone)</i>	<i>Town of Summerfield</i>
Kista Mansell	<i>Transit Alliance of the Piedmont</i>	George Linney	<i>GTA</i>
David Hampsten	<i>Bicycling in Greensboro</i>	Bill Bruce	<i>Town of Oak Ridge</i>

**Tyler Meyer called the meeting to order at 10:37 am.**

**1. Approve Minutes of June 22, 2016**

Mark Kirstner moved to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2016 meeting. Hanna Cockburn seconded the motion. The TCC voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2016 meeting.

**2. MTIP FY 2016-2025 Amendment: NC Clean Energy Tech Center - C-5702**

Tyler Meyer presented this MTIP amendment:

- Congestion, Mitigation and Air Quality CMAQ federal funds are for transportation projects to improve air quality.
- NCDOT allocates 35% of the NC CMAQ allocation to Statewide Projects.
- NCDOT proposes to allocate Statewide CMAQ funding to the NC Clean Energy Technology Center at NC State University (formerly the Solar Center) in FY 2017 & 2018.
- The Center will provide grants to eligible subrecipients including local governments & public-private partnerships.
- Amending the MTIP will enable eligible MPO area entities to compete for these grants.
- NCDOT plans to amend the STIP accordingly in August.

**Planning for the transportation future**

- Mark Kirstner asked about the management of the grant funds. Meyer explained that the Clean Energy Technology Center will administer the grant. The MPO needs to make MTIP consistent with the STIP to ensure that potential projects can be implemented in this area.
- NCDOT will create new TIP numbers for future funding amounts in order to close out completed projects. Joe Geigle noted that this is important for fiscal review – having an ongoing project number creates difficulties.
- Examples of projects include installing electric vehicle charging stations and purchasing clean fuel vehicles for municipal vehicle fleets.

Hanna Cockburn moved to recommend the MTIP FY 2016-2025 Amendment: NC Clean Energy Tech Center - C-5702 to the TAC for approval. Mark Kirstner seconded the motion. The TCC voted unanimously to recommend the MTIP FY 2016-2025 Amendment: NC Clean Energy Tech Center - C-5702 to the TAC for approval.

### 3. MPO Priority Needs List

Lydia McIntyre presented on the MPO Priority Needs List:

- The List is one of the six factors the MPO considers for allocating local points to projects in Prioritization 4.0; it is worth 15% of the project’s score in the MPO local point allocation methodology.
- The List also communicates the top transportation project priorities to NCDOT and to the general public.
- The List is divided into Statewide, Regional, and Division Tier priorities.
- Highlighted Statewide priorities include reconfiguring the I-73 southbound to I-85 Business northbound exit loop; widening I-40 in Greensboro from Elm-Eugene Street to Randleman Road; grade separation of Franklin Boulevard at the NCRR; and extension of the Pomona Yard auxiliary track and add power turnouts.
- Highlighted Regional priorities include access management and safety improvement on NC 68 in Oak Ridge; NC 68/NC 65 roadway widening from Guilford County to Rockingham County; and US 70 widening.
- Highlighted Division priorities include widening of Friendly Avenue at Lindell Road; construct new ramp at Bryan Boulevard and New Garden Road; widen Sandy Ridge Road from I-40 to West Market Street; widen Gallimore Dairy Road from NC 68 to I-40; improve intersection at Lewiston Road and Fleming Road; upgrade and renovate the J. Douglas Galyon Depot; the Downtown Greenway; the Summerfield portion of the A&Y Greenway; and other bicycle and pedestrian projects.
- Craig McKinney said the Sandy Ridge Widening might be able to be incorporated into the Interchange project. Joe Geigle noted that while the interchange project at Sandy Ridge Road and I-40 is funded, it might not be a good idea to construct the Sandy Ridge Road widening with the interchange, because the widening requires getting railroad approval. It could delay the interchange project. Mike Mills said he thought that they should be two separate projects for this reason. Tyler Meyer noted that there was consideration of having one environmental document for both projects with a Phase 1 and Phase 2. The limits of the interchange project are also under review.

Chris Spencer moved to recommend the MPO Priority Needs List to the TAC for approval. Bill Bruce seconded the motion. The TCC voted unanimously to recommend the MPO Priority Needs List to the TAC for approval.

### 4. MPO Local Points Assignment: Regional Needs

Lydia McIntyre presented on the MPO Local Points Assignment: Regional Needs:

- Public involvement has been completed on the draft assignment of local points for the Regional and Division Tier projects.

- The next step is to submit local input points to NCDOT for Regional Tier projects.
- For Regional Tier projects, 70% of the project score is assigned by the NCDOT quantitative assessment, while the remaining 30% of the score is determined by local input points: 15% from the MPO and 15% from the NCDOT local highway division.
- 1800 points are available for the MPO to assign to Regional Tier projects, and another 1800 points is available for Division Tier projects.
- Up to 100 points can be assigned per project, but the maximum amount the MPO can assign can be smaller depending on what percentage of the project is in the MPO area.
- 93 points were donated to the PTRPO for the NC 68/NC 65 widening; PTRPO donated points to the Greensboro MPO for the US 29 project.
- Regional Needs point assignments are now due; NCDOT will release the draft funded Regional Tier projects before Division Needs point assignments are due in autumn, so changes can be made to the Division Needs points afterwards if needed.
- The I-40 widening project in Greensboro between Elm-Eugene Street and Randleman Road was partially funded at the Statewide Tier but is not being submitted for funds from the Regional Tier; it will be submitted during the next Prioritization process, P5.0.
- Various projects in the Regional Tier have maximum point allocations lower than 100 based on the percentage of the project within in the Greensboro MPO, including NC 68/NC 65 widening (7 points), new bi-level passenger cars for rail service between Raleigh and Charlotte (12 points), and pavement and bridge rehabilitation on US 421 (22 points), and US 70 widening (12 points).
- The MPO is able to put points on all Regional Needs projects because there are fewer projects at this Tier than at the Division Tier; however not all projects are expected to be funded.
- Daniel Amstutz asked about the recommended point allocation for the US 29 bypass. McIntyre explained that the number of points shown is a typo; the maximum number of points based on the percentage of the project in the MPO is 64, which is what is recommended (36 points were donated to the MPO from the PTRPO).
- Mark Kirstner asked about the timing of the PTI Rail Spur. McIntyre explained that the project did not do well because the airport does not have a tenant for the spur, so the timing is unknown. PTI needs a tenant for the project to score well.
- Two public meetings were held about the local points assignment during the public review period, which ran from June 15 to July 19; between both public meetings, 22 people attended, and 18 comments were provided during the review period.
- The greatest needs identified by the comments were roadways, public transportation, and bicycle and pedestrian projects; the most important projects are public transportation expansion, greenways, and sidewalks; and other needed projects includes light rail, bus shelters, sidewalks, and traffic calming strategies.
- Two written comments were received:
  - Mr. Morgan is pleased that the MPO is currently not seeking funding for the I-73/I-74 Connector project that would impact his property, although it is still an illustrative project in the MTP.
  - Bicycling in Greensboro submitted comments noting their concern about the percentage of state funding being allocated to bicycle and pedestrian projects, as well as the projects on the list that they support (A&Y Greenway, Downtown Greenway, North Buffalo Creek Greenway).
- Assignment of Local Points for the Regional Tier are due July 29; the draft funded Regional Tier projects will be released by August 31; submittal of local point assignments for Division Tier projects will be open from September to October, with projects scored in November; the Draft 2018-2027 STIP will be released in January 2017

Mark Kirstner moved to recommend the MPO Local Points Assignment: Regional Needs as presented to the TAC for approval. Kelly Larkins seconded the motion. The TCC voted unanimously to recommend the MPO Local Points Assignment: Regional Needs as presented to the TAC for approval.

## **Business Items**

### **1. FY 2016 Program of Projects**

Tyler Meyer presented on the FY 2016 Program of Projects:

- The Program of Projects is an FTA required document that lists the federal grants that GTA will apply for in FY 2016, which we are currently in the middle of.
- This document has been produced by GTA in the past, but the MPO is now taking on the responsibility for developing this document.
- It makes sense for the MPO to develop the document now for several reasons including that there are multiple recipients of FTA grants in the Greensboro area (and this is allowed under FTA rules), including GTA and Guilford County TAMS; PART is also expected to be a recipient next year.
- The public review period for the document runs from July 22 to August 22.
- A public hearing on the Program of Projects is scheduled for the August 24 MPO TAC meeting.
- Mark Kirstner noted that PART has done its own Program of Projects in the past, but will utilize the Greensboro MPO process for their projects within this area in the future. Meyer noted that Kirstner should review the MPO Public Participation Process document and provide comments. Kirstner said there may need to be language inserted into the PPP to explain that PART is utilizing the MPO process in order for them to be in compliance.

### **2. Project Updates**

Tyler Meyer noted the following project updates:

- Staff are working on updating the MPO Project Report database in order to produce a new report on locally administered MTIP projects under construction or under development; there will be a new report ready at the next MPO meeting.
- The Battleground/Benjamin/Cone and Battleground/New Garden intersection improvement projects are expected to be under construction shortly.

### **3. Strategic Reports**

- Tyler Meyer noted that the 2015 BiPed Plan Update has been awarded the 2016 North Carolina Marvin Collins Planning Award in the Regional/Implementation category from the American Planning Association North Carolina Chapter; it will be presented at the APA-NC annual conference in September.
- Daniel Amstutz explained that Greensboro will be hosting a workshop on the Transportation and Health Tool that was developed by USDOT in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and American Public Health Association. The THT uses indicators to examine the health impacts of the transportation system and offers strategies for improving the health outcomes of transportation. The workshop will be held on August 11 from 8:45 am to 12:30 pm in the Bryan School of Business on the UNCG campus. Mark Kirstner requested that an invitation be forwarded to PART.

## **Other Items**

### **1. NCDOT Update**

- Mike Mills noted that work is continuing on the Urban Loop construction and other major projects. The I-73 Connector and the Eastern Urban Loop projects are ahead of schedule. The US 220 project

is behind schedule but NCDOT is working with the contractor to get a better schedule in place especially considering that the I-73 Connector will be open to traffic between NC 68 and US 220 by the end of the year.

## **2. TCC Member Updates**

- Mark Kirstner noted that they are in Phase 2 of the Regional Freight Study. This region will be one of a handful in the country with a regional freight model. Phase 3 of the study will focus on collecting local data. In addition, PART is implementing a model called TBEST as part of a pilot program for the state. It has analytical tools for transit planning that local and regional systems can use.
- Tyler Meyer noted that USDOT issued a final rule for Metropolitan Transportation Planning at the end of May. There is a proposed rule for MPO coordination may have some unintended negative impacts on the MPO if it is implemented. Meyer will be working with NCAMPO colleagues from around the state on developing comments on this rulemaking and will report back on future developments on this as needed.

## **3. Wrap-Up**

The next TCC meeting will take place August 24 at 10:30 am in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor GDOT Conference Room. The meeting was adjourned by Tyler Meyer at 11:18 am.