



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes of September 28, 2016
2:00 p.m., Greensboro, NC
2nd Floor, Greensboro Council Chambers
Melvin Municipal Office Building

ATTENDANCE

Dena Barnes	<i>TAC Alternate Chair</i>	Tyler Meyer	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>
Justin Outling	<i>TAC Member, City of Greensboro</i>	Tram Truong	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>
Yvonne Johnson	<i>TAC Member, City of Greensboro</i>	Dan Amstutz	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>
Cheryl McQueary	<i>TAC Member, NCDOT BOT</i>	Lydia McIntyre	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>
Yolanda Delong	<i>Parsons</i>	Craig McKinney	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>
Ophelia Jones	<i>Town of Sedalia</i>	Mike Mills	<i>NCDOT Division 7</i>
Kista Mansell	<i>Transit Alliance of the Piedmont</i>	Joe Geigle	<i>FHWA</i>
David Hampsten	<i>Bicycling in Greensboro</i>	Taft Wireback	<i>Greensboro News & Record</i>
Dabney Sanders	<i>Action Greensboro/Downtown Greenway</i>	Raleigh Stout	<i>Historic Aycock Neighborhood Assoc.</i>

Dena Barnes called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm.

Yvonne Johnson congratulated MPO staff and all involved on receiving the 2016 Marvin Collins Planning Award from the NC Chapter of the American Planning Association for the BiPed Plan Update.

Action Items

1. Conflict of Interest Policy Statement

Dena Barnes 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 August 24, 2016

Justin Outling moved to approve the minutes of the August 24, 2016 meeting. Yvonne Johnson seconded the motion. The TAC voted to approve the minutes of the August 24, 2016 meeting, with three votes in favor and Cheryl McQueary abstaining.

Planning for the transportation future

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

There were none.

4. Public Comments

David Hampsten, volunteer with Bicycling in Greensboro, noted that the BiPed Plan Update includes recommendations for protected bike lanes on some City streets and asked if all relevant GDOT staff knows the differences between buffered and protected bike lanes. Tyler Meyer explained that the recommendations are still being evaluated. Staff involved in bike facility planning and design are aware of the difference between the facility types; more staff will become aware of these facilities and their differences as the implementation effort proceeds.

5. FY 2016-2025 MTIP Amendment: NC Clean Energy Tech Center - C-5702 B & C

Tyler Meyer presented on the MTIP Amendment:

- CMAQ funding is for transportation projects that improve air quality.
- NCDOT allocates 35% of the NC CMAQ allocation to Statewide Projects.
- The MTIP was previously amended in July to include C-5702 & C-5702 A and allocate CMAQ funding to the NC Clean Energy Technology Center in FY 2017 & 2018.
- This action incorporates additional funding for grants to eligible subrecipients under C-5702 B & C.
- \$1.5 million will be allocated to both C-5702 B in FY 2017 and C-5702 C in FY 2018.
- Amending MTIP will enable eligible MPO area entities to compete for these grants.
- NCDOT plans to amend the STIP in October 2016.

Cheryl McQueary moved to approve the FY 2016-2025 MTIP Amendment: NC Clean Energy Tech Center - C-5702 B & C. Yvonne Johnson seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to approve the FY 2016-2025 MTIP Amendment: NC Clean Energy Tech Center - C-5702 B & C.

6. FY 2016-2025 MTIP Amendment: Various Bridge Inspections

Tyler Meyer presented on the MTIP Amendment:

- NCDOT has determined to group statewide bridge inspection work under project B-9000.
- B-9000 includes Division, Regional, and Statewide Needs breaks per STI accounting requirements.
- B-9000 replaces the old ongoing bridge inspection project number, B-9999, starting a series of shorter term projects; FHWA has provided guidance to NCDOT the recommend creating these project numbers to allow them to be closed out for easier accounting.
- Funding will come from the federal Surface Transportation Block Grant, which is substantially the same as the old Surface Transportation Program.
- MPO action will allow NCDOT to implement projects under B-9000 in Division 7 as needed.
- NCDOT has already amended the STIP.

Cheryl McQueary moved to approve the FY 2016-2025 MTIP Amendment: Various Bridge Inspections. Justin Outling seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to approve the FY 2016-2025 MTIP Amendment: Various Bridge Inspections.

7. FY 2016-2025 MTIP Amendment: M-0515 Property Appraisal Review

Tyler Meyer presented on the MTIP Amendment:

- NCDOT has determined to group Property Appraisal Reviews under project M-0515.
- M-0515 includes a Statewide Needs break per STI accounting requirements.
- M-0515 funding is for the NCDOT Right-of-Way Branch's review of projects implemented by Local Public Agencies.
- Funding (\$250,000 per year) will come from the State Highway Trust Fund.

- MPO action will allow NCDOT to implement projects under M-0515 in Division 7 as needed in FY 2017 and FY 2018.
- NCDOT plans to amend the STIP in October 2016.

Yvonne Johnson moved to approve the FY 2016-2025 MTIP Amendment: M-0515 Property Appraisal Review. Justin Outling seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to approve the FY 2016-2025 MTIP Amendment: M-0515 Property Appraisal Review.

8. FY 2016-2025 MTIP Modification: R-4707 Right-of-Way Phase

Tyler Meyer presented on the MTIP Administrative Modification:

- This project is now moving into the implementation phase.
- The MPO has been involved with this project, which will replace the interchange of US 29 and Reedy Fork Parkway, for many years; the project was stalled for some time due to lack of funding. However, it has finally received funding from Prioritization 3.0 and HB 97, and work has resumed on the environmental document.
- NCDOT plans to acquire right-of-way for all phases of R-4707 – Reedy Fork Parkway Interchange (A & B) at one time using State Highway Trust Funds.
- Right-of-Way & Utilities are shifting from FY 2017 to FY 2019 because more time needed for developing the environmental document and design.
- In addition, the description will change from “to Bryan Park Road” to “north of Bryan Park Road”.
- This MPO action will allow NCDOT to implement the Right-of-Way & Utilities phase under R-4707 in Division 7 as needed in FY 2019.
- The project will be constructed in two phases:
 - R-4707A will build an interim bridge.
 - R-4707B will complete interchange improvements, with construction scheduled for FY 2024.
- NCDOT plans to amend the STIP in October 2016.
- The locally preferred alternative is a diverging diamond interchange. A final alternative has not been selected.
- Right-of-way funding is \$3,220,000 and utilities funding is \$982,000.
- Cheryl McQueary asked Mike Mills about the end date of the project. Mills said it will likely be two years after right-of-way and utilities are completed, in 2021. She asked if any businesses in close proximity to the project will be impacted. Mills noted it was possible, but they have not met with any property owners one-on-one because the final interchange design has not been selected. NCDOT has done public involvement and received feedback on alternative interchange designs. The right-of-way and utilities needs to shift to allow more time to determine the final design and work with property owners to acquire right-of-way as needed. They will work closely with the property owners once they get to that point in the process.

Cheryl McQueary moved to endorse the FY 2016-2025 MTIP Modification: R-4707 Right-of-Way Phase. Justin Outling seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to endorse the FY 2016-2025 MTIP Modification: R-4707 Right-of-Way Phase.

9. FY 2016-2025 MTIP Amendment: R-4707A Bridge Replacement

Tyler Meyer presented on the MTIP Amendment:

- This project will replace the existing bridge on Reedy Fork Parkway over US 29, which will be worked into the design of the final interchange alternative.
- NCDOT has determined to delay R-4707A construction from FY 2018 to FY 2020.
- Funding will come from the State Highway Trust Fund.
- Additional time is needed to complete the environmental document and Right-of-Way & Utilities scheduled for FY 2019.

- This MPO action will allow NCDOT to implement the construction of R-4707A in FY 2020.
- NCDOT plans to amend the STIP in October 2016.

Cheryl McQueary moved to approve the FY 2016-2025 MTIP Amendment: R-4707A Bridge Replacement. Justin Outling seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to approve the FY 2016-2025 MTIP Amendment: R-4707A Bridge Replacement.

10. FY 2016-2025 MTIP Modification: U-5306 B Battleground / Westridge

Tyler Meyer presented on the MTIP Administrative Modification:

- This project received funding through Prioritization; the City has designed the project and will construct the project, and will be reimbursed by NCDOT.
- Funding will come from the National Highway Program/State Highway Trust Fund.
- U-5306B construction is delayed by right-of-way and utility issues:
 - Right-of-way delays have occurred due largely to responding to and following-up on property owner requested project changes.
 - As a result, right-of-way completion is now expected in January 2017.
 - Utility relocations will take approximately 6 months afterwards.
- The City requests this TIP Modification to move construction from FY 2016 to FY 2017; the anticipated construction start is August 2017 under this timeframe.
- Utility relocations cannot be expedited because Duke Energy crews are currently relocating utilities for the Horse Pen Creek Road project.
- NCDOT plans to amend the STIP in October 2016.
- Cheryl McQueary noted that the state also has issues in working with utility companies with highway projects. She asked for more information on 1) how the right-of-way process progresses, as at the state level it can sometimes drag on for months with no clear end date; and 2) whether all the stakeholders and key project partners are engaged at the very beginning of the right-of-way process. Meyer explained that one of the major property owners adjacent to the project, that owned the shopping center, was engaged very early on in the process; however, the property changed hands and the new property owner wanted to revisit issues and make some changes in the right-of-way process. The City did its best to sort out these issues ahead of time, but it could not foresee this need to revisit these earlier conversations. In the past, the city has typically waited until after right-of-way is acquired before having utilities moved. Based on recent discussions with NCDOT, in the future the City can start earlier on utility relocation during the right-of-way phase. Even still, there are a lot of roadway projects going on all at once and it can take time to get on the schedule for utility relocations because the companies are working on these other projects. Finally, Meyer noted that the City is working to tighten up right-of-way process timelines by consistently giving property owners an adequate but defined amount of time to respond before moving to condemnation proceedings. McQueary noted a need to avoid giving property owners an excessive amount of time. Steps in the process should be shortened as possible, and staff should review if some parts of the process can be done at the same time instead of one after the other. Meyer thanked McQueary for her comments and noted that MPO staff will continue to discuss with NCDOT staff how to further improve the City's project delivery process. On the subject of utilities, Mike Mills noted Duke Power is very good to work with, but often there are other utility companies that have lines attached to their utility poles, and they tend to be the ones that cause delays. As leverage he sometimes stops signing encroachment agreements with these utility companies in order to get them to comply. McQueary noted that this issue is a big topic for the Board of Transportation and they are exploring ways of fixing it.

Cheryl McQueary moved to endorse the FY 2016-2025 MTIP Modification: U-5306 B Battleground/ Westridge. Yvonne Johnson seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to endorse the FY 2016-2025 MTIP Modification: U-5306 B Battleground/ Westridge.

11. FY 2016-2025 MTIP Amendment: TD-5279 Depot Renovations

Tyler Meyer presented on the MTIP Amendment:

- GTA has been awarded a discretionary Section 5339 grant to renovate the Depot.
- This project will expand/reconfigure facilities at the Depot, including passenger waiting facilities and amenities; and operator staging areas and rest areas.
- The need for this is demonstrated by the fact that GTA ridership has doubled since 2003 and the number of operators has increased by 75%.
- The capacity of the facility will be increased by these renovations and allow GTA to continue to grow.
- \$960,000 will come from the grant, with \$240,000 provided by the City for the local match; through Prioritization the City has requested NCDOT to provide half of the local match.
- Construction is expected to begin in 2017.

Yvonne Johnson moved to approve the FY 2016-2025 MTIP Amendment: TD-5279 Depot Renovations. Cheryl McQueary seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to approve the FY 2016-2025 MTIP Amendment: TD-5279 Depot Renovations.

12. MPO Local Points Assignment: Division Needs

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

- Regional Needs point assignments were submitted two months ago and have been scored and draft funded Regional projects have been selected.
- It is now time to submit local points for Division Needs projects – the MPO and NCDOT Division 7 local points can count towards up to 25% of the score for each project.
- Regional projects can step down to the Division Tier if they were not funded at the Regional level.
- A few rail projects were funded in the MPO at the Regional Tier level, including a grade separation at Franklin Boulevard, an extension of the Pomona Yard auxiliary track, and the purchase of five bi-level passenger cars for Piedmont service between Raleigh and Charlotte.
- NCDOT updated their scoring of the bicycle and pedestrian projects, which reshuffled the ranking order of some of the projects. As a result, MPO staff put 100 points on the Farmington Drive sidewalk project and removed 100 points from the Church Street sidewalk project because Farmington Drive scored better.
- Some projects do not have points because as noted they will be funded in other ways, so it is not necessary to put points on them (such as Pisgah Church Road sidewalk project).
- In public involvement conducted over the summer, public comments noted most important needs and projects as public transportation, bicycle and pedestrian projects, and greenways.
- Local input points will be submitted in October and will be scored in November. The draft 2018-2027 STIP will be released in January 2017.
- MPO Staff will coordinate with NCDOT Division 7 on point submittals for specific projects.

Yvonne Johnson moved to approve the MPO Local Points Assignment: Division Needs. Justin Outling seconded the motion. The TAC voted to approve the MPO Local Points Assignment: Division Needs with three in favor. Cheryl McQueary abstained as she has done at the other Division 7 MPOs and RPOs.

Business Items

1. Division Engineer Updates

- Mike Mills noted that the eastern Urban Loop section is ahead of schedule; the western loop section is a little behind schedule. The I-73 Connector is expected to be open to traffic, though not complete, this December, weather permitting. The US 220 project is still behind schedule, and NCDOT is working with the contractor to get certain ramps and sections open to accommodate the

I-73 traffic and help some impacted businesses in the area. The Urban Loop section from Battleground Avenue to Lawndale Drive has been let. NCDOT is going to let a project to reopen Old Stagecoach Road and replace a bridge that was removed by the Urban Loop. This project will help provide access to Honda Jet and other airport area businesses.

2. Project Updates

Daniel Amstutz presented on the following project updates:

- The Downtown Greenway Phases 2e & 3a (Fisher Avenue and Eugene Street) are expected to begin construction on October 10.
 - Justin Outling noted that he was advised about a water line project on Smith and Eugene Streets that was coming up shortly and asked if there will be adverse impacts to businesses in the area. Craig McKinney noted that the Downtown Greenway project has interim construction dates in order to reduce some impacts to the businesses in the area. Outling recognized Dabney Sanders from Action Greensboro who came to the podium to speak. She noted that the City Water Resources Department has a water line project on Eugene Street between Smith Street and the old Lindsay Street intersection. The Downtown Greenway project should have some overlap with the Water Resources project, which is expected to start in January or February. There has been discussion as to whether the project should shut down the block of Eugene Street entirely, which would shorten the project, or allow for a lane of traffic to pass, which would lengthen the project considerably. Water Resources is in the process of doing outreach to affected businesses to determine their preferences.
- The Downtown Greenway Phases 1b1 & 1b2 (Bragg Street) are going through pre-construction coordination and construction may start on it as early as the end of October.
- Construction on U-5306A (Battleground-Benjamin-Cone Intersection project) has been delayed and is expected to begin March 2017.
- Construction on U-5306C (Battleground-New Garden Intersection project) has also been delayed and is expected to begin February 2017.
- A new copy of the MPO Project Updates Report is available. Although the information is basically the same as the last report, it is still accurate. The database is being tweaked and revised to make improvements to it.

3. Strategic Reports

- Daniel Amstutz noted the 2017 MPO meeting schedule is being drafted. The schedule is planned to follow the same pattern as previous years, however the June and August meetings will need to be moved due to known conflicts. The Board of Transportation meets on the June date, and the state of the community luncheon is typically on the August date. Other meeting schedules will be factored in as they are developed for the next year. Cheryl McQueary noted that the High Point MPO meetings the 4th Tuesday of the each month in the morning, which may be a conflict for her as she typically attends this meeting.

Tyler Meyer presented on the following Strategic Reports:

- GTA will be updating the Mobility Greensboro Public Transportation Plan. An RFP will be issued on October 1, and in a few months GDOT expects to have a consultant selected to begin work on the plan. The original plan was developed in 2003, and much has changed since then, particularly with transit planning tools and methodologies. However, many improvements in GTA were an outgrowth of the original plan, so it has had a strong impact on GTA.
- Staff are planning to update the sidewalk conditions inventory for the City. The TAC has been very interested in improving sidewalk conditions. The inventory has not been updated in several years. GDOT will use roster staff to collect this data. This will begin after the greenway conditions have

been collected, which is planned to start next month. The sidewalk condition inventory data collection will likely start in early 2017, and curb ramp information will be collected as well.

- The MPO received the 2016 Marvin Collins Outstanding Planning Award for the BiPed Plan Update at the NC-APA conference in mid-September. Meyer thanked the TAC for their leadership and support of the plan.
- The City hosted a Transportation and Health Tool Workshop at UNCG on August 11. 22 people participated, including representatives from GDOT, the UNCG Public Health department, Forsyth & Guilford County health departments, CAMPO, and other regional planning and non-profit organizations.
- Transportation for America (T4America) did a case study of the Greensboro MPO and the prioritization methodology used in the BiPed Plan Update for their blog.
- The Prioritization 5.0 Workgroup will begin meeting every other week starting October 3. Tyler Meyer is an NCAMPO representative. Although the group is advisory, it makes specific recommendations for Prioritization variables, weights, and process details for approval by the Board of Transportation, giving it a very important role in the Prioritization process.

Lydia McIntyre presented on the remaining Strategic Reports:

- The PM 2.5 Standard for the MPO has been revoked, effective October 24. The MPO will no longer need to do a conformity analysis to have the MTP and other documents approved. Despite this revocation, the MPO will still be eligible for CMAQ funds.
 - Yvonne Johnson noted her concern about the level of asthma in the population of Greensboro, which is related to air quality. Pollution from Tennessee is actually affecting our air quality. She asked if there had been any improvement in asthma rates, particularly with children. McIntyre noted that Tennessee is still in nonattainment, and will be monitored, but the Triad area is below the threshold for the PM 2.5 designation, even the newer and more stringent standards released in 2012. Cheryl McQueary asked what percentage of children have asthma due to poor air quality. McIntyre said she did not have this information on hand but will consult with PART, which would have these data, and follow-up with the TAC.
- The Piedmont Triad Regional Model will be adopted after October 24. Phase 2 of the freight study is under way, and the data gathered will be incorporated into the model.

Other Items

1. Board Member Update

Cheryl McQueary noted that Greensboro was identified as the best city for drivers in the United States by the Waze Mobile annual Driver Satisfaction Index. Although it is not strictly necessary, Division 7 is planning to have a public meeting on Division Needs point assignments. On December 8 the Board of Transportation will consider a resolution to name a portion of a local highway in honor of Congressman Howard Coble. The Guilford County Commissioners have already passed a resolution in support of the naming, and it would be beneficial for the City Council to pass a resolution as well before mid-October. On October 20 McQueary and Mike Mills will give a transportation update for Division 7, emphasizing the fact that \$2.6 billion is programmed for transportation projects in the Greensboro area. NCDOT has a consultant working on a statewide freight study, and a draft should be available in December. The City transportation bond up for vote in November is important from an economic development standpoint and McQueary urged TAC members and staff to support and promote it.

2. Regional Updates

There were none.

3. Wrap-Up

The meeting was adjourned by Dena Barnes at 3:09 pm.