



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes of April 19, 2017
2:00 p.m., Greensboro, NC
Plaza Level, Plaza Level Conference Room
Melvin Municipal Office Building

ATTENDANCE

Marikay Abuzuaiter	<i>TAC Chair</i>	Adam Fischer	<i>GDOT</i>
Dena Barnes	<i>TAC Member, Town of Summerfield</i>	Tyler Meyer	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>
Nancy Vaughan	<i>TAC Member, City of Greensboro</i>	Dan Amstutz	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>
Alan Branson	<i>TAC Member, Guilford County</i>	Craig McKinney	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>
Mike Fox	<i>TAC Member, NCDOT BOT</i>	Lydia McIntyre	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>
Ophelia Jones	<i>Town of Sedalia</i>	Tram Truong	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>
Scott Rhine	<i>PART</i>	Mike Mills	<i>NCDOT Division 7</i>
Michael Abuya	<i>NCDOT TPB</i>	Joe Geigle	<i>FHWA</i>
Robin Van Valkenburgh	<i>TMD</i>	George Linney	<i>GDOT/GTA</i>
Samuel Moffett	<i>TMD</i>	Chris Spencer	<i>GDOT</i>
Richard Bryson	<i>GTA Board</i>	David Hampsten	<i>Bikesboro</i>
Brantley Grier	<i>GTA Board</i>		

Marikay Abuzuaiter called the meeting to order at 2:04 pm.

Introductory Items

1. Conflict of Interest Policy Statement

Marikay Abuzuaiter read the Conflict of Interest Policy Statement required by the State Ethics Act: it is the responsibility of each committee member to avoid conflicts of interest and if there are any to identify them now.

Planning for the transportation future

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

There were none.

3. Public Comments

There were none.

4. Special Presentation: Introducing the Mobility Greensboro 2040 Long Range Transit Plan

Robin Van Valkenburgh, project consultant with Transportation Management and Design (TMD), presented on the Mobility Greensboro 2040 Long Range Transit Plan:

- Two sub-consultants of TMD also working on the project are Service Edge Solutions and Market Solutions.
- Market Solutions has been out doing public involvement and engagement on the plan with students at UNCG and NC A&TSU to get their feedback about needed improvements to the transit system.
- The main purposes of the study are to understand the transit needs of existing and future customers and to update the Mobility Greensboro 2015 plan.
- The outcome will be a sustainable long range vision for GTA that grows ridership and increases efficiency by identifying: untapped markets and service areas; where service can be redirected; what network structure works best; and what new services and technologies can be utilized.
- One of the main concerns heard from the public is the need to grow the bus system as Greensboro continues to grow.
- Short, medium, and long term actions will be identified in this plan.
- The project is expected to take 18 months to complete.
- Analysis of the existing system will be an important part of the plan, including the preferred network type – should it continue to be a hub-and-spoke system?
- The project is divided into two phases: Phase 1 – Visioning Plan (March-December 2017) and Phase 2 – Action Plan (beginning in 2018).
- Key components of the planning process are: outreach to staff, stakeholders, and the public; analysis of marketing strategies and emerging transit technology; identification of future revenue sources; and recommendations for short and long term service strategies.
- TMD is currently surveying existing conditions and doing the service analysis as part of Phase 1.
- The next step will be to develop service plan alternatives (through the summer) and refine and select alternatives towards the end of 2017.
- There will be ongoing stakeholder and public involvement throughout Phase 1.
- The project website is getonboard2040.org and will include project information as well as a survey for the public to take.
- The next steps are to finalize data collection and prepare the Service Performance Evaluation and Needs Analysis draft reports, as well as continuing the outreach process to stakeholders.
- Nancy Vaughan commented that the website is easy to get to and will promote it through social media.
- Marikay Abuzuaiter noted that the city has many active community groups and recommended reaching out to them. Van Valkenburgh said he will be in touch with GTA staff to make sure they are involved.
- Dena Barnes recommended approaching large employers such as Cone Hospital and getting feedback from them as well.
- Adam Fischer noted that the last Mobility Greensboro plan was completed in 2004 and several ambitious goals were set at that time. One goal was to increase ridership from one million to five million trips annually. GTA has almost reached this goal through a combination of service enhancements, additional funding, and success of the HEAT service, among other improvements. He recognized the GTA Board members in the room and praised them for being active and engaged. The plan will also address

connections between GTA and PART and connections to the other cities in the Triad. Wake County recently did a transit plan update and soon after that voters approved a sales tax increase in order to help fund transit for future expansion and to meet the plan's ambitious goals. Fischer noted that most of the available funding sources for GTA have been maxed out but staff are always looking for more opportunities.

- Richard Bryson, GTA Board Chair, said he is excited about the future of GTA and the development of this new plan. Working together with PART and other transit systems is important for making connections for riders. They had a lot of good feedback about the availability of the buses for the Folk Festival. This is an important opportunity and investment now can pay back big dividends. Brantley Grier, GTA Board member, noted that they appreciate all the work of staff and are excited about the potential that Greensboro has to improve transit at this time. Fischer noted that they are looking for a lot of public input and also suggested that the long range plan be included in a Greensboro City Council work session in the near future.
- Abuzuaiter asked about the status of electric buses for GTA. Fischer noted that the RFP should be out soon for vendors, and they expect to choose a bus vendor by June. It will be at least a year before the new buses will be delivered because of the long lead time required for them to be built.
- Abuzuaiter thanked Van Valkenburgh for the presentation.

Action Items

Marikay Abuzuaiter welcomed Nancy Vaughan back to the TAC.

1. Approve Minutes of March 22, 2017

Alan Branson moved to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2017 meeting. Dena Barnes seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2017 meeting.

2. MTIP Amendment: Pavement Rehabilitation Projects

Tyler Meyer presented on the MTIP Amendment:

- NCDOT Division 7 requests the MPO to amend the MTIP to add construction funding not previously programmed for I-5953 and I-5956, and to accelerate construction funding for I-5852.
- Meyer asked Mike Mills to explain the details of the three projects which include:
 - I-5852: pavement rehabilitation project on I-73 along the Urban Loop from Bryan Boulevard to I-85. This work involves diamond grinding to help maintain the pavement. The section from Bryan Boulevard to I-40 will be done in FY 2017, accelerated from FY 2020, and the rest will be done later. It is one TIP project but it is separated into A and B sections.
 - I-5953 is pavement rehabilitation for I-785/I-840 from I-85 to US 70, similar to I-5852. This project is also being accelerated. This was the first section of the Urban Loop to be constructed. It will be a mill and fill operation and is expected to be let in June to be completed in the fall. The plan is to complete this maintenance right before the eastern section of the Urban Loop from US 70 to US 29 is finished later this year.
 - I-5956 is for pavement rehabilitation on I-40/I-85 from east of Rock Creek Dairy Road to west of University Drive in Alamance County. This will be a full resurfacing project. This project is also being accelerated. There is another interstate maintenance project underway on I-40/I-85 between University Drive and NC 54 that should be completed in August; and finally there is another interstate maintenance project for this same roadway from NC 54 to Buckhorn Road in Orange County. NCDOT will provide a map to show all of the interstate maintenance projects underway and soon to be under construction for the TAC.

- Mike Fox asked if most of the work is being done at night. Mills noted it was; usually the workers start at 8 pm and must be out of the road by 6 am. Slowing people down to set up traffic control can be difficult, which is why they make use of local police and sheriff's offices to assist.
- Alan Branson asked about the product being sprayed onto the road. Mills noted that it was lime, and there was an issue with the spray consistency that needed to be corrected.
- Fox asked if accelerating these projects was related to getting NCDOT's cash balance down. Mills confirmed this. Fox explained that NCDOT has a lot of cash on hand, about \$2.2 billion, which it has been unable to spend for various reasons. The money is all allocated to projects but permitting has taken longer than expected in some cases. NCDOT is working aggressively to get the cash balance down and deliver projects more quickly. Although a lot is new construction, there are a lot of maintenance funds that need to be utilized as well. Mills noted this is a good thing as it allows NCDOT to get on a regular maintenance schedule for interstate maintenance, and also commented that the diamond grinding on the concrete should reduce noise levels from the road.

Mike Fox moved to approve the MTIP Amendment: Pavement Rehabilitation Projects. Alan Branson seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to approve the MTIP Amendment: Pavement Rehabilitation Projects.

3. MTIP Amendment: P4.0 Sidewalk Project for Planning and Environmental

Tyler Meyer presented on the MTIP Amendment:

- NCDOT has agreed to an MPO request to program several P4.0 sidewalk project selections for planning and environmental work at this time. This will enable the City of Greensboro to initiate municipal agreements now which will expedite the start of design for these projects.
- Right-of-way and construction funding will be programmed in the FY 2018–2027 TIP for these projects.
- The following projects are included:
 - Holden Road (EB-5876) between Gate City Boulevard to existing sidewalk north of Gate City Boulevard on the west side of Holden Road. This project has already been designed and right-of-way has been acquired, so it will be moved up to FY 2018 for construction funding.
 - Farmington Drive (EB-5877) between Gate City Boulevard and Wintergarden Lane. A design is still needed for this project. Right-of-way is funded in FY 2019 and construction in FY 2020. This is a highly needed project that will connect to GTA services, shopping, and residential areas.
 - Wendover Avenue (EB-5883) from Grecale Street to Church Street and from Summit Avenue to US 29. A design is also needed for this project, to get to right-of-way acquisition in 2019 and construction in 2020. This is also a highly needed project.
- Mike Fox asked for the rough costs of each of the projects. Meyer noted that the Wendover Avenue project is about \$1 million; Farmington Drive is \$300,000-\$500,000; and Holden Road is around \$200,000.

Mike Fox moved to approve the MTIP Amendment: P4.0 Sidewalk Project for Planning and Environmental. Nancy Vaughan seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to approve the MTIP Amendment: P4.0 Sidewalk Project for Planning and Environmental.

4. MTIP Amendment: B-4960 Judge Adams Road Bridge Replacement

Tyler Meyer noted that NCDOT has requested that this action item be deferred to a later meeting. After the MPO received the materials for this item, the scope was changed and the whole item is currently under review by NCDOT. The TCC recommended tabling this item. Mike Mills noted that NCDOT plans to remove the bridge entirely and put in a service road parallel to I-40/I-85 that would serve the properties that are currently served by the road and bridge. Also although Judge Adams Road is unpaved, it is a state route and NCDOT must provide access. The road has very little traffic so the bridge is not needed. The property owners that are affected and the Burlington-Graham MPO are in agreement with the construction of the service road. Mike Fox asked if the bridge serves anything other than raw land. Mills said it did not; even if

someone wanted to build something on the land, the bridge is low tonnage and large trucks could not cross it. The service road will parallel I-40/I-85 to serve the land, connecting to NC 61. All permits have been acquired, right-of-way acquisition is underway, and the hope is to let the project this year.

The consensus of the TAC was to defer this action item pending new project information from NCDOT.

5. MTIP Amendment: M-0521 Traffic Forecasting of Miscellaneous Projects

Tyler Meyer presented on the MTIP Amendment:

- NCDOT requests the MPO amend the MTIP to add this project and funding in the FY 2016–2025 TIP for Traffic Forecasting for Miscellaneous Projects to assist in expediting the delivery of STIP projects.
- \$300,000 will be added annually in FY 2017 and FY 2018 for this project.

Alan Branson moved to approve the MTIP Amendment: M-0521 Traffic Forecasting of Miscellaneous Projects. Nancy Vaughan seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to approve the Amendment: M-0521 Traffic Forecasting of Miscellaneous Projects.

Business Items

1. Draft 2017 Congestion Management Process

Lydia McIntyre presented on the CMP:

- McIntyre explained that this is the fourth iteration of the CMP for the Greensboro MPO.
- The CMP is a required document for all larger MPOs, and while no specific update schedule is required per federal guidelines, it is typically adopted before the start of the next update to the MTP.
- The document is multi-modal and identifies system- and corridor-level congestion, and strategies to mitigate it.
- Performance measures are also included with the document.
- Data has been collected from various sources, including PART, GTA, and the Greensboro Department of Transportation.
- There are certain goals that are federally-set that the CMP must address, such as mobility, sustainability and safety.
- The measures also dictate the types of data that must be collected.
- Travel time data was used instead of the volume to capacity ratio at the recommendation of FHWA.
- Intermodal Logistics assisted with collecting and analyzing the travel time data, which took a while because there are thousands and thousands of records with these types of data.
- Performance measures and objectives vary from mode to mode but include roadway, pedestrian and bicycle, and transit.
- There are data from 2007 to 2015 that has been used, but it varies between the modes and what data was available at the time.
- Some of the top bottleneck locations are NC 68 at NC 150/Oak Ridge Road, W. Wendover Avenue at I-40, NC 68 at I-40, and US 29 at I-40/Business I-85.
- The PM peak was reviewed for vehicle hours of delay.
- Another roadway metric used was percentage of roads below free flow speeds.
- Other metrics included number of miles of roads resurfaced, GTA ridership, and bicycle and pedestrian crashes.
- The CMP is a tool to help identify possible future projects in the MTP, Prioritization process, the MTIP, or for local bond projects.
- The Draft CMP document is under review and a final version is planned to be brought back to the MPO for adoption at the May meeting.

- Adam Fischer noted that the intersection improvements on Battleground Avenue are meant to ease congestion by adding turn lanes and making signal improvements, and other optimization measures, as opposed to widening all of Battleground Avenue. He also noted that the Waze mobile application, through their annual user survey, has identified Greensboro as the best place in the country for driving over the past two years. Marikay Abuzuaiter also noted the Fix It Greensboro mobile application is helpful for identifying maintenance needs such as potholes.

2. Division Engineer Updates

Mike Mills noted that the US 220 project could be finished later this year; the interchange with US 158 is open. The I-73 Connector between US 220 and NC 68 could be open the last week of April or first week of May. The remaining section of I-73 from NC 68 to Bryan Boulevard is expected to be open at the end of June. The western Urban Loop from Bryan Boulevard to Battleground Avenue may be open this fall in September or October. The eastern Urban Loop from US 70 to US 29 will also be open this fall in September or October. The contractor is working on the section of the Loop from Battleground Avenue to Lawndale Drive. Right-of-way is being purchased for the last section between Lawndale Drive to US 29, and there is discussion of accelerating this project. Due to roadway changes from the Neelley Road intersection improvement, the contractor is going to be paid by NCDOT to pipe ditches along the road for the residents because they are too deep to maintain. There are several interstate maintenance projects that are underway around the region, on I-40 and I-85.

Mills also noted that NCDOT Secretary Trogdon is interested in visiting all the MPOs in the state. He has asked MPO staff to send him dates of the MPO meetings this year that he can send over to the Secretary's office so they can schedule a time for his visit.

3. Project Updates

- Craig McKinney said that the Road Project Mapping tool will be updated with additional information and will become more dynamic. Sidewalk projects and potential corridor improvement projects will be added into the tool, with finer-grained information. The tool was initially created to provide information about the Urban Loop to the general public, and is a popular feature of the city website.
- McKinney reported several projects recently completed or under construction, with information based on information from the City Engineering & Inspection Department. *(Dates are subject to change)*
 - Battleground/Benjamin/Cone intersection: expected completion this November.
 - Battleground & New Garden intersection: expected completion this October.
 - Cone/Nealtown roadway project has been delayed due to some issues with the landfill but is planned for completion in September.
 - Gate City Boulevard streetscape: construction should be complete in May, after additional pavement and markings are put down.
 - Sidewalk projects for Florida Street, Randleman Road, and Phillips Avenue are complete.
 - Downtown Greenway Phases 2e/3a and 1b1 are expected to be complete in August and June, respectively.
 - The W. Wendover Avenue sidewalk gap in front of the Post Office facility is expected to be completed this summer now that all hurdles to the project have been overcome.
- Lydia McIntyre noted that the due date for submitting projects to the MPO for Prioritization 5.0 has passed, but she is still working with the City and some of the towns to identify additional projects. Oak Ridge and Sedalia have submitted projects. A few projects can be submitted to NCDOT early to receive a preliminary review and determine if they will be competitive in the process.

4. Strategic Reports

- Tram Truong noted that a Call for Projects for Section 5310 *Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Persons with Disabilities* funding was published and announced on April 5. May 5 is the project submittal deadline.

From May 8 to 10, the projects will be ranked by the MPO and outside reviewers. The TAC will select the projects for funding at the May 17 MPO meeting. Tyler Meyer noted that this is a somewhat small amount of funding but is still very beneficial for the transit agencies in order to carry out their services.

- Daniel Amstutz said the Bike Month calendar is still being updated but will be completed soon. Highlighted events for Bike Month include:
 - May 5 – Open Streets (downtown on 200 N. Davie Street)
 - May 7 – Wheels on the Greenway (at Morehead Park and Warnersville Recreation Center)
 - May 10 – Lindley Elementary Bike Rodeo
 - May 13 – Bikes & Brews Pub Roll
 - May 17 – Ride of Silence
 - May 19 – Celebrate New Bikeways Ride
 - May 20 – Bicycling in Greensboro Repair-a-thon
- Lydia McIntyre presented on the Piedmont Triad CommunityViz Guidebook. CommunityViz is a GIS-based software that helps to look at spatial socio-economic data and allows for scenario planning. PART used this software in the past and is the lead on this for the region. Mark Kirstner noted that the kickoff meeting will be May 4. Stakeholder meetings will be held on May 22 and 23. A policymaker briefing will be held June 22, which is targeted at TAC members. The project is moving along quickly and is expected to be completed June 30.
- Meyer noted that the NCAMPO conference will be April 26-28 in New Bern, NC. TAC members are invited to attend and should contact staff for any last-minute arrangements.

Other Items

1. Board Member Update

Mike Fox noted again that NCDOT has a large cash balance that needs to be spent down. The good news is that projects may be able to be moved ahead in the schedule. There may be more Amendments coming from NCDOT in order to expedite these projects. One idea being considered is to remove smaller state-funded projects under \$2 million from the STIP and having them be handled at by the Highway Divisions. The plan is to lower the cash balance of the department to under \$1 billion over the next year. This will require delivering projects more quickly. In reference to Secretary Trogdon's visit to Greensboro, he has visited 6-7 MPOs so far and typically gives an update on what NCDOT is doing and tours projects around the area. The Board of Transportation used to travel for meetings in the past and is planning to begin this practice again, potentially starting in the Greensboro area.

Alan Branson noted that some years ago there were plans to pave all the dirt roads in Guilford County and asked if some of the NCDOT funding could be used for this purpose. Fox noted that NCDOT had a fund for paving dirt roads, would list roads to pave in each county by priority, and would bring that list to the County Commissioners for approval. Mike Mills said that this now came under Statewide Prioritization. Fox said that NCDOT does not force residents to have their roads paved; if some residents want it paved and some do not, they avoid getting in the middle of that discussion. Mills noted that in Orange County some roads are on a "hold" list where they cannot get the right-of-way for paving because some property owners do not want to give up right-of-way. Although NCDOT can condemn property for this purpose, they do not want to when multiple property owners are opposed. Fox said Branson should give the name and address of the resident who questioned Branson to Mills so it can be researched.

2. Regional Updates

Scott Rhine and Marikay Abuzuaiter invited TAC members to the ribbon cutting for the new Coble Intermodal Passenger Facility on May 17 at 10 am. Rhine noted that they have invited TCC and TAC members, as well as local, state, and federal representatives to attend. Deputy NCDOT Secretary David Howard is expected to attend. The grand opening will be July 3. Various changes to PART routes will be

made, including removing underperforming rural routes. PART hours will be extended into 9 pm in the evening. Saturday service will be started in the fall for PART Express routes 1, 2, and 3. Abuzuaiter noted that the PART Board has been working through the issues surrounding the funding and expansion of the services and thanked staff for their assistance. Rhine noted the importance of the PTI airport route and the connections between locations. He also noted that local leadership is key to bringing initiatives forward and continuing to improve the service.

Wrap-Up

The meeting was adjourned by Marikay Abuzuaiter at 3:26 pm.