



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes of March 22, 2017
2:00 p.m., Greensboro, NC
2nd Floor, Greensboro Council Chambers
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>
Justin Outling	<i>TAC Member, City of Greensboro</i>	Dan Amstutz	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>
Yvonne Johnson	<i>TAC Member, City of Greensboro</i>	Craig McKinney	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>
Alan Branson	<i>TAC Member, Guilford County</i>	Mike Mills	<i>NCDOT Division 7</i>
Mike Fox	<i>TAC Member, NCDOT BOT</i>	Joe Geigle	<i>FHWA</i>
Scott Rhine	<i>PART</i>	Dabney Sanders	<i>Action GSO/Downtown</i>
Hank Henning	<i>Guilford County Commissioners</i>		<i>Greenway</i>

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

Action 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. Mike Fox noted he has a conflict with action items 11 and 13 because the service provider for GTA is his client, and asked to be recused from those items. The TAC accepted Fox's recusal from those items.

2. Recognition of Incoming TAC Members

Marikay Abuzuaiter noted that Mayor Nancy Vaughan will return to TAC, replacing Jamal Fox. Guilford County Commissioner Hank Henning has replaced Jeff Phillips. Board of Transportation member Mike Fox has replaced Cheryl McQueary. Henning and Fox introduced themselves.

3. Special Recognition for Cheryl McQueary

Marikay Abuzuaiter invited Cheryl McQueary to the podium and presented her with a plaque and commemorative street sign. Abuzuaiter thanked McQueary for her service on the TAC and helpful

Planning for the transportation future

knowledge. McQueary thanked TAC members and emphasized the importance of serving as a member to help the citizens of the state. She said that Board of Transportation members are non-partisan and work very hard for the benefit of the state. She commended the staff of Division 7 and the MPO for working well together on transportation issues. Mike Fox noted McQueary has been very effective in her role, and thanked her for her service.

4. Approve Minutes of January 24, 2017

Yvonne Johnson moved to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2017 meeting. Justin Outling seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2017 meeting.

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

There were none.

6. Public Comments

Dabney Sanders from Action Greensboro thanked the MPO for its support of the Downtown Greenway, particularly through state and federal funding. TAC members thanked Sanders for her leadership on the project and noted the economic development occurring along the greenway path.

7. Bike Month Resolution

Daniel Amstutz presented on the Bike Month Resolution and noted the 2017 Bike Month calendar is forthcoming. Events will include:

- Bike Month throughout May and Bike to Work Week May 15-19.
- Open Streets event on First Friday, May 5.
- The Ride of Silence May 17.
- Lindley Elementary student bike rodeo.
- Bicycling in Greensboro Repair-a-thon to repair bicycles for its Changing Gears program that provides reliable transportation for people in need
- Marikay Abuzuaiter thanked staff for working on various bicycle initiatives such as the Elm Street Bike Lanes project and making the public aware of the efforts to improve bicycling in the city.

Yvonne Johnson moved to approve the Bike Month Resolution. Justin Outling seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to approve the Bike Month Resolution.

8. MPO Self-Certification

Tyler Meyer presented on the MPO Self-Certification:

- Self-Certification is an annual requirement completed prior to adoption of the UPWP.
- Self-Certification is based on a detailed checklist and affirms MPO compliance with requirements, including the USDOT Planning Process, the Clean Air Act, Civil Rights Act, and Americans with Disabilities Act.
- This certification is different from the FHWA/FTA certification review process currently underway for the MPO, which occurs every four years.
- Having recently gone through the certification review process in detail with FHWA and FTA, the MPO can confirm with additional confidence that it is fully certified in the planning process.

Justin Outling moved to approve the MPO Self-Certification. Yvonne Johnson seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to approve the MPO Self-Certification.

9. FY 2017-2018 Unified Planning Work Program

Tyler Meyer presented on the UPWP:

- The UPWP accounts for planning grants and anticipated work of the MPO for 2017-2018.
- There are \$339,431 in FHWA “PL” funds supplemented by \$50,000 in Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG-DA) funds, as well as \$140,800 in FTA Transit Planning funds.
- The UPWP is due to NCDOT by March 31.
- Highlights of the work program include:
 - Prioritization 5.0 and the FY 2020-2029 TIP development
 - Performance measures
 - BiPed Implementation, including the Greenway Conditions Index and the Sidewalk Conditions Index, which are ongoing
 - Data collection for the model and CMP, and pedestrian, bicycle, and motor vehicle counting
 - Model enhancements, particularly freight modeling enhancements from the Freight Study
 - Mobility Greensboro 2040 Transit Plan Update
- Adam Fischer added that the FHWA and FTA funding helps support staff positions, research and analysis towards securing funding from the Prioritization process, and other key activities. Marikay Abuzuaiter inquired about the in-kind services indicated in the UPWP. Fischer noted that staff work funded by the City of Greensboro are in-kind services.

Alan Branson moved to approve the FY 2017-2018 Unified Planning Work Program. Justin Outling seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to approve the FY 2017-2018 Unified Planning Work Program.

10. FY 2016-2025 MTIP Amendment: Transportation Alternatives Program Wheelchair Ramps

Tyler Meyer presented on the MTIP Amendment:

- The Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) is a federal-aid funding program for pedestrian and bicycle projects.
- NCDOT proposes to use TAP funds to install ADA compliant wheelchair ramps at various state-system intersections, and has created the grouped project R-5787 for this purpose.
- This amendment adds \$800,000 for use in Division 7 in FY 2017 to add to the work started in 2016, with a \$200,000 state match.
- NCDOT identifies improvement locations for these projects in coordination with local governments; the City of Greensboro participated in this process last year and submitted 12 locations.
- The City of Greensboro will submit locations to compete for these funds; local Towns can submit locations as well if they choose.
- The funding is mainly for state-system roadways, but local streets submitted are to have a local match.
- This amendment will allow MPO-area locations to compete for wheelchair ramp upgrades.
- Marikay Abuzuaiter asked when the work would begin on these projects once selected. Meyer noted that the projects submitted last year are under evaluation by NCDOT but expects to start in the spring. NCDOT will provide updates to the MPO as the selection process for this year progresses.

Alan Branson moved to approve the FY 2016-2025 MTIP Amendment: Transportation Alternatives Program Wheelchair Ramps. Justin Outling seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to approve FY 2016-2025 MTIP Amendment: Transportation Alternatives Program Wheelchair Ramps.

11. FY 2018 & 2019 CMAQ Funding

Tyler Meyer presented on the CMAQ Funding:

- The MPO directs federal Congestion, Mitigation, and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds to area needs in cooperation with NCDOT.

- \$1,907,967 in CMAQ funding is available to the MPO in FY 2018 and \$1,945,949 in FY 2019.
- CMAQ eligibility is restricted to projects that improve air quality including clean fuel buses, transit oriented sidewalks, and roadway intersection or signalization operational improvements that do not significantly increase highway capacity.
- Air quality benefits are demonstrated using FHWA approved air quality benefits analysis.
- Staff has reviewed eligible projects that could be ready to deliver in FY 2018 & FY 2019 and is recommending using the funds to purchase GTA clean fuel buses replacement buses as they are highly needed.
- GTA buses are quickly reaching the end of their useful life and maintenance of this older stock is creating a maintenance burden on GTA staff.
- GTA plans to purchase electric buses and transition over to this technology, but the description of the project will read “clean fuel buses” to provide flexibility for GTA in case they decide to purchase a different technology.
- CMAQ is the primary federal funding source available for bus replacements, with less local funding available, so this is the most beneficial use of these funds.
- This action is to submit the bus replacement projects to FHWA/NCDOT for review; if approved, a MTIP Amendment will come later.
- Yvonne Johnson asked if GDOT works with the Sustainability Commission. Meyer noted that they do and the Commission has a lot of interest in their work.
- Alan Branson asked whether GTA operates buses that are pre-2008 emissions standards. Adam Fischer noted that staff can get that information, and noted that GTA is planning to convert to electric buses because less maintenance is required for them. Branson commented that he has had difficulties with maintaining engines with new emissions standards and expressed concern about the impacts of the standards to small businesses. Marikay Abuzuaiter said she was impressed with the electric bus brought to the city to test out last year and noted her support for moving to electric buses.

Yvonne Johnson moved to approve submitting GTA replacement buses for FY 2018 & 2019 CMAQ funding. Justin Outling seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to approve submitting GTA replacement buses for FY 2018 & 2019 CMAQ funding.

12. FY 2016-2025 MTIP Amendment: PART Section 5307 Funding

Tyler Meyer presented on the MTIP Amendment:

- Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Program provides approximately \$4.5 million per year in transit support, and the City of Greensboro is the designated recipient.
- In November 2015, the TAC allocated \$250,000 in Section 5307 to PART starting in FY 2017, after coming to an agreement with PART.
- This funding was put into an “operating expenses” project but PART is subject to an “operating expense cap” of \$216,000 in this area.
- This amendment will shift \$34,000 to TG-6185 Routine Capital and Preventive Maintenance to allow PART to draw down the full amount of funds.
- Meyer also noted that this is an ongoing allocation although the next item will modify the funding amount for future years.
- Marikay Abuzuaiter asked for clarification on whether PART was losing funding or not from this change. Meyer confirmed that PART is not losing any funding; it is simply moved to a different line item. A TIP amendment is needed because a new project number is being added to the TIP.

Justin Outling moved to approve the FY 2016-2017 MTIP Amendment: PART Section 5307 Funding. Dena Barnes seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to approve the FY 2016-2017 MTIP Amendment: PART Section 5307 Funding.

13. MPO Transit Resource Allocation Plan

Tyler Meyer presented on the MPO Transit Resource Allocation Plan:

- The City of Greensboro is designated recipient for Federal Transit Formula funds.
- Traditionally these funds have gone to GTA, but at this time the MPO needs to implement a plan for sharing some of these funds with other MPO transit operators. NCDOT PTD has set a deadline of April 1 for plan submittals.
- MPO staff have developed an equitable plan in consultation with area transit operators GTA, PART and Guilford County TAMS. This plan considers FTA funding formulas, the relative size and impact of the systems, and their operational needs and becomes effective in FY 2018.
- The allocations of formula funds is as follows:
 - Section 5311, Formula Grants for Rural Areas (about \$170,000 as of FY 2017):
 - Guilford County will continue to receive 100% of the annual allocation.
 - Section 5307, Urbanized Area Formula Grants (about \$4,500,000 per year as of FY 2017):
 - PART - \$300,000 per year
 - Guilford County - \$70,000 per year
 - GTA – the remainder, approximately \$4.1 million per year
 - Section 5339, Bus and Bus Facilities Grants (about \$450,000 per year as of FY 2017):
 - PART to receive 6.5% of annual allocation when vehicles needed
 - Guilford County to receive 7% of annual allocation when vehicles needed
 - GTA to receive 86.5 % of annual allocation
- Section 5310, Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities, is addressed in the plan but is allocated through an annual competitive selection process.
- The plan notes other funding sources, such as STI funding, but mainly for informational purposes.
- In recent years, Guilford County TAMS and PART have been reporting their ridership statistics to FTA, which are factored into formula funding amounts. This offsets funding losses for GTA, somewhat.
- Alan Branson noted that public transportation from High Point to Greensboro is not very convenient in terms of headways and asked about what services are being provided to facilitate this connection. Adam Fischer noted that the primary responsibility for making intercity connections is with PART, but the Mobility Greensboro 2040 Public Transit Plan can help identify ways to make better connections between Greensboro and other cities. Marikay Abuzuaiter recognized Scott Rhine from PART and allowed him to respond. Rhine noted that there is 30 minute peak service between Greensboro and High Point, with a transfer at the PART hub. Off-peak, they operate on an hour frequency. The services operate during typical workday hours, that is, between 7 am and 7 pm. Branson noted he was concerned about the lack of service frequency and others who need to service outside of typical workday hours. Fischer said that GTA instituted 30 minute peak service back in 2006 which required a significant expansion of staff and funding in order to allow that, and noted that other municipalities in the state have had to raise revenue in order to get the funding to make buses more frequent. Abuzuaiter noted that the PART board and staff have been analyzing services to determine where routes may be cut, combined, or expanded, and commended PART staff for their work. Fischer noted that the City of Greensboro has worked with PART to provide service to the PTI airport, which they could do more efficiently than GTA. Rhine added that technology is making it easier for transit users to track their buses and become familiar with the routes. Branson said he was concerned about providing duplicative services and giving people more options.

Justin Outling moved to approve the MPO Transit Resource Allocation Plan. Yvonne Johnson seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to approve the MPO Transit Resource Allocation Plan.

Business Items

1. Division Engineer Updates

Ed Lewis, Division 7 Planning Engineer, presented the NCDOT Active Projects Report and noted that the first three pages list projects under development or under construction by state forces, while the remaining three pages are projects being constructed by NCDOT contractors.

2. Project Updates

Tyler Meyer presented the following project updates:

- Letters of support indicating commitment of local match funds for public transit, aviation, and bicycle & pedestrian projects in the draft 2018-2027 STIP to be submitted to the MPO by June 23. The STIP is to be approved by the Board of Transportation in June and will become effective in July. Local commitment to highway projects will be coordinated through municipal agreements, where applicable.
- A call for projects is currently underway for Prioritization 5.0 project submittals. Jurisdictions must submit their projects to the MPO by April 7. The MPO will analyze these projects between April and June to ensure that they are complete and determine which ones are the most competitive. A draft list of submittals is planned to be completed in July or August with an approval of the list expected by the MPO in August or September. Staff are also looking for non-traditional projects such as fixing challenging intersections that may not have been submitted before.
- The Transportation Project Update Newsletter has been updated for spring 2017. So far the newsletter has been distributed to about 180 realtors. The purpose of the newsletter is to provide information about projects in the TIP in a more readable, user-friendly format. Comments about the newsletter are welcome. Alan Branson suggested providing the newsletter to developers as well.

3. Strategic Reports

- The Greensboro MPO Federal Certification public hearing will be this evening at 5:30 pm in the Greensboro City Council Chamber. This is part of the federal certification review for the MPO that occurs every four years, and this is the fourth review for the MPO. TAC members are encouraged to attend and make comments, or submit them to the MPO by March 28.
- Staff have been working with the Greensboro Police Department to continue participation in the Watch For Me NC bicycle and pedestrian safety campaign. The application is due Friday March 24, and is now being finalized. The in-kind support for the program by NCDOT is valued at about \$35,000 for the City of Greensboro, including materials, advertising, and police training. The campaign provides an avenue for educating residents and being visible on enforcing bicycle and pedestrian laws, so continued participation is beneficial.
- The MPO intends to initiate a call for projects on April 10 for the Section 5310 funds, Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities. Project selection will be competitive as described by the 2014 Coordinated Plan Update. The estimated FY 2017 funding is \$234,662. 55% of program funds must be used on capital projects. Vehicle purchases are not eligible for non-profit organizations and Guilford County TAMS according to FTA and NCDOT recommendations. Project selection is anticipated at the June MPO meeting. The Winston-Salem MPO assists with the analysis and selection of the projects.
- Staff have started work on the FY 2018-2027 MTIP document to incorporate the P4.0 funded projects. A draft is expected to be ready by May, with public involvement planned for June and approval in July. Although the document could be approved as late as August or September, getting it finished in July will close out the P4.0 process and allow staff to focus on P5.0.
- TAC members must file their state ethics act forms by April 15. MPO staff can assist with questions about filing the forms. The Ethics Commission has a webinar March 23 on the filing requirements which will be available afterwards for viewing on demand.

- NCDOT Division 7 has a Draft FY 2018-2027 STIP public meeting on April 17 from 4-6 pm at the Division offices at 1584 Yanceyville Street.
- The NCAMPO Conference will be from April 26-28 in New Bern, NC at the New Bern Convention Center. TAC members are encouraged to attend.
- The Mobility Greensboro 2040 Transit Plan Update has kicked off and a presentation from the plan consultants is expected for the next month's MPO meetings.

Other Items

1. Board Member Update

There was none.

2. Regional Updates

Scott Rhine said that PART plans a May 17 ribbon cutting for the Coble Intermodal Transportation Center. PART will be sending out invitations shortly. PART has plans to expand hours of service for express routes 1, 2, & 3 in order to match up with the operating hours of city transit services. PART is also considering starting a Saturday service in October for the same routes. Some rural services may be reduced or cut as well.

Wrap-Up

The meeting was adjourned by Marikay Abuzuaiter at 3:07 pm.