



**TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of March 22, 2017**  
**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>	Joe Geigle	<i>FHWA</i>
Craig McKinney	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>	Scott Whitaker	<i>Town of Summerfield</i>
Daniel Amstutz	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>	Bill Bruce	<i>Town of Oak Ridge</i>
Chris Spencer	<i>GDOT</i>	Scott Rhine	<i>PART</i>
Hanna Cockburn	<i>GSO Planning Department</i>	Carey Barr	<i>AECOM</i>
Michael Abuya ( <i>by phone</i> )	<i>NCDOT TPB</i>	Kelly Larkins	<i>PTRC / PTRPO</i>
Mike Mills	<i>NCDOT Division 7</i>	David Hampsten	<i>Bikesboro</i>

Tyler Meyer called the meeting to order at 10:38 am.

**1. Approve Minutes of January 24, 2017**

Scott Whitaker moved to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2017 meeting. Bill Bruce seconded the motion. The TCC voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2017 meeting.

**2. Bike Month Resolution**

Daniel Amstutz presented on the Bike Month Resolution:

- Bike Month is in May and May 15-19 is Bike to Work Week.
- There will be an Open Streets event on First Friday, May 5, with the help of Action Greensboro and Downtown Greensboro, Inc.
- The Ride of Silence will be May 17.
- Lindley Elementary will host a bike rodeo for its students during the month, but a date has not been set yet.
- Bicycling in Greensboro will have a Repair-a-thon to repair bicycles for its Changing Gears program that provides reliable transportation for people in need.
- The 2017 Bike Month calendar is forthcoming.

*Chris Spencer moved to recommend the Bike Month Resolution to the TAC for approval. Scott Rhine seconded the motion. The TCC voted unanimously to recommend the Bike Month Resolution to the TAC for approval.*

**Planning for the transportation future**

### 3. MPO Self-Certification

Tyler Meyer presented on the MPO Self-Certification:

- The Self-Certification is an annual requirement completed prior to adoption of the UPWP.
- Self-Certification is based on a detailed checklist that is included with the meeting materials 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.
- Craig McKinney noted that the public hearing for the quadrennial certification review is that evening in the Greensboro City Council Chamber, and the staff review portion has already been completed.

*Michael Abuya moved to recommend the MPO Self-Certification to the TAC for approval. Hanna Cockburn seconded the motion. The TCC voted unanimously to recommend the MPO-Self-Certification to the TAC for approval.*

### 4. 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
- Michael Abuya noted a typo on the administrative table. Meyer said he will fix that for the final version.

*Scott Rhine moved to recommend the FY 2017-2018 Unified Planning Work Program to the TAC for approval. Mike Mills seconded the motion. The TCC voted unanimously to recommend the FY 2017-2018 Unified Planning Work Program to the TAC for approval.*

### 5. 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.
- Mike Mills noted that there are many curb ramp upgrades needed and they were only able to pay for a small portion last year. This new funding will allow NCDOT to continue going down the list and replace or install other ramps.
- Scott Whitaker noted that the Town of Summerfield is working on a master plan to redesign the intersection in front of their town hall and inquired if there was some way to apply for the TAP funding to get curb ramps installed at the intersection. Mills said the funding is not expected to be used to build sidewalk, which is needed for the curb ramps, but Summerfield can submit the project anyway and NCDOT staff will evaluate it.
- Chris Spencer noted that sometimes traffic signal poles, in-pavement signal loops, crosswalk markings, and other traffic control needs to be moved or replaced as part of curb ramp installation, so GDOT traffic engineering should be engaged for locations selected in Greensboro.
- Craig McKinney inquired if there will be another call for projects for state TAP funds next year. Mills noted that there seems to be a strong push from FHWA to get these projects done, especially curb ramps, and to get the money obligated. So that is possible.

*Hanna Cockburn moved to recommend the FY 2016-2025 MTIP Amendment: Transportation Alternatives Program Wheelchair Ramps to the TAC for approval. Chris Spencer seconded the motion. The TCC voted unanimously to recommend the FY 2016-2025 MTIP Amendment: Transportation Alternatives Program Wheelchair Ramps to the TAC for approval.*

## **6. 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, and less local funding is 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.
- Scott Whitaker inquired if this action is different from action taken on bus replacements a few months ago. Meyer noted this action is for FY 2018 & 2019 CMAQ funding, whereas the earlier action related to FY 2016 & 2017 funding.
- Scott Rhine asked if the MPO will put a call for projects for CMAQ funds in the future. Rhine recommended that a call be done to balance the funding allocation between different jurisdictions and

noted that other MPOs in the area do it through a competitive process and selection matrix. Meyer noted that this could be done.

- Hanna Cockburn asked if these federal funds were certain to come through in FY 2018 & 2019. Meyer noted that the FAST Act has the funding authorized but it is contingent upon future funding allocations. Rhine added that there are some concerns about other programs being cut based on current federal budget proposals. Meyer pointed out that the Act is authorized through 2020 but the Highway Trust Fund has not been fully solvent for several years, and transit funding in particular is subject to annual appropriations. Daniel Amstutz asked if the 2016 bond funds for transit buses was meant to be used as match for federal funds. Meyer confirmed this, as using the local funding for buses purchases would not go very far. Cost will be a factor in determining the exact technology to be purchased for the new buses. The Mobility Greensboro 2040 Transit Plan Update will help address some of these questions.

*Scott Whitaker moved to recommend submitting GTA replacement buses for FY 2018 & 2019 CMAQ funding to the TAC for approval. Michael Abuya seconded the motion. The TCC voted unanimously to recommend submitting GTA replacement buses for FY 2018 & 2019 CMAQ funding to the TAC for approval.*

## **7. 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.

*Mike Mills moved to recommend the FY 2016-2017 MTIP Amendment: PART Section 5307 Funding to the TAC for approval. Scott Whitaker seconded the motion. The TCC voted unanimously to recommend the FY 2016-2017 MTIP Amendment: PART Section 5307 Funding to the TAC for approval.*

## **8. 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.
- Hanna Cockburn asked about how often the plan will be updated. Meyer noted that after each Census the plan must be revisited. Cockburn noted that that information did not appear to be in the document presented. Meyer said that he will make that addition to the final version of the document.

*Bill Bruce moved to recommend the MPO Transit Resource Allocation Plan to the TAC for approval. Chris Spencer seconded the motion. The TCC voted unanimously to recommend the MPO Transit Resource Allocation Plan to the TAC for approval.*

## **Business Items**

### **1. 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.

### **2. Strategic Reports**

Tyler Meyer presented on the following 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. TCC 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. TCC 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. NCDOT Update**

Mike Mills noted that there are interstate maintenance projects going on all over the Division, many of which are expected to start in the summer. The Eastern Urban Loop may be complete as early as this summer. The Western Urban Loop from Battleground Avenue to Bryan Boulevard may also be complete later in the year. The I-73 Connector is expected to be complete by June 28. There was a fatality at the railroad crossing at Franklin Boulevard, and NCDOT is reviewing the potential for accelerating the grade separation project at Franklin Boulevard. Scott Whitaker asked if there will be a ceremony for the opening of I-73. Mills said there have been discussions about a ceremony for I-73 and the taxiway bridge, but there are no firm plans yet. Bill Bruce said that signs have showed up on Bryan Boulevard stating that the road was going to close April 1 and asked for more information on that. Mills noted that the date has been revised for the closure to occur April 29 in order to avoid impacting access to the High Point Furniture Market. Through traffic on Bryan will be directed to I-73 from the east and Market Street to the west, but access to the airport will still be open from the west and the east. Leaving the airport travelers will have to go to the east. Businesses on Regional Road and Bryan Boulevard will still be accessible. The closure is expected to be for 60 days, but hopefully less. The closure is due to construction of the taxiway bridge over Bryan Boulevard.

### **2. TCC Member Updates**

Scott Rhine said that 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.

Kelly Larkins noted that the Piedmont Trails Summit is coming up on April 4. It will be held at the North Carolina Zoo in Asheboro. The price is \$30 and there will be a good selection of presentations.

### **3. Wrap-Up**

The next TCC meeting will take place April 19 at 10:30 am in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor GDOT Conference Room. The meeting was adjourned by Tyler Meyer at 11:44 am.