



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes of November 8, 2017
2:00 p.m., Greensboro, NC
2nd Floor, Greensboro City Council Chamber
Melvin Municipal Office Building

ATTENDANCE

Marikay Abuzuaiter	<i>TAC Chair</i>	Tyler Meyer	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>
Justin Outling	<i>TAC Member, City of Greensboro</i>	Dan Amstutz	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>
Nancy Vaughan	<i>TAC Member, City of Greensboro</i>	Lydia McIntyre	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>
Skip Alston	<i>TAC Member, Guilford County</i>	Tram Truong	<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>	Jennifer Brandenburg	<i>Volkert</i>
Dena Barnes	<i>TAC Member, Town of Summerfield</i>	Joe Geigle	<i>FHWA</i>
Mike Mills	<i>NCDOT Division 7</i>	Michael Abuya	<i>NCDOT TPB</i>
Chris Spencer	<i>GDOT</i>		

Marikay Abuzuaiter called the meeting to order at 2:03 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. No conflicts were raised by members.

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

There were none.

3. Public Comments

There were none.

Planning for the transportation future

Action Items

1. Approve Minutes of September 20, 2017

Nancy Vaughan moved to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2017 meeting. Skip Alston seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2017 meeting.

2. FY 2016-2025 and FY 2018-2027 MTIP Amendment: P-2918 Piedmont Train Operations

Tyler Meyer presented the MTIP Amendment:

- NCDOT requests the MPO amend the MTIP to add funding to rail project P-2918 in FY 2018.
- The Piedmont Train service operates three round trip trains per day between Raleigh and Charlotte, with service in Greensboro.
- P-2918 will provide for operating cost support for trains 74 & 75 on the Piedmont Corridor, as well as equipment and work at the Capital Yard Maintenance Facility.
- \$10,069,074 in CMAQ funds and \$2,517,441 in state matching funds will be added in FY 2018.
- This additional funding will allow the service to operate four trains per day.

Skip Alston moved to approve the FY 2016-2025 and FY 2018-2027 MTIP Amendment: P-2918 Piedmont Train Operations. Nancy Vaughan seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to approve the FY 2016-2025 and FY 2018-2027 MTIP Amendment: P-2918 Piedmont Train Operations.

3. Resolutions of Support to Endorse GTA applications for State Matching Funds (TA-4767, TA-4771 FY 16 & 17, TD-4279)

Tyler Meyer presented the resolutions of support:

- This action item is a package of actions for three projects and four resolutions relating to state matching funds for transit grants.
- The funding for each project is lined up and already has local matching funds, but these resolutions support state matching fund requests to NCDOT by GTA.
- Project TA-4771 provides FY 2016 & 2017 CMAQ grant funds for GTA to purchase fixed-route replacement buses, including three electric buses.
- Project TA-4767 provides FTA Section 5339 grant funding to purchase paratransit replacement vehicles for GTA SCAT.
- Project TD-4279 provides FTA Section 5339(b) grant funds to renovate the GTA ticketing, call center, and waiting areas of the J. Douglas Galyon Depot.
- NCDOT requires a formal request to receive state matching funds for these grants and MPO endorsements will improve the chances of GTA receiving the matching funds.
- Skip Alston asked if the charging unit will be on top of the buses and where the charging stations are to be located. Meyer confirmed that the buses will be charged on the roof. The fast charging stations will be located at the Depot. Charging stations will also be at the GTA maintenance facility. Alston asked how often the buses will need to be charged. Meyer explained they will generally need to charge once per day, during a short layover at the Depot. The details of how often and what time in the schedule the buses will be charged is still being determined and will vary by route.
- Alston and Mike Fox recused themselves from voting on the action item because of potential conflicts of interest through their businesses.
- Fox noted that he had talked to Greensboro resident Anne Hummel, whose daughter works in transit in Washington, DC. The DC Metro has been using innovative financing and grants, including for electric buses, and suggested that GTA look into what they have been doing for future reference.

Nancy Vaughan moved to endorse the Resolutions of Support for GTA applications for State Matching Funds (TA-4767, TA-4771 FY 16 & 17, TD-4279). Justin Outling seconded the motion. The TAC voted to endorse the Resolutions of Support for GTA applications for State Matching Funds (TA-4767, TA-4771 FY 16 & 17, TD-4279), with five in favor and two recusals.

4. Resolutions Authorizing Applications for FY 2018 & FY 2019 Section 5303 Planning Funds

Tyler Meyer presented the resolutions authorizing applications for Section 5303 Planning Funds:

- An apportionment of transit planning funds (Section 5303) from FTA are attributed to the MPO. These funds are passed through NCDOT to the City of Greensboro to support transit planning services.
- The City of Greensboro enters into an annual agreement with NCDOT for this funding.
- NCDOT has requested that the MPO pass a resolution authorizing the City to enter into agreements with NCDOT to receive these funds for FY 2018 & 2019.

Alan Branson moved to approve the Resolutions Authorizing Applications for FY 2018 & FY 2019 Section 5303 Planning Funds. Skip Alston seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to approve the Resolutions Authorizing Applications for FY 2018 & FY 2019 Section 5303 Planning Funds.

5. Resolution Authorizing Application for FY 2019 Transit Technology Grant

Tyler presented on the resolution authorizing application for the FY 2019 Transit Technology Grant:

- The NCDOT Public Transportation Division administers the Urban Advanced Technology Grant program to benefit transit systems that utilize a wide selection of technologies to enhance the customer experience and enable the improvement of safety and efficiency in operations.
- GTA is applying for \$205,000 in FY 2019 funds from this grant program for the purchase of wireless modems for its paratransit and fix-route bus fleets.
- This technology will improve communication on the vehicles, improve tracking for the Transloc application, and allow for GTA to provide additional amenities to riders potentially including wireless internet connections.
- The Transloc application shows where buses are in the network with all the stops and times; it is a very helpful service and these modems will enhance this technology for GTA.
- NCDOT requires the MPO to authorize the City to apply for this funding program.

Skip Alston moved to approve the Resolution Authorizing Application for FY 2019 Transit Technology Grant. Justin Outling seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to approve the Resolution Authorizing Application for FY 2019 Transit Technology Grant.

6. Adopt 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Amendment

Lydia McIntyre presented the 2040 MTP Amendment:

- The Metropolitan Transportation Plan is the MPO's long range document and must be updated every five years.
- The MTP must be amended to include new major projects and when existing projects are modified.
- The MTP and the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program must be consistent with one another, and so this amendment must be approved before the new MTIP can be adopted.
- The 2040 MTP was adopted in 2015.
- Eight projects, including major road widening projects, interchange improvements, and intersection improvements will be added to the MTP.

Nancy Vaughan moved to adopt the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Amendment. Justin Outling seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to adopt the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Amendment.

7. Adopt FY 2018-2027 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program

Lydia McIntyre presented the FY 2018-2027 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program:

- The MTIP is a subset of the MTP, and is like the STIP at the state level.
- The MTIP is a capital improvement program that lists projects, costs, and funding schedules for all projects funded through the Greensboro MPO.
- The document is updated every two years, and is typically updated after the STIP is adopted; the MTIP must be consistent with the STIP.
- Projects are grouped by highway and non-highway, with non-highway including rail, transit, aviation, and bicycle and pedestrian.
- There is over \$1 billion in funding over the ten-year time period for the document, including statewide, regional, and division tier projects.
- Funding for statewide projects comprises more than 50% of the program, which is primarily roadway projects, but also includes maintenance and aviation.
- The breakdown by mode includes 57.1% for statewide roadway improvements, 13.4% for regional and division roadway improvements, 3.5% for bicycle and pedestrian projects, 9.8% for transit projects, 4.6% for rail, 6.9% for aviation, 2.0% for bridges, and 2.7% for interstate maintenance.
- Over \$100 million is going to transit in the MPO, and includes GTA, PART, and TAMS; the funding primarily goes to GTA and is made up mainly of federal sources, but also includes 30% from local sources and 14% from state sources.
- Major projects include the Urban Loop, Church Street, R-4707 Reedy Fork Parkway, and intersection projects.
- US 70 was selected for funding in the last few years of the MTIP, so it does not have fully committed funding at this time.
- The public review period ran for 30 days and a public meeting was held on October 17th from 4-7 pm, during a City Council meeting and Participatory Budgeting meeting; at least 30 people attended.
- Fourteen combined responses were received; many comments focused on the issues related to Cotswold Terrace, while other comments demonstrated support for GTA and bicycle and pedestrian projects.
- Marikay Abuzuaiter said she noticed the comments about Cotswold Terrace and asked for an update on the connection between Cotswold and Old Battleground. McIntyre noted that this will be addressed later in the meeting under Project Updates.

Skip Alston moved to adopt the FY 2018-2027 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program. Alan Branson seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to adopt the FY 2018-2027 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program.

8. 2018 MPO Meeting Schedule:

Daniel Amstutz presented the 2018 MPO Meeting Schedule:

- The 2018 meeting schedule has been developed with consideration towards avoiding conflicts with Greensboro City Council meetings, MPO Town Council meetings, NCDOT Board of Transportation monthly meetings, significant statewide or local conferences, and other City boards and commissions that meet regularly. The typical schedule is to hold meetings on the fourth Wednesday of the month, except in November and December. Due to conflicts with the NCAMPO conference at the end of April, the Board of Transportation at the end of June, and to provide adequate spacing between meetings, the April and May meetings have been consolidated to May 9 and the June meeting is to be moved forward to June 20. Thus there are only ten meetings for 2018 instead of eleven. These two adjusted meeting dates have also been cleared for conflicts. Mike Fox

noted his appreciation for scheduling the Greensboro MPO meetings around Board of Transportation meetings so that he will be able to attend.

Mike Fox moved to approve the 2018 MPO Meeting Schedule. Justin Outling seconded the motion. The TAC voted unanimously to approve the 2018 MPO Meeting Schedule.

Business Items

1. Division Engineer Updates

Mike Mills said the Western Urban Loop from Bryan Boulevard to Battleground Avenue and the Eastern Urban Loop from US 70 to US 29 should be open in November. There have been some issues with opening the Eastern Loop due to lack of electricity for the traffic signals, but he expects it to be open no later than December.

Division 7 has received proposed projects for the high impact, low cost project program and is scoring them now. They will notify applicants about their projects once they have finished the review.

Alan Branson asked if emergency traffic is able to run in the highway yet, although it is not open to all traffic. Mills said he did not know if emergency vehicles have tried to use it, but NCDOT is trying to keep those areas blockaded for now, to keep people out as much as possible, until it is officially open. He is not aware of issues on the Eastern Loop similar to what was happening with I-73 where people were using it before it was officially open.

2. Project Updates

- Tyler Meyer reported that Construction Authorization for Phase 2 of the Downtown Greenway from Gate City Boulevard to Greene Street is expected in December. Meyer noted he had worked out a workable strategy to get additional needed funding for the project, and that Mike Mills approval was the decisive factor in enabling it to proceed. He thanked Mike Mills, Mike Fox, and Justin Outling for their support. This has the potential to be a transformative project, creating great bicycle and pedestrian connections and reconnecting neighborhoods to downtown and each other. Staff are excited about the project and are happy it is on track for 2018 construction. This will add a little over a mile to the Downtown Greenway.
- Craig McKinney presented on the following project updates:
 - R-2577, US 158 Improvements, Business I-40 to US 220: two workshops on US 158 were held in October, one in Walkertown where 330 people attended and one in Stokesdale where 357 people attended. There was concern from the public about the proposed design, which is a superstreet, but it was not clear which route people preferred. There are two proposed routes around Stokesdale, one north of town and one south of town. It is expected that the environmental document will be completed early next year, and then work will begin on right-of-way plans. Section A is Business I-40 to Belews Creek Road, which has funding committed; the next phase (Section B, Belews Creek Road to Anthony Road) is in last years of the STIP and is not committed yet. Section C, Anthony Road to US 220, which will go through Stokesdale, does not have funding committed yet.
 - R-4707, US 29/Reedy Fork Parkway Interchange: the diverging diamond interchange was selected as the preferred alternative at the recent merger meeting. The environmental document should be completed in 2018, and construction is expected to start in FY 2020.
 - Old Battleground Avenue & Cotswold Avenue: There will be a public workshop on December 7 from 4-8 pm to listen to public concerns and take ideas about what should happen with Cotswold Terrace, and regarding National Park Service plans to close Old Battleground Avenue through the Military Park. The closure would be from New Garden Road to south of the park

service road, in order to create a more unified park and have visitors more freely move back and forth between the visitor's center and the park trails and battlefield areas. The basis for the Old Battleground closure is an agreement with the park superintendent and the GDOT director at the time of the development of the environmental document for the Urban Loop, which stated that the city would agree to the closure after the Urban Loop was complete. A location for the meeting is still being set, and representatives from the City Fire Department, Police Department, GDOT, and others are going to be on hand to answer questions.

- Justin Outling asked if a NCDOT representative will also be there, as that would be his strong preference, since they are a key stakeholder as well. Mike Mills noted that they would be glad to attend but said these are city streets and the city may open or close them if they want; it is not up to NCDOT to decide. Outling noted there is the issue of Cotswold Terrace, but also questions and concerns about the Urban Loop project itself are likely to come up from the public, which NCDOT can address. Mills said Division 7 staff will be there. The importance of having Greensboro Police and Fire Department representatives was also noted.
- Current Status of Various Projects: U-5306 A, Battleground-Benjamin-Cone, and U-5306 C, Battleground-New Garden, are expected to be completed by the end of the year; U-5306 B, Battleground-Westridge, should start construction in March or April 2018. Downtown Greenway Phases 1b1 and 1b2 should be completed by the end of the year or in early 2018, while Downtown Greenway Phases 2e & 3a should be complete by the end of the year. U-5532 D, to close a sidewalk gap on East Wendover Avenue, along with a few other sidewalk projects, is waiting for concurrence on the bidder from NCDOT before beginning construction.

3. Strategic Reports

- Daniel Amstutz noted several new bicycle lanes have been installed around the City with the 2017 city resurfacing projects, including Creek Ridge Road, Glendale Drive, Hill Street, Pincroft Road, S. English Street, and Sixteenth Street. There has also been a reconfiguration of the Spring Garden Street bike lane approach to Holden Road. Upcoming bike lanes are expected on W. Friendly Avenue and E. Cornwallis Drive once the resurfacing has been completed there.
 - Mike Fox asked for an update on the proposed bike lanes for North Elm Street between downtown and Cone Boulevard. He is in favor of the project but said the City needed to provide more communication about the next steps for this project. Chris Spencer said staff had decided to delay the section from Cone Health Hospital to downtown because Water Resources has to do extensive infrastructure work along the road here. It would not make sense to scratch and remark this section because it would be damaged by this work and have to be resurfaced soon after, but the section north of Cone Health could be done. Fox noted there has been a tremendous amount of infrastructure work around downtown which has been very disruptive, and he would like better information from Water Resources. He suggested that resurfacing needs to occur as soon as possible after Water Resources has done their work.

Other Items

1. Board Member Update

Mike Fox said two sections of the Urban Loop are expected to be open this year, and a ribbon cutting is planned for the Eastern Loop. No date has been set yet but he will let everyone know as soon as possible, as they would like a good turnout for it. The completed of the Loop opens up economic development opportunities in east Greensboro. He is trying to move up the last section, between Lawndale Drive and US 29, and is seeing if there can be an interim completion date to finish the part between Lawndale Drive and Elm Street. This section will open up opportunities on the north side of town and create better vehicle

mobility as well.

2. Regional Updates

There were none.

3. Wrap-Up

- Marikay Abuzuaiter noted the results of the City Council elections the previous day and said she assumes that the TAC membership from the City Council will stay the same unless the people on the committee decide otherwise.
- Nancy Vaughan said that Water Resources has recently done work on Fisher Park Circle and asked if it will be repaved soon, in time for a house showcase event in April. Chris Spencer said he is not sure, it may be on the list for next year, and he will talk to Field Operations to see if it is on the list for 2018.
- Vaughan also noted the signage around the airport needs to be upgraded. It is hard to understand how to get around, and this is a concern especially before Thanksgiving. Mike Mills said NCDOT has made some changes, such as removing incorrect signs, and also have put up a variable message board. They will add more VMS signs that will tell drivers how to get to Bryan Boulevard and downtown Greensboro, with the expectation of putting up permanent signs in the near future. He has definitely heard that this is a need and shares her concern. Mike Fox pointed out that there are very specific rules for interstate signs, and having to follow these rules can be challenging and take time to resolve. He noted examples of an issue with I-73 and leading down to High Point not being on signs, as well as with NC 68 northbound and southbound. Mills said I-73 is Bryan Boulevard, the name has not been changed, but they will correct signs to reflect that.
- Fox asked if TAC members can get the draft 2018 resurfacing list for the City, in case they get questions about whether certain roads are expected to be resurfaced next year. It is not common knowledge which roads are state maintained or city maintained, and this will at least let members tell people if their road will be repaved soon. Spencer said he will send it to the TAC members.

The meeting was adjourned by Marikay Abuzuaiter at 2:58 pm.