

MINUTES

**BURLINGTON-GRAHAM URBAN AREA
TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2019
9AM**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Montrena Hadley, Mebane
Brandon Parker, Gibsonville
Tonya Caddle, Alamance County
Nishith Trivedi, Orange County
Cy Stober, Mebane (Vice Chair)
Pam Graham, Elon
Nolan Kirkman, Burlington
Mike Nunn, Burlington
Nathan Page, Graham (Chair)

BGMPO STAFF PRESENT

Wannetta Mallette
Carley Maynard

NCDOT STAFF PRESENT

Mike Mills, NCDOT Division 7
Tamara Njegovan, NCDOT Division 7
Stephen Robinson, NCDOT Division 7

FHWA STAFF PRESENT

Joe Geigle

OTHERS PRESENT

Lyuba Zuyeva, VHB
Don Bryson, VHB
Yu Jiang, PART
John Kim, PART
Mark Kirstner, PART
Jay Heikes, Go Triangle

Call to Order

Chair Nathan Page called the October 15, 2019 TCC meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. and introduced all members and guests. Chair Page presented the agenda for adoption. No changes were made to the agenda. Chair Page asked if there were any speakers from the floor. No public comments were made.

Approval of Minutes from August 20, 2019 TCC Meeting

Chair Page requested a motion to approve the August 20, 2019 TCC meeting minutes. Ms. Pam Graham made a motion to approve the August 20, 2019 TCC meeting minutes. Vice Chair Stober seconded the motion and all of TCC voted in approval.

BGMPO 2020-2029 MTIP

Ms. Mallette shared that the 2020-2029 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a subset of the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and identifies state and federally funded transportation projects within the BGMPO Planning Organization (MPO) urban area. The STIP was adopted by the NCDOT Board of Transportation (BOT) September 5, 2019. NCDOT requests MPOs adoption before the end of 2019 to allow for preliminary review by FHWA staff. The BGMPO released the draft TIP for a 30-day public comment period on September 13, 2019 and scheduled a public hearing during the October 15, 2019 TAC meeting.

Ms. Mallette informed the TCC that staff is recommending TAC approval of adoption of the 2020-2029 TIP pending public comments. Vice Chair Stober made a motion recommending TAC adopt and approve the 2020-2019 TIP pending public comments by resolution. Mr. Mark Kirstner seconded the motion and all of TCC approved the recommendation.

Triangle Region Air Quality Conformity

Ms. Mallette explained that the Triangle Region is required to demonstrate air quality conformity for the Triangle's Metropolitan Transportation Plans and TIPs. The BGMPO is one of four organizations that will need to adopt the Air Quality Conformity Determination Report (AQ CDR). During its August 20, 2019 meeting, the TAC approved release of the AQ CDR for public review. The public comment period ended September 21, 2019. No public comments were made. Ms. Mallette informed TCC that staff is recommending TAC adopt and approve the Air Quality Conformity Determination Report by resolution. Mr. Nishith Trivedi made a motion that the TAC adopt and approve the Air Quality Conformity Determination Report by resolution. Ms. Pam Graham seconded the motion and all of TCC approved the recommendation.

Haggard Avenue Corridor Study Phase 1

Ms. Graham presented a brief presentation on the portion of the corridor that Elon has identified as Phase 1. Ms. Graham explained to the TCC that the entire phase has been broken down into 3 phases. Ms. Graham mentioned the old Elon Elementary school was located within the Phase 1 corridor. Ms. Graham said Elon University now owns that property and has plans to create more student housing and classroom facilities. Ms. Graham stated staff of Elon feel there is great opportunity for that area, and think there will be development along there plus there is a lot of undeveloped University owned property along the corridor. Ms. Graham said they would like to be ahead of some of that development and see how Elon can get improvements to the corridor and guide some of the development for perviousness' as Elon sees further development for the next phases.

Ms. Graham said Phase 2 consisted of the side closest to Gibsonville where University Drive and Haggard Ave meet. Phase 3 corridor was made up of York Road east of University Drive / Webb Ave / NC-87. Ms. Graham said that Elon staff had a retreat with their Alderman earlier this year. Ms. Graham explained that at the retreat staff had narrowed it down to seven fairly significant capital improvement projects and during this time the board rated this study and implementation of the recommendations as # 1 out of seven projects. Ms. Graham said following through with the board's guidance staff is asking to frame Phase 1 as a \$50,000 project, ask for \$40,000 with the town's match of \$10,000 and then Elon would look to do these other phases subsequent to that.

Ms. Mallette said the funding was approved for the planning study for Elon in the amount of \$40,000. Chair Page said if the University is proposing a potential closing of what functions as one of the primary east/west connectors, it may be worth considering what improvements could be beneficial for the intersections at University for multi-modal consideration within this study. Chair Page questions if Elon had considered adding pedestrian improvements to those red flag intersections along University Drive, due to potential increase in traffic along those intersections if Elon does close Haggard. Ms. Mallette questioned according to the phasing breakdown why start in the middle as Phase 1, when there are two DOT projects on the other sides. Ms. Graham said Elon feels a sense of urgency due to the area being requested for closure is located inside of Phase 1 and also with the elementary school site located in this phase also there will be some short term development. M. Gilliam stated that there are other Universities in North Carolina that have roads going through campus and they don't typically close them off. Mr. Gilliam had concerns that by doing so it could potentially destroy a traffic pattern that is needed.

Mr. Nolan Kirkman made a motion to recommend TAC approval in the Town of Elon requesting \$40,000 in MPO PL planning funds (Special Studies) to conduct the Haggard Avenue Corridor Study - Phase 1. The funds are budgeted in the BGMPO 2019 - 2020 Unified Planning Work Program. Mr. Nishith Trivedi seconded the motion and all of TCC approved of the recommendation.

PTRM Socioeconomic Data Validation

The collection of socioeconomic data is a necessary step in the development of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and other regional long-range transportation planning efforts. Socioeconomic data collection and verification is a collaborative effort between the NCDOT, PART, and area MPOs and RPOs. BGMPO validation is needed for the 2017 Socioeconomic and Forecasted Data used as input in the Piedmont Triad Regional Model (PTRM). The travel demand model converts this data into vehicle trips on a simulated transportation network.

Mr. Kirstner gave a brief overview of the 2017 Base Year Update for the Travel Demand Model. Mr. Kirstner then introduced Mr. John Kim and Ms. Yu Jiang as the operations team behind the travel demand model. Mr. Kirstner said they would be discussing what the program consist of, why is there a travel demand model, how it works, the integration of land use and transportation use, a brief history of the process and what is to come next. Mr. Kirstner explained the current modeling program consist of four different elements, two of which are very similar and relatable to each other. Mr. Kirstner said one of those being the traditional travel demand model, it's been around since the early 2000s, and most have a pretty good idea on how it is used. Mr. Kirstner said we also have a freight model which is tour based (freight movements and trucks take a tour), this model has been developed, and in the process of collecting the travel survey data (local data) which is needed for this particular model to function. Mr. Kirstner explained that the freight model runs and then it provides input into the travel demand model. Mr. Kirstner said as far as transit planning and ridership projections PART uses two tools, Remix and Transit Boarding Estimation and Simulation Tool also known as TBEST. Mr. Kirstner explained PART is still in the developing stages with this software tool.

Mr. Kirstner stated there are many pieces that feed into the travel demand model not just the socioeconomic data, such as highway and street network data and also travel behavior. Mr. Kirstner said a household survey about travel will be established for the region beginning next year; there is some travel behavior data that feeds into this that has not been done in 8 -10 years. Mr. Kirstner said the base year data in 2017 has probably been the biggest refresh of the model itself, including a lot of in-house improvements. Mr. Kim presented to the TCC a basic concept on how the travel demand model works, what is the base model, the regional travel demand model and its components. Mr. Page questioned when PART anticipates the freight data being available to potentially use as a submission for the SPOT process. Mr. Kirstner said there were two pieces of the freight survey (local data) that PART needed, an establishment survey and a driver survey. Mr. Kirstner explained PART has successfully collect 100% data for the establishment survey but so far only 25% for the driver survey. Mr. Kirstner said PART was rebooting this survey in effort to finish collecting that particular data. Mr. Kirstner the survey is directed towards drivers such as plumbers, delivery trucks, basically any driver that is not a single occupancy vehicle or doesn't transport anyone. Mr. Kirstner urged TCC if they knew of any drivers to please share the website info ncfreight.org. Mr. Kirstner told Mr. Page once PART receives 100% of the data needed and being hopeful that by the time the next SPOT process rolls around it will be ready.

Ms. Mallette said staff is recommending the TAC adopt and approve the PTRM 2017 Socioeconomic Base Year and Forecasted Data by resolution. Mr. Nishith Trivedi made a motion to recommend the TAC adopt and approve the PTRM 2017 Socioeconomic Base Year and Forecasted Data by resolution. Mr. Mike Mills seconded the motion and all of TCC approved of the recommendation by resolution.

BGMPO Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update

The BGMPO is conducting an update to its Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). VHB, Inc. is developing the MTP 2045 plan update and is tasked with providing quarterly project updates. Ms. Zuyeva presented to the TCC a summary of the results from the MetroQuest public engagement process and the potential pool of MTP transportation projects. Ms. Zuyeva shared the importance of the travel demand model with the MTP development as it will be used for some of the scoring methodology as they develop their particular projects for the plan. Ms. Zuyeva asked that the TCC look over the project list and see if there are any duplicated projects or ones that need to be eliminated. Ms. Zuyeva explained that the list does not include the STIP projects which are already funded in the STIP but projects from other plans such as the CTP, and the older MTP. Ms. Zuyeva urged TCC to hold most discussion regarding the MTP update for the 1:00 PM Steering Committee meeting that afternoon. Mr. Bryson said having I40/I85 going through BGMPO area is one concern he had when it comes to using the Travel Demand Model. Mr. Bryson explained that I40/I85 is such a large chunk of vehicles miles traveled for this area. Mr. Bryson said there is a lot of different ways to changing the average speed so they are not going to look at just one number, VHB will break it down by facility type, freeways, arterials, collectors, and area types. Ms. Zuyeva presented a few optional ways to go about the project selection methodology. Ms. Zuyeva said these are different ideas on how you can add different elements to the project selection but a word of caution that in the project selection methodology some of the perimeters we can quantify the auto travel demand model and others perimeters might be more quantitated basis comparisons. Ms. Zuyeva said she wanted to address some of the concerns from the last meeting regarding the federally required performance measures and how this region could deal with either supporting the statewide performance measures or possibly adopting a separate set. Ms. Zuyeva shared that AMPO held a specific workgroup on developing performance measures back in 2011-2012 and here recent in 2018. Ms. Zuyeva said after reviewing the minutes it was clear that majority part of this group including larger agencies are saying that they supporting the statewide performance measures target and very rare did you hear in this group an agency adopting their own. Ms. Zuyeva said now what some agencies are choosing to do is support the federally required performance measures target that the state has identified so that they are still supporting those state targets and then they may add a few of their own targets that they are pursuing through their specific project

selection methodology in addition to the statewide targets. Ms. Zuyeva said in reviewing those minutes from the AMPO workgroup in 2018 and also reviewing some of the local documents here in our state, CRTPO and DCHC did support NCDOT state targets. Ms. Zuyeva said that from the consultant side VHB would not recommend BGMPO consider developing their own targets for federally require performance measures; VHB does think it would require significant lift in terms of budgeting and staff time.

Ms. Zuyeva said the MetroQuest survey was open during the month of August (July 30th - August 29th) and VHB received 137 responses. Ms. Zuyeva gave a brief overview to the TCC on the results of the MetroQuest survey. Ms. Zuyeva also shared there will be a Public Input meeting January 14, 2020 to review draft projects. Ms. Mallette said the meeting will be held at the Gibsonville Recreation Community Center from 5 PM - 7 PM. Ms. Zuyeva said in Early February 2020 there will be a Draft Plan release and also the 3rd Public Input meeting.

Mr. Geigle questioned if VHB had considered using probe data for congestion measures in lieu of volume capacity. Ms. Zuyeva for current condition VHB has not but as far as how that will be impacted by the future projects we don't have that piece of the puzzle so the travel demand model helps identify how investing in different corridors moves the needle in congestion. Ms. Zuyeva said real time data helps give a better look at today's conditions but not as much into the future. Mr. Bryson said it will help them when they compare what the model is saying versus the hearsay; hopefully get some correlation and help us have more confidence in the forecasting model.

NCDOT TPD Update

Ms. Mallette said that Mr. Vreeland could not attend the TCC meeting today but indicated that the CTP is under development. They are asking the TCC to bring forward any projects for CTP consideration as soon as possible. Ms. Mallette explained she would like to have a list of projects provided by the end of the month.

NCDOT Division Engineer Report

Mr. Mills stated not many changes since the last meeting due to NCDOT budgeting issues. Mr. Mills did say the All- Way stop at Durham Street and Elmira Street project was approved at the September Board meeting. Mr. Mills Mr. Mills said the intersection improvements at US 70 and University Drive is still on target with a let date of October 2020; ROW authorization has been completed and hopefully will start buying ROW later this year. Mr. Mills said a few project delays due to the budgeting issues that will push some projects out 2 - 3 years, including projects such as intersection

improvements at S Church Street and Huffman Mill Road now has a let date of August 2023 and NC 62 project Ramada Road and South Church Street now with a let date of November 2023. Mr. Mills said the widening project at Tarleton Ave to Fifth Street has been delayed with a let date of June 2024.

Other Business

Ms. Mallette reminded TCC of the SPOT 6.0 Project submission window which began October 1, 2019 and Ms. Mallette said she plans to accept projects until December 20, 2019. Ms. Mallette said also for upcoming TCC SPOT 6.0 subcommittee recommendation, that Ms. Mallette host a SPOT 6.0 submission workshop which is scheduled to be held this Friday, October 18, 2019 at 9:00 AM located in the Burlington Municipal Conference Room.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, Ms. Pam Graham made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Nishith Trivedi seconded the motion. All TCC members voted in favor. The TCC meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m. The next TCC meeting is scheduled on **December 20, 2019.**