

MINUTES

BURLINGTON-GRAHAM URBAN AREA TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2020 5PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Leonard Williams, Gibsonville (Chair)
Melody Wiggins, Graham
Jamezetta Bedford, Orange County
Eddie Boswell, Alamance County
Ken Jacobs, Whitsett
Monti Allison, Elon
Don Tichy, Village of Alamance
Ed Hooks, Mebane

OTHERS PRESENT

Lyuba Zuyeva, VHB
Scott Rhine, PART
Nathan Page, Graham
Katharine Eggleston, GoTriangle
Aaron Cain, DCHC MPO
Mike Nunn, Burlington

BGMPO STAFF PRESENT

Wannetta Mallette
Logan Hill

NCDOT STAFF PRESENT

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

FHWA STAFF PRESENT

Joe Geigle

Call to Order

Chair Williams called the January 21, 2020 TAC meeting to order at 5:42 pm and asked attendees to introduce themselves. During introductions Mr. Monti Allison introduced himself as the new Town of Elon representative. Ms. Melody Wiggins introduced herself as the new City of Graham representative. Chair Williams welcomed members and guests. Chair Williams announced that the TCC tabled Agenda Item #5 *NC54 West Corridor Study Update* but that the information would be presented to the TAC. He then asked if there were any additional changes to the agenda. There were no additional changes. Mr. Ken Jacobs made a motion to approve the January 21, 2020 TAC agenda. Mr. Eddie Boswell seconded the motion and all of TAC voted in approval. Chair Williams asked speakers from the floor to limit comments to three minutes per speaker. No public comments were made.

Ms. Wannetta Mallette read aloud the NC Ethics Statement for TAC members. There were no known conflicts of interest identified by TAC members.

Approval of Minutes from October 15, 2019 TAC Meeting

Chair Williams requested a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Mr. Ken Jacobs made a motion to approve the October 15, 2019 TAC meeting minutes. Ms. Jamezetta Bedford seconded the motion and all of TAC voted in approval.

Election of TAC 2020 Officers

Ms. Mallette conducted the 2020 election of TAC officers. Ms. Mallette received one nomination for Chair that of Mr. Leonard Williams, Mayor of Gibsonville and one nomination for Vice Chair, Mr. Bob Ward, City of Burlington. Nominations were then taken from the floor. No additional nominations were made. Mr. Boswell made a motion to approve the nominations. Mr. Ed Hooks seconded the nominations and all of the TAC voted in approval. Chair Williams presided over the remainder of the meeting.

Approval of 2020 TAC Calendar

Ms. Mallette presented the 2020 TAC meeting calendar for approval. Mr. Eddie Boswell made a motion to approve the 2020 TAC meeting calendar. Mr. Monti Allison seconded the motion and all of TAC voted in approval.

NC 54 West Corridor Study Update

Mr. Aaron Cain presented an update of the NC 54 West Corridor Study approval process by jurisdictions. The Carrboro Board of Alderman adopted a resolution opposing the recommendation to widen NC 54. Carrboro had environmental impact concerns; that the widening would attract more cars to NC 54; and the proposed widening would change the rural and community character. The Chapel Hill Town Council expressed interest in transit improvements and timing any future widening to address congestion issues. Orange County has made the NC 54 widening and bike and pedestrian improvements a priority for STI submission and evaluation. Orange County and DCHC approved receiving the study and working with local jurisdictions to improve safety and operational improvements and to work with TARPO and BGMPO on future improvements. Mr. Cain discussed possible SPOT submission sponsors for various NC 54 roadway segment improvements.

Ms. Mallette reminded the TAC that the TCC tabled the agenda item until after determining Alamance County's position. However, the TAC could also table the item; receive the report as information; or adopt the report and approve its recommendations in entirety. Chair Williams requested comments from TCC Chair Nathan Page. Mr. Page replied as the largest portion of NC 54 within the BGMPO boundary lies within Alamance County and its extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) the TCC wanted to

determine if the County Commissioners wanted to proceed. Mr. Boswell commented that with the growth experienced by both Alamance and Orange counties, the BGMPO needs to adopt the plan. Mr. Jacobs seconded. Ms. Bedford agreed. Mr. Mills said that Board member Mike Fox supports widening as NC 54 in the vicinity of Carrboro that is over capacity. NCDOT took the stance of not implementing operation improvements within Orange County. Mr. Cain countered that everyone should be working collaboratively towards solutions that work well for all jurisdictions. There being no further discussion, Mr. Hooks amended his motion to adopt the NC 54 West Study adding TAC support of widening the portion of NC 54 within Orange County. The motion was seconded by Mr. Boswell and all of TAC voted in favor.

Greater Triangle Commuter Rail Project

Ms. Katharine Eggleston presented an overview of the Greater Triangle Commuter Rail project. She explained the project is in the investigative stage and more study is needed to provide elected officials the data needed for decision making including a risk assessment. The Greater Triangle Community Rail study examined scenarios that extended service to Johnston County/Selma and Orange County/Mebane. The preliminary findings limit service from West Durham to Garner where there is a very strong park and ride opportunity in eastern Wake County. Building the infrastructure now increases the likelihood of the funding in future years should I-40 congestion continue to worsen. Ms. Eggleston explained that the new commuter line will serve both public and private operators and the public operator would have access to private tracks. Transit projects assessed for the peer analysis have lower costs due to the ability of operating on existing lines or abandoned lines. Commuter rail is typically focused on travel during peak commuting hours operating at least two trains during the morning an evening. For comparison, Charlotte's 18-mile light rail system is an all-day service that runs every 10-15 minutes during peak periods. Charlotte's rail system is considered successful as they have thousands of riders per day. The study also assumes surface parking at most of the stations. There being no further discussion, Ms. Bedford complimented Ms. Eggleston on her work and straightforwardness.

FY 21 Unified Planning Work Program

Ms. Mallette presented an overview of the FY 21 BGMPO Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The UPWP details work tasks undertaken by the BGMPO in the upcoming fiscal year. The FY 2019 allocation of MPO's Metropolitan Planning (PL) funds is estimated at \$213,179 in addition to \$20,000 in Section 5303 and \$120,000 in Section 5307 for Transit Planning from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The budget includes one Special Study - the Mebane Park and Ride Relocation Study and a new GIS/Transportation Planner position. While it is the mission of the BGMPO to complete work planned within a program year, task elements may span fiscal years and therefore are carried forward into subsequent work programs until completion. There

being no further discussion, Mr. Boswell made a motion to recommend the TAC release the UPWP for a 30-day public review period. Chair Williams seconded the motion and the TAC voted in approval.

BGMPO Performance Targets

Ms. Mallette explained that the BGMPO is federally required to establish and show demonstrable progress towards meeting annual performance targets that meet federal national performance goals and reflect those targets in their TIPs, MTPs and MPO Planning Agreements with transit agencies, NCDOT and other planning partners. MPO's can agree to adopt NCDOT's targets or commit to developing its own quantifiable performance measures. Ms. Mallette informed the TAC members that the safety measures are put in place to support the Highway Safety Improvement Program; to access fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads. The MPO must establish their targets within 180 days or 6 months of the state establishing and reporting its targets or no later than February 27th of each year.

Mr. Boswell made a motion recommending TAC adoption of NCDOT's 2020 performance targets. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. All of TAC voted in favor of the motion.

BGMPO Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update

Ms. Lyuba Zuyeva thanked the TAC members who attended the public meeting on January 14, 2020 at the Gibsonville Community Center and reported that VHB was working on the draft MTP plan and network deficiency analysis. Ms. Zuyeva explained the fiscal constraint takes into account the Federal and State funding that has historically been made available to this region. VHB's approach was looking at the history of funding for this region over the last ten years previously programmed, calculating a non per capita bases and then rejecting some of those funding amounts. She did not have the results of the model runs as difficulty arose with getting the Triad Travel Demand Model working.

Ms. Bedford questioned the impacts of redrawing MPO boundaries based on the 2020 Census. Ms. Zuyeva responded that it is difficult to predict how large the urbanized area boundary will grow. VHB projects the planning area population will continue to grow within the existing urbanized area.

NCDOT Division Engineer Report

Mr. Mills provided an overview of the BGMPO Division 7 Engineer Report and an update of projects on the suspension/hold list.

Other Business

Ms. Mallette reminded the TAC of the next MTP Public Meeting on March 10, 5 - 7 p.m., Mebane Community and Arts Center. She said staff had uploaded most of the P6.0 projects in SPOT Online and will provide the preliminary scores by the next meeting.

Adjournment

Chair Williams requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Bedford made the motion and Ms. Wiggins seconded. The TAC unanimously approved the motion and the meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m. The next TAC meeting is scheduled on **February 18, 2020**.