

MINUTES

**BURLINGTON-GRAHAM URBAN AREA
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2017
5:00 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ken Jacobs, Whitsett
Lee Kimrey, Graham
Steve Buff, Elon
Nolan Kirkman, Burlington
Bob Ward, Burlington
Eddie Boswell, Alamance
Alan Branson, Guilford
Carissa Graves, Green Level

NCDOT STAFF PRESENT

Hemang Surti, NCDOT- TPB
Mike Mills, NCDOT- Division 7

Other Present

Scott Rhine, PART
Mia Holshouser, Granite Sky

BGMPO STAFF PRESENT

Mike Nunn
Wannetta Mallette
Carley Maynard

Call to Order

Vice Chairman Bob Ward presided in the absence of Chair Williams and called the October 17, 2017 Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting to order and welcomed all members and guests.

Approval of Minutes / Changes to Agenda

Vice Chairman Ward asked if there were any changes to the agenda or corrections to the minutes from the August 15, 2017 TAC meeting. No changes were made to the agenda and there were no corrections to the minutes. Eddie Boswell made a motion to approve the minutes, Alan Branson seconded the motion. All TAC voted in approval.

Vice Chairman Ward requested any speakers from the floor to limit their comments to three minutes per speaker. There were no speakers from the floor. Wannetta Mallette read aloud the Conflict of Interest statement provided by the NC Ethics Commission. No conflicts were stated and the meeting proceeded.

Piedmont Triad Regional Freight Study / Community Viz (Carryover Item)

The Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation (PART) Executive Director, Scott Rhine provided an overview of operations and an update of the Piedmont Triad Advanced Freight Study. PART maintains the Piedmont Triad Regional Model (PTRM) for the counties of Alamance, Davidson, Guilford, Forsyth, and portions of Orange, Randolph, Davie, Rockingham, and Stokes counties. PART began serving as the custodian of the regional travel demand model in 2002 for NCDOT and four area MPOs (Burlington-Graham, High Point, Winston-Salem and Greensboro Urban Area). PART has a staff member that is dedicated to maintaining the regional model and works cooperatively with MPO staff on updates. Mr. Rhine described the computer program used to replicate and forecast regional travel patterns. He explained that the travel demand model analyzes modal traffic counts, road trips, and socioeconomic data.

In 2014, PART was awarded FHWA Strategic Highway Research Program Performance Measures for Highway Capacity Decision Making (SHRP2 CO2) funds through a very competitive grant process. The growth in freight and its importance to national, state and regional economies have resulted in the expansion of the regional travel demand model to include freight. PART used the grant funds to determine how freight can be integrated into the Travel Demand Model and improve the planning process. Mr. Rhine described the three phases of the freight study. Phase 1, developed in 2015, was a massive data collection effort that included surveying freight carriers. Items of particular interest were written comments related to “problem” areas for truck drivers. Identification of problematic areas will identify future transportation needs and assess freight travel routes. That information was shared with all of the regional MPOs.

Phase II was the development of an enhanced freight tour-based model in 2016. PART has elected to build an enhanced freight tour-based model to calculate freight trips separately from other trips. Mr. Rhine explained that this step involved collecting a travel diary from the main carriers. An output from that effort was the creation of a dashboard that will be useful for Phase III. Phase III will begin in 2018 and is funded in part with NCDOT State Planning and Research (SPR) funds. Phase III consists of replicating true travel demand movements. Mr. Rhine said they are nearing completion the project. The next steps are to replicate actual travel demand movements. At the conclusion of his presentation, Mr. Rhine then accepted questions from TAC members.

Mr. Kimrey questioned the model’s ability to account for recent area development growth such as the Walmart distribution center or Sheetz. Mr. Rhine responded that

PART collects traffic generation data on a phased approach using various sources such as census data and comprehensive development plan information. Mr. Rhine provided an overview of the Comprehensive Transportation Plan update and approval process. PART can now include that data into the base and forecast years. Mr. Rhine stated the model new base year will be 2019 with forecast years in 2025, 2035 and 2045 including interim years. The base year will include development changes up to 2018. There were no further questions.

Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) Amendment

Hemang Surti, NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch (TPB) provided the CTP amendment update. The TPB presented four alternatives to amend the CTP to the TCC at their August 15, 2017 meeting. The TCC recommended Alternative 4 - to remove the portion of the Southern Alamance Loop as requested by City of Graham through an immediate amendment to the BGMPO CTP. The TAC approved the recommendation and expediting the process. The BGMPO held a public meeting on September 14, 2017 at the City of Graham Council Chambers. Twelve people attended the meeting and there were no public comments made by September 30, 2017 deadline. Mr. Surti said during the October 17, 2017 morning TCC meeting, TCC members made a motion to recommend approval of the CTP amendment to the TAC. Mr. Surti stated based on the decision of the TAC, NCDOT will place the item on the November 2017 NCDOT Board of Transportation (BOT) meeting agenda. Upon BOT approval, the amendment maps will become official and that portion of the loop will be removed.

Mr. Hemang recommended the TAC vote on the resolution. Vice Chairman Ward asked the TAC if there was any further discussion. Hearing none, Vice Chairman Ward requested a motion to adopt the resolution and approve the amended CTP plan maps. Mr. Kimrey made the motion for approval and Ms. Carissa Graves seconded. All TAC members present voted in favor.

STIP Transit Amendment - Link Transit

Mr. Nunn provided an overview of the STIP amendment. Link Transit is a recipient of Federal Transit Administration Section 5307 grant in the amount of \$503,767 to support operating, capital and planning activities. Mr. Nunn said the allocation would be matched with local funds.

With no questions or comments from the TAC members, Vice Chairman Ward entertained a motion to adopt the resolution. Eddie Boswell made the motion for approval and Carissa Graves seconded the motion. All TAC members voted in favor.

STIP Transit Amendment - PART

Mr. Rhine provided an overview of the PART STIP amendment and grant funding request. PART is the recipient of a NCDOT Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program grant in the amount of \$215,800. PART transferred the CMAQ grant funds from FHWA to FTA and requested a STIP amendment to use the funds for its Route 4 services in the Burlington-Graham MPO. Route 4 is a very successful transit route and all buses are at full capacity with standing room only.

Alan Branson made a motion for approval. Ms. Graves seconded the motion. All TAC members voted in favor.

Approval of the Prioritization 5.0 Project Submission List

Wannetta Mallette presented an overview of the BGMPO Prioritization 5.0. Earlier this year the BGMPO requested SPOT 5.0 projects submittals under the adopted MPO prioritization methodology. The BGMPO is eligible to submit up to 17 projects per transportation mode to the SPOT office for evaluation. TAC members had until August 31, 2017 to confirm any carryover projects and or submit any new projects. All projects submitted to the BGMPO by the deadline were entered in to the SPOT system for evaluation and a preliminary scoring. The 17 highest ranking projects were submitted to TAC members for review on September 28, 2017 and to the SPOT office on September 29. Ms. Mallette apologized for the short deadline provided by the NCDOT SPOT office staff.

Ms. Mallette reminded the TAC members that the scores were preliminary and subject to change upon future evaluation by the SPOT office based on travel time savings metrics. A public review session is scheduled for Wednesday November 15, 2017 from 6 PM to 8 PM at the City of Burlington Municipal Conference Room, 425 S. Lexington Avenue. In closing Ms. Mallette said the period to assign Local Input Points would occur next spring.

Ms. Mallette then acknowledged Abigaile Pittman. Ms. Pittman, on behalf of Orange County, raised concerns about the BGMPO ranking methodology and asked if location

and economic development benefit were considered as weighted criterion. Ms. Pittman said the TCC agreed to form a SPOT Prioritization Subcommittee to review the SPOT 5.0 local project rankings and evaluation process and develop new criteria for selecting projects. Ms. Pitman also stated that four TCC meetings a year were not enough to discuss pertinent issues and meet NCDOT deadlines. TCC members she spoke with were in agreement to meet on a more frequent basis.

Mr. Kimrey asked if there would be geographical diversity among the subcommittee members. Ms. Pittman responded that some TCC members volunteered. Ms. Mallette said there was representation from Mebane, Graham, Burlington, Alamance and Orange Counties. NCDOT members will serve as advisors.

Vice Chairman Ward asked TAC members what were the next steps. Ms. Mallette replied that the TCC would vote on the subcommittee recommendations and forward their actions to the TAC for approval. Mr. Kimrey confirmed the subcommittee would oversee the SPOT prioritization process for selecting future projects. Vice Chairman Ward entertained a motion for adoption of the process. Eddie Boswell made a motion to adopt the process. Mr. Kimrey seconded the motion and all TAC members voted in favor.

Ms. Mallette requested approval of the BGMPO SPOT 5.0 Project List and release for public review and comment. Ms. Graves made a motion for approval and Mr. Branson seconded the motion. All TAC members voted in approval.

NCDOT Board Member Update

Mike Fox was not able to attend the meeting and will provide an update at the next TAC meeting.

Division Engineer Report

Mike Mills presented the Division 7 Engineer Report. Mr. Mills reported on bridge replacement projects. Mr. Mills also announced that NCDOT public comments for the I 40/85 improvement project was available for review. The second NC 62 public meeting is scheduled for Spring 2018. Right-of-way acquisition and environmental studies are underway. NCDOT is meeting with individual property owners to address design concerns. Mr. Mills also presented an overview of the High-Impact/Low-Cost program. NCDOT is tasked to develop quantitative criteria to use in selecting projects to receive funding under this program. Mr. Mills distributed the 12 criteria that can be used to identify candidate projects. Mr. Mills stated that any new criteria will most likely be

evaluated in Year 2. Each of the Department's 14 Divisions will identify respective project scoring criteria (a minimum of 7) and projects by December 1, 2017. Division 7's allocation of High Impact/ Low Cost project funding is \$3.4 million over a two-year period. Mr. Mills requested the TCC and TAC review the criteria and provide comments and projects for consideration by October 20, 2017. Ms. Mallette will forward the information to the TCC and TAC and offered to accept project submittals on behalf of NCDOT.

Other Business

Ms. Mallette stated the NCDOT is requiring the adoption of a fiscally constrained 2017-2028 STIP. Ms. Mallette requested approval of the BGMPO STIP Fiscal Constraint statement. Vice Chairman Ward asked if any TAC members had questions regarding the fiscal constraint policy. There being no questions from the TAC members, Vice Chairman Ward requested a motion for approval. Mr. Boswell made a motion to adopt a fiscally constrained 2017 - 2028 STIP and Ms. Graves seconded the motion. All TAC members voted in favor.

Ms. Mallette said that NCDOT requires a 20% local match for non-highway STIP projects and referred TAC members to the template included in the agenda packets. Eligible TAC members will be notified when the letter is required.

Mia Holshouser, Owner of Granite Sky Civic Design, provided an overview of the BGMPO website redesign and brand logo development schedule and project tasks. Ms. Holshouser said the project will be completed by December 31, 2017 and she will present the redesigned website at the January 2018 TAC meeting. Mr. Nunn reminded the TAC that the website had not been updated since 2002 and that a redesign was long overdue.

Mr. Kimrey expressed his gratitude to the TAC on behalf of the City of Graham and Council for supporting removal of the Southern Loop through Graham by CTP amendment.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the TAC, Vice Chairman Ward adjourned the meeting at 6:14 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 16, 2018.**