

MINUTES

**BURLINGTON-GRAHAM URBAN AREA
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2020
VIA CONFERENCE CALL
5PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Leonard Williams, Gibsonville (Chair)
Bob Ward, Burlington (Vice Chair)
Melody Wiggins, Graham
Jamezetta Bedford, Orange County
Monti Allison, Elon
Mike Fox, BOT
Ken Jacobs, Whitsett

BGMPO STAFF PRESENT

Wannetta Mallette

NCDOT STAFF PRESENT

Mike Mills, NCDOT Division 7

FHWA PRESENT

Joe Geigle

OTHERS PRESENT

Nolan Kirkman, Burlington
Mike Nunn, Burlington
Scott Rhine, PART
Nathan Page, TCC Vice Chair/Graham
Lyuba Zuyeva, VHB

Call to Order

Vice Chairman Mr. Bob Ward called the May 19, 2020 TAC meeting to order at 5:11 p.m. and introduced all members and guests.

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

Approval of Minutes from April 21, 2020 TAC Meeting

Vice Chair Ward requested a motion to approve the May 19, 2020 TAC meeting minutes. Ms. Melody Wiggins made a motion to approve and Ms. Jamezetta Bedford seconded the motion. TAC members on the conference call voted in approval by voice vote and the motion carried.

BGMPO Public Involvement Plan

Ms. Mallette provided a brief overview of the draft Public Involvement Plan revisions and approval process. The draft Public Involvement Plan was presented to the TCC and TAC at their respective March 17, 2020 meetings. The TAC released the plan for a 45-day public comment period and no public comments were made or received by the end of the comment period.

Ms. Wiggins made a motion to recommend the TAC approve the public involvement plan. Mr. Monti Allison seconded the motion and all of the TAC members on the conference call voted in approval by voice vote. The motion carried.

BGMPO Section 5307 Suballocation MOU

Ms. Mallette provided an overview of the FTA Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Program and explained that the BGMPO is tasked with distributing the funds in an equitable manner to eligible regional public transportation providers that request funds. The FTA requires that MPO's specify the procedures for programming its transit funding, develop a clear method of suballocating the funding among its urbanized transit operators, and include the programming of projects in its planning documents including the UPWP and TIP.

Ms. Mallette explained that the BGMPO suballocation methodology and corresponding Memorandum of Understanding is performance based and the National Transit Database statistics and transit providers' short range and long range plan recommendations were used to evaluate system needs. The transit agencies collectively approved designating 80% for operating assistance and 20% reserved for capital needs of the regional Section 5307 allocation.

Mr. Allison made a motion to recommend TAC approval of the BGMPO Section 5307 Suballocation Memorandum of Understanding. Mr. Mike Fox seconded the motion and the TAC members on the conference call voted in approval by voice vote. The motion carried.

Transit Agencies' STIP Amendments

Ms. Mallette presented the STIP Amendments corresponding to the recently suballocated FFY 21 Section 5307 funding in the amount of \$2,223,658 to Link Transit, Orange County Public Transportation, Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation and the Alamance County Transportation Authority. As the TAC has approved the FY 21 UPWP and TIP at their March 2020 meeting STIP amendments are required.

Vice Chair Ward then called for the motion to approve the transit agencies' STIP amendments. Mr. Fox made the motion to approve and Ms. Wiggins seconded the motion and all the TAC members on the conference call approved the motion by voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Leonard Williams joined the conference call.

Draft P6.0 Project List

Ms. Mallette presented the BGMPO Draft P6.0 Project List that was tabled pending additional information from NCDOT regarding the scoring of cascaded projects. NCDOT's response, emailed to the TCC on April 24, 2020, was that Regional Impact projects may have higher scores due to the amount of traffic on NC and US routes. Regional Impact projects may also score differently when cascaded down to Division Needs due to differing criteria weights. Ms. Mallette explained the Draft P6.0 Project List was revised to include two rail projects previously deleted. She requested the TAC release the draft list for a 30-day public comment period.

Vice Chair Ward asked Ms. Mallette to read an email sent by Mr. Ed Hooks. Ms. Mallette summarized Mr. Hook's letter that noted "the City of Mebane is supporting the projects ultimately recommended for prioritization and funding in P6.0 by the BGMPO and has reservations about the BGMPO's methodology in determining these priorities. It is our hope that the members of BGMPO will be interested in working with Mebane to develop a prioritization method that better reflects the region's needs and values. These include inconsistent reflection of 2020 traffic patterns and volumes, especially to the region's east, and an inability to effectively communicate with the Triangle Regional Model used by both the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro MPO and the Triangle Area Rural Planning Organization that neighbor the BGMPO suggested that the method for selecting projects for the 17 projects on the SPOT 6.0 list be revised for the next SPOT 7.0 submission period."

Ms. Bedford also emailed the TAC members a letter she summarized and stated that geographic equity should be considered as a metric for P6.0 project selection and SPOT evaluation. In addition, Ms. Bedford said the BGMPO Draft P6.0 Project List should include projects that are included in the MTP and use transportation metrics that reflect current growth trends, freight movement, and support local economic development initiatives. Ms. Bedford requested the TAC approve a motion to revise the process for selecting BGMPO P6.0 projects for submission to SPOT Online. Mr. Fox explained the process of project scoring and the processes used by area MPOs. Mr. Fox said that there are options to review and change the project list at a later date. Ms. Bedford clarified her position that changing the criteria should be considered for the next round of submissions to allow time to fully review the process. Mr. Nathan Page suggested P7.0 selection

criteria be finalized prior to the start of P7.0 rather than requiring the BGMPO to develop the new criteria within a one-year time frame. Ms. Bedford amended the timing to be flexible and reasonable.

There being no further discussion, Vice Chair Ward requested a motion to approve release of the Draft P6.0 Project List for a 30 day public comment period and to reevaluate the BGMPO methodology for selecting projects for P7.0 within a flexible and reasonable time period. Ms. Wiggins made the motion to approve and Mr. Ken Jacobs seconded the motion. The following TAC members on the conference call voted Aye: Mayor Leonard Williams, Mr. Bob Ward, Ms. Melody Wiggins, Mr. Monti Allison, Mr. Mike Fox, and Mr. Ken Jacobs. Ms. Bedford voted No. The motion passed by majority vote.

MTP 2025- 2045 update

Ms. Lyuba Zuveya summarized the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) May 12, 2020 virtual public input meeting. VHB will accept public comments until June 12th via email or posted to the project website. Public meeting materials including a copy of the presentation, online maps of recommended projects, and an online survey were also uploaded to the project website after the public meeting. The goals of the 2045 MTP are to help guide regional prioritization, future complete street studies, transit system expansions, and small area plan development. Updating the plan frequently will be necessary due to COVID-19 issues. The fiscally constraint recommendations include 38 highway and 14 bicycle and pedestrian projects. The draft 2045 MTP is expected to be finalized and adopted by the June 16, 2020 TAC meeting.

Vice Chair Ward thanked Ms. Zuveya for the update.

NCDOT BOT Update

Mr. Fox explained that due to Covid-19 NCDOT revenues decreased significantly. NCDOT is expected to lose more than \$300 million by the end of the fiscal year. NCDOT has made a number of adjustments to compensate including prioritizing construction and safety projects and furloughing employees.

FHWA

No update

NCDOT Division Engineer Report

Mr. Mills presented the May 2020 Division 7 Engineer's Report. The interchange project in Mebane would be awarded as the contractor met their MBE goals. Due to COVID-19 and the resulting revenue shortfalls, the number of Division projects with Preliminary Engineering underway have been reduced from 30 to 10. Projects that will be moving

forward in the construction process includes a bridge project on NC 87, Graham Hopedale and US 70, the University Drive and US 70 intersection project and projects funded by grants or GARVEE bonds. Decreased travel is expected to generate a revenue loss of over \$300 million in gas and new car taxes during the months of June and July. NCDOT cannot enter into any new contracts (with the exception of NC Bond projects), supplemental agreements or purchase new materials not already under contract. The revenue shortfall also has impacted road maintenance and debris and trash removal and NCDOT will furlough employees in May and June.

Adjournment

Vice Chair Ward requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Bedford made the motion seconded by Mr. Fox. The TAC members on the conference call unanimously approved the motion to adjourn and the meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m. The next TAC meeting is scheduled on **June 16, 2020**.