

MINUTES

BURLINGTON-GRAHAM URBAN AREA TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE TUESDAY, May 16, 2017 5PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Leonard Williams, Gibsonville
Bob Ward, Burlington
Eddie Boswell, Alamance County
Carissa Graves, Green Level
Ken Jacobs, Whitsett
Ed Hooks, City of Mebane
Lee Kimrey, City of Graham
Mark Marcoplos, Orange County
Barry Jacobs, Orange County
Don Tichy, Village of Alamance

BGMPO STAFF PRESENT

Mike Nunn
Wannetta Mallette
Carley Maynard

NCDOT STAFF PRESENT

James Trogdon, Secretary of Transportation
Mike Fox, Board of Transportation
Mike Mills, Division 7
Michael Orr, TPB

Others Present

Scott Rhine, PART
Nolan Kirkman, City of Burlington

Call to Order

Chairman Williams called the May, 16, 2017 TAC meeting to order and introduced all members and guests. Chairman Williams asked if there were any corrections or additions to the agenda. There were none. Chairman Williams asked for any speakers from the floor to limit comments to 3 minutes per speaker. No public comments were made. Wannetta Mallette read aloud the Conflict of Interest statement provided by the NC Ethics Commission. No conflicts were stated and the meeting proceeded.

Chairman Williams welcomed and introduced returning NCDOT Board of Transportation member Mike Fox.

Mr. Fox introduced James Trogdon, NCDOT Secretary of Transportation and commended his outstanding career as a public servant. Secretary Trogdon was appointed by Governor Cooper in January 2017. He is a registered professional engineer with more than 30 years of experience in transportation and has held numerous roles within the public and private sectors. He first joined NCDOT in 1985 and was named Division 4 Engineer in 2000. He also served as NCDOT's Chief Operations Officer from 2009 until he retired in 2013, and he previously worked as the Director of Strategic Transportation Planning for the North Carolina General Assembly.

In addition, Secretary Trogdon has more than three decades of military service, and he retired in 2016 as the Deputy Adjutant General for the N.C. National Guard.

Secretary Trogdon thanked Mr. Fox for his warm introduction, BGMPO staff and TAC members for inviting him, and announced plans to visit most NC MPOs by August. The Secretary outlined NCDOT priorities that include improving project delivery to decrease cash reserves, reducing motor vehicle fatalities and serious injury accidents by improving safety, infrastructure enhancements, investing in transportation technology and improving mobility and connections between transportation modes.

Secretary Trogdon stated that NCDOT is fast-tracking the project construction process to reduce NCDOT cash reserves below \$1 billion. Division staff will meet with MPOs to develop alternative weighting criteria as an option for ranking SPOT 5.0 projects. Projects in the TIP that are less than \$2 million and shovel-ready (ROW and environmental completed) can be advanced for construction. He requested the TAC write their legislators in support of accelerating area transportation projects.

The Secretary supports the use of pre-fab construction for bridges and the development of a state toll road policy. The TAC discussed the need for improvements to HWY 70. Secretary Trogdon acknowledged that Hwy 70 did not score well in SPOT 4.0. He requested Board Member Fox and Mr. Mills reevaluate the SPOT 5.0 analysis. He is also recommending revisions to the prioritization process to reflect regional project comparisons.

Board of Transportation Member Update

Mike Fox thanked the TAC members for welcoming him back and is pleased to once again serve the BGMPO. He requested members contact him with any issues needing to be addressed.

Approval of Minutes / Changes to Agenda

Chairman Williams asked for any comments or corrections to the minutes from the March 21, 2017 TAC meeting. Ed Hooks made a motion to approve the minutes, Lee Kimrey seconded the motion. All TAC voted in approval.

Southern Loop Transportation Model Analysis

Michael Orr, NCDOT-Transportation Planning Branch (TPB) presented an overview of the Southern Loop planning level traffic study and the TPB revised recommendations. Mr. Orr acknowledged the Graham City Council October 2016 resolution not to protect the Southern Loop right-of-way. The TPB conducted a MTP-2040 travel demand model analysis to assess the impact of the Southern Loop removal through Graham. The study scope was limited to the immediate vicinity of NC 49 to Cherry Lane (SR 2123). The model analysis indicated diminished Level of Service (LOS E) on a portion of NC-87 south of I-40 by year 2040. NCDOT-TPB advised the TCC to take no action to remove

the Southern Loop from the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) until after the CTP is revised with the development of the next Metropolitan Transportation Plan update (due for adoption in year 2020). The CTP update is expected to take 18 months.

Lee Kimrey provided an overview of Graham Council actions taken to remove the Southern Loop that included an October resolution and continued opposition to preserve the alignment on development maps. After further discussion, Secretary Trogdon stated that he is in support of Graham’s desires and will assist the city to remove the Southern Loop.

Division Engineer Report

Mike Mills reported the NC 62 public meeting held on May 15 was well attended and over 21 comments were submitted. NCDOT will host another public meeting next Spring to present draft plans. Construction is expected to begin in 2020.

Mr. Mills then provided an overview of BGMPO Project List. The following projects were highlighted:

- The Church Street @ Williamson and Church Street @ Graham-Hopedale Road intersection improvement are scheduled for construction, summer 2018.
- Mebane-Oaks @ I-40 interchange is funded and design work completed.
- The 119 Bypass (Section A) bid letting is scheduled on May 9. The project is on a very aggressive construction schedule.
- The 119 (Section B) will begin right-of-way acquisition, summer 2017 with contract letting in 2018

PART Express Route Changes Update

Scott Rhine, PART Executive Director, announced the grand opening of the new PART Intermodal Transportation Center on May 17, 2017 and presented an update of PART system changes. Mr. Rhine’s presentation included an overview of system funding, capital investments and year-to-date and proposed route changes and ridership by service area. PART has developed a new fare equalization structure for its urban and rural routes. The following proposed changes will be presented at the next PART Board meeting on Wednesday May 17, 2017. PART will solicit public comments until the date of the scheduled public hearing June 14, 2017:

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| Route 1 Winston Salem | Discontinue Federal Building stop, add Innovation Quarter stop |
| Route 3 High Point | Designate fixed/timed bus stops along Hwy 68 |
| Routes 1, 2 and 3 | Extended weekday service to 9:30 p.m. |
| Route 4 Alamance/ Burlington | Additional AM and PM rush hour bus and discontinue Whitsett stop |

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| Route 5 Amtrak Connector | Schedule will now coincidence train schedule |
| Route 6 Surry County | Add stop at King, combine Route 12, and discontinue Novant Frontis and Kimel Park stops. |
| Route 8 Davidson County | Discontinued, vanpool offered |
| Route 10 Randolph County | Greensboro hospital stops discontinued, reduce headways, expand service |
| Route 13 Yadkin County | Discontinued, vanpool offered |
| Route 14 Davie County | Discontinued, vanpool offered |
| Route 17 Kernersville/ Winston-Salem Shuttle | Additional mid-day VA Center service |
| Route 18 - Kernersville/ PART Regional Hub | Additional mid-day service |
| Airport Shuttles | Extended service to 9:30 p.m. and Saturday service beginning September 30th |

Other Reports:

Wannetta Mallette reported that the BGMPO is in the process of updating its website. RFP's were solicited last month and Granite Sky Civic Design was selected as the Consultant. The \$21,800 contract is pending NCDOT approval. The project is expected to begin June 2017 and take approximately 17 weeks to complete. TAC members are listed as project stakeholders and are requested to provide content and site review during the beta testing phase.

Mike Nunn presented the Link Transit update. Link Transit will celebrate its one-year anniversary on June 6, 2017 and will commemorate the event, June 5 - 9 with week-long promotions including "Fare Free Week" and giveaways at the Worth Street transfer center. Link Transit exceeded 75,000 riders in April, and predicts over 80,000 annual riders by June; an average of 6,800 riders per month. Over 50% of the riders are using the Link Transit system for school, work, shopping and medical trips. The Red, Purple, and Orange routes are the system's highest demand routes. Transdev ranked Link Transit highest in safety of all of its similarly-sized systems in the region.

Link Transit offers riders the capability of tracking real-time bus route information via the TransLoc App, texting Link Transit the stop number to determine bus arrival times, or calling Link Transit Customer Service, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Mr. Nunn said Link Transit future plans include:

- Accepting credit cards for fare card payments
- More fare options - 30 day pass, etc.
- Additional bus shelters (an \$8,000 to \$10,000 investment)
- Sidewalk connection improvements, and
- Evaluating extended weekday service hours and weekend service

Adjournment

Chairman Williams adjourned the TAC meeting at approximately 6:48 p.m. The next meeting is set for August 15, 2017.