

MINUTES

**BURLINGTON-GRAHAM URBAN AREA
TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021
VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS
9AM**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Nishith Trivedi, Orange County (Chair)
Mike Nunn, Burlington (Vice Chair)
Mark E. Kirstner, PART
Brandon Parker, Gibsonville
Theo Letman, OCPT
Tonya Caddle, Alamance County
Cy Stober, Mebane
Pam DeSoto, Elon
Nolan Kirkman, Burlington
Dan Danieleley, Burlington Alamance
Regional Airport
Nathan Page, Graham
Ashley Owensby, Mebane
Meg Scully, GoTriangle
Jay Heikes, GoTriangle
Ralph Gilliam, ACTA

BGMPO STAFF PRESENT

Wannetta Mallette
Blake Cashmore

NCDOT STAFF PRESENT

Tamara Njegovan, NCDOT Division 7
Stephen Robinson, NCDOT Division 7
Daryl Vreeland, NCDOT TPD
Brian Mayhew, Traffic Safety Unit
Brian Murphy, Safety Planning Group

FHWA STAFF PRESENT

Suzette Morales

OTHERS PRESENT

Call to Order

Chair Nathan Page called the January 19, 2021 TCC meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. and welcomed all members and guests. Ms. Wannetta Mallette conducted the membership roll call and established a quorum.

Chair Page asked for public comments or speakers from the floor. No public comments were made and there were no speakers from the floor. Chair Page then presented the draft agenda for adoption and requested a motion to approve. No changes were made to the draft agenda. Ms. Pam DeSoto made the motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Cy Stober seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Election of 2021 TCC Officers

Ms. Mallette stated per MPO bylaws, the TCC elects a Chair and Vice Chair the first meeting of the calendar year. She reported receiving two nominations, Mr. Nishith Trivedi for Chair and Mr. Mike Nunn for Vice Chair. Ms. Mallette then opened the floor for nominations. There were no additional nominations for Chair or Vice Chair. Mr. Page made the motion to elect the Chair and Vice Chair by acclamation. Ms. DeSoto seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Approval of TCC 2021 Meeting Calendar

Ms. Mallette presented the TCC 2021 meeting calendar for approval. There being no discussion, Chair Trivedi called for a motion to approve. Mr. Stober made the motion to approve the 2021 TCC meeting calendar. Mr. Page seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Draft FY22 Unified Planning Work Program

Ms. Mallette presented an overview of the FY22 BGMPO Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The UPWP details work tasks undertaken by the BGMPO in the upcoming fiscal year. As part of the UPWP approval process, the MPO is also required to certify its transportation planning processes. The FY22 allocation of MPO's Metropolitan Planning (PL) funds is estimated at \$261,493 in addition to \$43,184 in Section 5303 and \$120,000 in Section 5307 for Transit Planning from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The federal funds require local and/or state matches. The FY22 UPWP budget includes two Special Studies: the US 70 West Multimodal Corridor Study and the BGMPO Highway Safety Plan. 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. Chair Trivedi described the purpose of the US 70 Corridor Study and mentioned the possibility of alternate funding. Ms. Mallette informed the TCC that Mebane also submitted a Special Studies funding request to conduct an update of its Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. Mr. Stober explained the need for the study and requested funding if the Orange County study withdrew its funding request. Mr. Kirstner volunteered to present PART's FY22 Work Program. There being no further discussion, Mr. Page made a motion to recommend the TCC release the UPWP for a 30-day public review period. Ms. DeSoto seconded the motion and the motion by unanimous voice vote.

2020 - 2024 TIP and 2045 MTP Amendments

Ms. Mallette said the TCC approved release of the amended 2020 - 2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) for a 10-day public comment period. The public notice was advertised December 28, 2020 in a

local newspaper and on the BGMPO website. No public comments were received, and no notification made of those wanting to speak at the public hearing. Chair Trivedi opened and closed the public hearing after receiving no public comments. Chair Trivedi then requested a motion to approve the amended 2020-2024 TIP and 2045 MTP. Ms. DeSoto made the motion to approve and Mr. Page seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

NCDOT Traffic Safety Unit Presentation

Mr. Brian Mayhew, State Traffic Engineer, informed the TCC that the 2019 Strategic Safety Highway Safety Plan identified the goal of reducing fatalities and serious injuries in half by 2035 moving towards zero by 2050. He presented state crash trends correlated with population growth trends and VMT trends. Mr. Mayhew said the number of crash fatalities have been increasing since 2002, leveled during the great recession, and are on the increase. The serious injuries crash definition changed in 2017 and resulted in a trend spike. All modes of crash rates have been trending upward since 2014. Mr. Brian Murphy, Safety Planning Engineer, presented an overview of regional crash trends. Mr. Murphy said the regional VMT data and total crashes are closely aligned with statewide VMT and crash data upward trends. He then discussed the BGMPO safety performance metrics and five-year rolling averages and reporting deadlines. State safety targets are established annually by August 31st and MPOs have 180 days or until the end of February to either endorse the state targets or adopt their own. The state targets follow the FHWA formula and are based on achieving the Strategic Safety Plan goals of zero crashes by 2050 and integrating a collaborative approach of the 4-E process with diverse stakeholders. The FHWA does not directly assess MPO progress. The state 2021 MPO targets were established to assist the state in meeting its performance goals. Mr. Murphy ended his presentation by providing links to the Strategic Highway Safety Plan and additional resources. Mr. Page expressed disappointment with the increasing crash trends and urged NCDOT to do more. In response to Mr. Page's inquiry as to fractional fatality reporting, Mr. Murphy explained that NCDOT must follow FHWA's strict reporting requirements. After discussion, the TCC accepted the presentation as information and thanked the Traffic Safety Unit staff for their efforts.

BGMPO Transportation Performance Measures and Targets

There being no discussion or questions, Chair Trivedi requested a motion to endorse the BGMPO 2021 Safety Performance Targets for each of the five safety measures. Mr. Page made the motion, seconded by Mr. Kirstner. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

BGMPO Highway Safety Program Presentation

Mr. Blake Cashmore presented an overview of the BGMPO Highway Safety Program development status, outlined the Safety Plan project schedule and funding, and roles and responsibilities of a Safety Subcommittee. Mr. Cashmore requested the TCC approve the TAC establishing a Safety Subcommittee and requested the appointment of three TCC members. Chair Trivedi requested a motion to approve the establishment of a BGMPO Safety Subcommittee. Mr. Page made the motion, seconded by Mr. Stober. The motion was approved by voice vote. The TCC appointed Mr. Trivedi, Mr. Page and Mr. Theo Letman. Additional volunteers included Suzette Morales, FHWA; Stephan Robinson, Division 7; Brian Mayhew and Brian Murphy, Traffic Safety and Planning.

Agency Reports and Updates

FHWA: Ms. Suzette Morales announced the recent confirmation of Pete Buttigieg as the Secretary of Transportation. The FHWA Division staff will inform the MPO of potential policy changes.

NCDOT-TPD: Mr. Daryl Vreeland announced the Governor's Highway Safety Program grant application deadline of January 31, 2021. Non-profits, state agencies, local governments, schools and law enforcement agencies are eligible to apply. Grants can be used for crash reduction measures.

NCDOT-Division 7: Mr. Stephan Robinson referenced the engineering report included in the agenda packets for a listing of BGMPO projects with delayed construction schedules.

BGMPO: Ms. Mallette announced the postponement of SPOT 7.0 Subcommittee meetings until October 2021 as NCDOT is considering revising non-highway project scoring.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Trivedi adjourned the meeting at 11:43 a.m.