

MINUTES

BURLINGTON-GRAHAM URBAN AREA TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE TUESDAY, OCTOBER JANUARY 21, 2020 9AM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mark E. Kirstner, PART
Brandon Parker, Gibsonville
Allyson Coltrane, Orange County
Nishith Trivedi, Orange County (Vice Chair)
Cy Stober, Mebane
Pam DeSoto, Elon
Nolan Kirkman, Burlington
Dan Danieleley, Burlington Alamance
Regional Airport
Mike Nunn, Burlington
Nathan Page, Graham (Chair)
Jay Heikes, GoTriangle
Ralph Gilliam, ACTA

BGMPO STAFF PRESENT

Wannetta Mallette
Logan Hill

NCDOT STAFF PRESENT

Mike Mills, NCDOT Division 7
Stephen Robinson, NCDOT Division 7
Andy Bailey, NCDOT TPD

FHWA STAFF PRESENT

Joe Geigle

OTHERS PRESENT

Lyuba Zuyeva, VHB
Aaron Cain, DCHC MPO

Call to Order

Chair Nathan Page called the January 21, 2020 meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. and introduced all members and guests. Chair Page presented the agenda for adoption. No changes were made to the agenda. Chair Page asked if there were any speakers from the floor. No public comments were made.

Approval of Minutes from August 20, 2019 TCC Meeting

Chair Page requested a motion to approve the October 21, 2019 TCC meeting minutes. Mr. Nishith Trivedi made a motion to approve the October 21, 2019 TCC meeting minutes. Vice Chair Stober seconded the motion and all of TCC voted in approval.

Election of TCC 2020 Officers

Ms. Wannetta Mallette conducted the TCC 2020 election of officers. Ms. Mallette reported she received one nomination for Chair, that of Mr. Cy Stober. Mr. Stober

declined the nomination and nominated Mr. Nathan Page provided he serve only one additional year. Mr. Page agreed and recommended a rewrite of the bylaws to include a term limit of two years for Chair and Vice Chair positions. Nominations were then taken from the floor. No additional nominations were made. Ms. Pam DeSoto made a motion to approve the nomination of Mr. Page for TCC Chair. Mr. Dan Danieleley seconded the nomination and the TCC voted in approval. Chair Page presided over the remainder of the meeting. Chair Page announced the nomination of Mr. Nishith Trivedi for Vice Chair. No additional nominations were made from the floor. Mr. Stober made the motion to approve the nomination of Mr. Trivedi for TCC Vice Chair. Ms. Pam DeSoto seconded the nomination and all of TCC voted in favor.

Approval of 2020 TCC Calendar

Ms. Mallette presented the 2020 TCC meeting calendar for approval. Mr. Stober made a motion to approve the 2020 TCC meeting calendar. Mr. Dan Danieleley seconded the motion and all of TCC voted in approval.

NC 54 West Corridor Study Update

Mr. Aaron Cain presented the background and update of the NC 54 West Corridor Study approval process. The Carrboro Board of Alderman adopted a resolution opposing the recommendation to widen NC 54. Carrboro had concerns of the environmental impacts, that the widening would attract more cars to NC 54, and change the rural and community character of the roadway. The Chapel Hill Town Council expressed interest in transit improvements and timing any future widening to address congestion issues. TARPO will continue to work with local jurisdictions to identify future roadway improvements. Orange County has made 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 the TARPO and BGMPO on future improvements. Alamance County was awaiting adoption of the plan by the BGMPO TAC. Mr. Cain discussed possible SPOT submission sponsors for various NC 54 roadway segment improvements. Mr. Mike Mills reported the Orange Grove Road to Old Fayetteville Road operational improvement project was suspended but that the segment from Old Fayetteville Road to Mebane Oaks Road was a priority for widening. Mr. Mills said if TARPO and DCHC had awarded points in P5.0 the project from Orange Grove Road to Old Fayetteville Road would most likely have scored high enough to be funded. He emphasized that NC 54 is a primary route and a regional route providing connections to major destinations and employment centers. Mr. Cain added that UNC Hospitals and Chapel Hill Transit ridership data showed the NC 54 corridor did not perform well in comparison to other routes. Streetlight data confirmed that people are driving by Carrboro Plaza to go to the Southern Village Park and Ride. Mr. Mark Kirstner said the Mebane Park and Ride lot is more convenient for

its ridership. Mr. Stober commented that operational improvements within the BGMPO boundary would be made if the new school locates along the corridor. Mr. Mill responded that UNC fully supports the widening NC 54 and NCDOT would not support operational improvements as standalone projects. Mr. Mills said NCDOT would not be supportive of Division level projects if that level of support is not given to regional and primary route projects. After further discussion Chair Page requested a motion to table the agenda item until after meeting with Ms. Tonya Caddle from Alamance County. Vice Chair Trivedi made the motion to table taking any action on the NC 54 West study until determining Alamance County's position. Mr. Danieley seconded the motion and all of TCC voted in approval.

Greater Triangle Commuter Rail Project

Mr. Jay Heikes provided the Greater Triangle Commuter Rail project update. He explained the Commuter Rail Transit project, as originally included in the Wake and Durham county transit plans would run 37 miles from Garner to downtown Raleigh, NC State, Cary, Morrisville and Research Triangle Park to downtown Durham. The project is in the investigative stage and more study is needed to provide elected officials the data needed for decision making. The 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. The preliminary study also recommends a risk assessment. Mr. Heikes explained that the new commuter line will serve both public and private operators and the public operator would have access to private tracks. The Commuter Rail Project is part of the federally adopted Southeastern High Speed Rail Corridor. However, since the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2008, there has not been a substantial infusion of Federal high speed dollars. Mr. Stober commented that while disappointed that the line would not initially extend to Orange County, this will start a discussion about alternate transit solutions to evaluate Bus Rapid Transit and High Occupancy Vehicle lanes on I-40/85 and likely serve as the catalyst for Alamance County and the BGMPO to develop transit plans.

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. Chair Page recommended including language and identifying work tasks associated with meeting safety performance targets. Mr. Stober suggested the inclusion of budget specifics regarding the new staff position. There being no further discussion, Ms. DeSoto made a motion to recommend the TAC release the UPWP for a 30-day public review period. Mr. Stober seconded the motion and the TCC 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 TCC 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.

Chair Page questioned criteria that results in fractional deaths. With no further discussion, Chair Page entertained a motion. Ms. DeSoto made a motion recommending TAC adoption of NCDOT's 2020 performance targets. Mr. Kirstner seconded the motion. The majority of the TCC voted in approval; Chair Page opposed the motion.

BGMPO Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update

Ms. Lyuba Zuyeva thanked the TCC 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. Chair Page recommended an aspirational scenario not based on traditional modelling methods. Ms. Zuyeva then presented an interactive map of congested areas. Mr. Stober said that Mebane would not support a scenario that does not address congestion along Mebane Oaks Road. Ms. Zuyeva explained that some of these projects actually show up in the 2035 horizon year even though they are committed in the STIP will not have an impact on the travel time. Mr. Mills explained

that some of the projects in 2025 are not going to open by 2035. Mr. Kirstner added that some of the horizon years are funded into 2035 and that it was not uncommon to modify the MTP through amendment and let project's slip a year or move up a year and to identify 2035 horizon year as already are funded and committed. Mr. Mills said that would alleviate the public's confusion.

Ms. Zuyeva said in the most recent round of evaluating potential transit projects the NC 54 express bus route from the Graham Park and Ride Lot to Carrboro Plaza had low ridership potential consistent with prior modeling initiatives. Mr. Heikes recommended a scenario that evaluated the end point at UNC. Mr. Kirstner added that PART did not run the NC 54 corridor as a sole additional route. There being no further discussion, Ms. Zuyeva reminded the TCC of the Steering Committee meeting and next public meeting on March 10, 2020 at the Mebane Community and Arts Center.

NCDOT TPD Update

Mr. Andy Bailey provided the NCDOT TPD update. The deadline to complete the NC Moves 2050 Plan online survey is February 29. Mr. Bailey said this is a very important policy document that will identify transportation expenditures for the next 25 years.

NCDOT Division Engineer Report

Mr. Mills provided a brief overview of the BGMPO Division 7 Engineer Report. Chair Page requested pedestrian refuge islands at the U-6017 Graham Hopedale Road @ US 70 intersection. Mr. Mill referred Brian Koepner as Division 7 contact for coordination on Mebane's Lowe's Corridor Plan.

Other Business

Ms. Mallette reminded TCC of MTP Public Meeting on March 10. 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

There being no further discussion, Ms. DeSoto made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Stober seconded the motion. All TCC members voted in favor. The TCC meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m. The next TCC meeting is scheduled on **February 18, 2020**.