

**BURLINGTON – GRAHAM METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**TUESDAY MAY 18, 2021  
The meeting held remotely via Zoom**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Leonard Williams, Gibsonville (Chair)  
Jim Butler, Burlington  
Monti Allison, Elon  
Ed Hooks, Mebane  
Mary Beth Murphy, Guilford County  
Mike Fox, NCDOT - BOT  
Wright Archer, NCDOT - Division 7  
Melody Wiggins, Graham

**NCDOT STAFF PRESENT**

Stephen Robinson, Division 7  
Daryl Vreeland, TPD

**FHWA STAFF PRESENT**

Suzette Morales

**BGMPO STAFF PRESENT**

Wannetta Mallette  
Blake Cashmore

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Yvonne Maizland, Gibsonville  
Cy Stober, Mebane  
Peter Murphy, ACTA  
Mike Nunn, Burlington  
Pam DeSoto, Elon  
Ashley Ownbey, Mebane  
Jim Sykes, Alamance County

**Call to Order**

Chair Leonard Williams called the May 18, 2021 TAC meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. and welcomed all members and guests. Introductions were made by the newest TAC members Mr. Wright Archer - Division 7 Engineer, Ms. Mary Beth Murphy - Guilford County Commissioner and Ms. Yvonne Maizland - Town of Gibsonville Alderman. Ms. Wannetta Mallette then conducted the membership roll call and determined a quorum.

Chair Williams requested a motion to approve the draft agenda. Mr. Mike Fox made the motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Ed Hooks. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote. The NC Ethics Statement for TAC members was read and no known conflicts of interest were identified. Chair Williams recognized those wanting to make public comments.

**Approval of Minutes from March 23, 2021 TAC Meeting**

Chair Williams requested a motion to approve the March 23, 2021 meeting minutes. Ms. Mary

Beth Murphy made the motion and Mr. Jim Butler seconded the motion. The motion to approve the March 23, 2021 meeting minutes carried by unanimous voice vote.

### **Haggard Avenue Corridor Plan - Phase I**

Ms. Pam DeSoto presented the Haggard Avenue Phase I Corridor Plan. She identified Haggard Avenue as one of the priority areas in the 2019 Town of Elon's Comprehensive Plan. The study was funded by a \$40,000 Special Studies planning grant through the Burlington-Graham BGMPO Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and a \$10,000 local match by the Town of Elon. The town selected SEPI, Incorporated (SEPI) to conduct the study. Ms. DeSoto explained the importance of the Haggard Avenue as a vital east-west corridor serving the Towns of Elon, Gibsonville, Burlington and Elon University. The currently corridor has no bike facilities and sporadic sidewalks. The purpose of the study is to meet future mobility demands of the Town and those called for in the University's Master Plan to develop an improved roadway design and reduce the number of pedestrian, bicycle and vehicle conflicts.

An extensive public engagement process was implemented that included hosting two public meetings and developing a steering committee comprised of NCDOT, MPO, Elon University staff, local bike and ped advocates, and local jurisdictions' representatives. SEPI identified two-character areas—Campus Scale and Suburban Highway—which influenced plan recommendations and schematic designs. Ms. DeSoto described the schematic (conceptual) design recommendations as including a median for most of the corridor, realignment of N. Oak Avenue, and possible addition of roundabouts. Ms. DeSoto also highlighted a potential framework for a Corridor Overlay District created by SEPI that would guide development of Haggard Avenue bike and ped improvements. Ms. DeSoto closed her presentation by thanking the TAC for their support and stating the town Board approved the Phase I study and proceeding with the development of the Phase II and III studies.

Mr. Jim Sykes asked if the University would close Haggard Avenue from Williamson to Oak and the timing of improvements to the project area waterlines. Ms. DeSoto responded the entire corridor is maintained by the Town of Elon and the waterline is currently being budgeted as a priority. Mr. Sykes also questioned the environmental impacts, preliminary cost estimates and project's cost benefit. Ms. DeSoto said the project will benefit the city as a whole and how it would enhance the Town of Elon. Ms. DeSoto explained the importance of the corridor to the town and improvements will enhance safety.

Mr. Fox recommended Mr. Sykes consult with the Town of Elon representatives as the presentation was for TAC information only. Mr. Sykes requested a meeting with Mr. Fox and Mr. Fox accepted the offer. There were no further questions. The TAC thanked Ms. DeSoto for her presentation.

### **Lowe's Boulevard Corridor Plan**

Mr. Stober thanked the TAC for their support and provided an overview of the Lowe's Boulevard Corridor Plan for information and introduced Ms. Ashley Ownbey as the Project Manager. Ms. Ownbey said the study was conducted by Ramey Kemp & Associates. The

extension of Lowe's Boulevard is identified in both the Mebane Comprehensive Transportation Plan and the BGMPO 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Ms. Ownsbey described the project study area. The project purpose is to reduce congestion at the Trollingwood-Hawfields Road and NC 119 intersection. Ms. Ownbey said the City of Mebane expects considerable growth and development pressures within the project area as NC Commerce Park continues to expand. Public engagement began in December 2020 and included mailings to owners and tenants, announcements at city meetings, and social media posts. All public engagement efforts were completed in accordance with Title VI guidance. Conceptual designs were developed and presented to the public and planning board. In early March, the Mebane City Council unanimously approved a phased version of Concept 1A. Ms. Ownbey described the concept features as including a two-lane median-divided road with a 5' sidewalk on one side and 10' multi-use path on the other.

Mr. Stober reiterated that the need for the Lowe's Boulevard extension as alleviating north/south congestion in the area by providing another east/west connection. He again thanked the TAC for their support and requested approval of the plan. There being no questions, Chair Williams requested the motion. Mr. Hooks made a motion to approve the Lowe's Boulevard Corridor Plan improvements as an amendment to the BGMPO Comprehensive Transportation Plan. Mr. Fox seconded the motion, and the motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

### **NCDOT Draft CTP Maps and Project Lists**

Ms. Mallette said draft CTP maps and project lists were emailed to the TAC and requested members review their projects against NCDOT's Complete Streets guidance and provide comments by June 30th. The draft CTP will be released for public comment at the August TAC meeting with a tentative BGMPO adoption date of October 2021. There was no further discussion.

### **Agency Reports and Updates**

*NCDOT-BOT*: Mr. Fox announced that the Board agreed to host hybrid in-person and virtual meetings. NCDOT is strongly encouraging all employees to get vaccinated, practice social distancing and wear masks. NCDOT finances were looking strong as the state continues to rebound from the impacts of Covid.

*FHWA*: No updates.

*NCDOT-TPD*: Updates included in agenda packets.

*NCDOT-Division 7*: Mr. Stephen Robinson presented the Division Engineer Report and highlighted the work that began on Mebane Oaks Road. Mr. Archer met with the contractor and utility relocations and temporary signal installation will occur over the next few weeks. Mr. Robinson ended his report by stating that the bridge replacement on Huffman Mill Road south of I-40 is underway and the public to be aware of lane closures.

BGMPO:

*Highway Safety Plan* - The BGMPO and NCDOT are still in the process of revising the Highway Safety Plan Scope of Work. The project start is anticipated for August 2021.

*P6.0* - Staff is completing P6.0 data review that includes Complete Street and Purpose and Needs forms. Ms. Mallette requested TAC members review their Complete Streets forms included with their submittal packages and forward the BGMPO any revisions. SPOT 6.0 scores will be released late summer or early fall.

*TIP amendments* - In accordance with the Public Involvement Plan, the BGMPO will approve TIP amendments as-needed by virtual meetings when approval is needed during non-meeting months.

### **Adjournment**

The TAC requested the August meeting be held in-person. Ms. Mallette said it would be dependent upon the City of Burlington's protocol. Mr. Hooks, Mr. Fox and Chair Williams suggested meeting locations within their jurisdictions. There being no further business, Mr. Fox made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Hooks. Chair Williams adjourned the meeting at 6:33 p.m. The next TAC meeting was scheduled on **August 17, 2021**.