

MINUTES

**BURLINGTON-GRAHAM URBAN AREA
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2017
5:30 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Leonard Williams, Gibsonville
Bob Ward, Burlington
Eddie Boswell, Alamance County
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
Lee Lovette, Town of Haw River
Jim Butler, Burlington
Alan Branson, Guilford County

BGMPO STAFF PRESENT

Mike Nunn
Wannetta Mallette
Carley Maynard

NCDOT STAFF PRESENT

Mike Fox, BOT
Mike Mills, Division 7
Ed Lewis, Division 7
Sarah Lee, SPOT
Hemang Surti, TPB

Other Present

Nolan Kirkman, City of Burlington
Glenn Patterson
Sam Unsworth
Dixie Rogers
Lorriane Barwick
Cheryl Ray
Don Wood
Susan Miller
Ron Miller
Jeremie Wade

Call to Order

Chairman Williams called the August 15, 2017 TAC meeting to order and welcomed all members and guests. Chairman Williams recognized NCDOT staffers Sarah Lee, NCDOT-SPOT and Ed Lewis NCDOT-Division 7.

Approval of Minutes / Changes to Agenda

Chairman Williams asked for any comments or corrections to the minutes from the May 16, 2017 TAC meeting. Mark Marcoplos made a motion to approve the minutes, Barry Jacobs seconded the motion. All TAC voted in approval.

Chairman Williams asked if there were any corrections or additions to the agenda. The agenda was amended to table Item 7 "Piedmont Triad Regional Freight Study"

requested by Wannetta Mallette. Barry Jacobs made a motion to approve the agenda as amended and Lee Kimrey seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Chairman Williams requested speakers from the floor limit their comments to three minutes per speaker. Residents and property holders of Cherry Lane in Graham approached the committee and asked to be able to speak on their concerns with the Alamance Southern Loop project possibly impacting their front property and cedar trees. Residents and property owners present to speak on the Southern Alamance Loop were asked hold their comments until consideration of that agenda item. Wannetta Mallette read aloud the Conflict of Interest statement provided by the NC Ethics Commission. No conflicts were stated and the meeting proceeded.

Metropolitan Planning Process Presentation

Wannetta Mallette presented an overview of the Metropolitan Planning Process including goals and objectives, measures of effectiveness, transportation plans, and local and state transportation improvement programs.

SPOT 5.0 and Division Alternative Criteria and Weights

Mr. Ed Lewis, NCDOT Division 7 Planning Engineer presented an overview of the NCDOT Prioritization Process and Alternative Criteria and Weights for MPOS that choose to utilize alternative scoring for division level projects. The Prioritization Workgroup defined the five evaluation criteria used for scoring each evaluation criteria: *Congestion, Benefit/Cost, Safety, Freight and Accessibility/Connectivity*. NCDOT is providing MPOs and RPOs the option in the planning and prioritization of projects to reflect their unique needs for projects of Regional Impact and Division Needs. Mr. Lewis then presented the three alternative weight options. MPOs and RPOs can opt to use Alternative Weights or the default measures as part of the quantitative scoring process for Division Needs. Division 7 assessed shifting the Freight weighted criteria to Safety as SPOT only tracks freight data for highway routes and Division Needs are mostly local roads. In analyzing SPOT 4.0 data with Option 2 (*Congestion 15%, Benefit/Cost 15%, Safety 15%, Freight 0%, and Accessibility/connectivity 5%*) projects overall received a higher technical score. All MPOs/RPOs/Division Engineers must unanimously agree to use Alternative Weights or the default criteria. Mr. Lewis requested the TAC approve one of the options and accompanying resolution by September 29, 2017.

Barry Jacobs made a motion to approve Option 2 by resolution seconded by Donald Tichy. All TAC members voted in favor.

Mr. Lewis also provided an overview of the SPOT 5.0 schedule:

August 25, 2017	Deadline for any deletions (one out/one in) or modifications of Carryover projects
September 29, 2017	Consideration of Alternate Weights
September 29, 2017	SPOT 5.0 Project Submittals
Spring 2018	Assign Local Input Points for Regional Impact projects
Fall 2018	Assign Local Input Points for Division Needs projects

State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

Ed Lewis explained that the NCDOT Board of Transportation (BOT) recently approved the 2018 - 2027 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) effective, January 2018. The STIP identifies funding and scheduling of state transportation projects. The current STIP has over \$28 billion in statewide mobility projects, regional impact and division needs. The STIP is based on needs and directly ties funds to prioritization results and prioritizes capital expenditures across all modes. The STIP 2018 - 2027 focus is to address significant congestion and bottlenecks through statewide mobility. STIP consists of prioritization ranking and normalization of committed projects. Mr. Lewis requested the TAC approve the draft STIP 2018 - 2027 project list and resolution.

Jim Butler made a motion to approve the 2018 - 2027 STIP and Barry Jacobs seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Southern Loop Update

Hemang Surti provided an update of the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) amendment update. On October 4, 2016 Graham City Council adopted a resolution to withdraw support and removal of the Alamance Southern Loop from NC 49 (Maple Avenue) to Cherry Lane (SR 2123) due to potential negative economic and future developmental impacts. The resolution was presented at the October 18, 2016 Burlington-Graham TCC and TAC meetings as an Information Only item. During the May 16, 2017 TCC and TAC meeting, Michael Orr, NCDOT-TPB, presented existing and future model data showing the removal of the Alamance Southern Loop having minimal traffic impact to the surrounding road network near the proposed project area and recommended that a decision regarding the Alamance Southern Loop be addressed through an update of the Burlington-Graham CTP. On May 18, 2017, an email message was sent from NCDOT Secretary James Trogon, requesting the portion of the Southern Alamance Loop be removed and take necessary action expeditiously to

amend the Burlington-Graham MPO CTP. Thereafter, the BGMPO, NCDOT-TPB and Graham staff met and developed four options for recommendation:

Alternative 1: Maintain Southern Alamance Loop as shown in the current BGMPO CTP/ MTP and re-analyze road network during the full update of CTP to begin now (approximately 18 months for completion).

Alternative 2: Maintain Southern Alamance Loop as shown and re-analyze road network during the full update of CTP to begin in 2018 in conjunction with the 2020 MTP update (approximately 18 months).

Alternative 3: Pursue a re-alignment of the Southern Alamance Loop and amend CTP now with tentative timeline stated below:

October 2017	Present draft amended CTP maps for approval
November 2017	Public workshop with 30-day comment period
January 2018	Present comments from public workshop and amended CTP maps for adoption to TCC and TAC
February 2018	Presentation to BOT

Alternative 4: Remove the portion of Southern Alamance Loop as requested by City of Graham through an immediate amendment to Burlington-Graham CTP (same timeline shown for Alternative 3).

Mike Fox suggested fast-tracking Alternative 4 to comply with Graham and Secretary Trogon's requests. Mr. Fox recommended holding the public meeting in September, presenting public comments to the TAC at their October meeting, and presenting to the NCDOT Board of Transportation (BOT) at their November meeting. All TAC members agreed with Mr. Fox's recommendation.

Members of the public were then given the opportunity to comment. Glen Patterson, Patterson Appraisals, thanked the members for their decision to fast-track Option 4. Cherry Lane Road residents requested no additional road improvement be made to Cherry Lane Road. Mike Mills said that the I-40 @ Cherry Lane Road interchange improvements are programmed and suggested depicting the areas that would not be improved on the amended CTP map to reflect the residents' request. Mr. Fox asked the Cherry Lane Road residents for their contact information so the amended maps could be forwarded to them in advance of the public meeting. Mr. Fox then made the motion to amend the CTP to reflect the removal of the Southern Alamance Loop from NC 49 to I-40. Lee Kimrey seconded the motion. All TAC voted in favor.

NCDOT Board Member Update:

Mr. Fox announced that the BOT approved the 2018 - 2027 STIP at their August meeting and will starting the new STIP process. The BOT is holding its board meetings outside of Raleigh and held its August meeting in Greensboro. Division 7 served as hosts and area MPOs and RPOs presented an overview of their planning areas. Mr. Fox complimented BGMPO staff on their presentation. Chairman Williams congratulated Mr. Fox on being elected BOT Chair and thanked him for representing the TAC and providing the NCDOT Board member update.

Division Engineer Report

Mike Mills provided an overview of the NCDOT projects under development that were forwarded in the agenda packets.

Other Reports

Wannetta Mallette reminded the TAC of the August 31st deadline for submission of new SPOT 5.0 project submittals. She explained that the BGMPO website redesign project experienced procurement delays but was expected to be underway soon.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the TAC, Chairman Williams adjourned the meeting at 6:42 p.m. The next meeting was scheduled on October 17, 2017.