

Charlotte Regional Alliance for Transportation Technical Committee Meeting

Tuesday, February 12, 2002
2:00 PM

Schiele Museum of Natural History
1500 E. Garrison Boulevard
Gastonia, NC
(directions attached)

AGENDA

- 1. Welcome and Introductions**
- 2. Organizational Issues**
- 3. CRAFT Work Program**
- 4. Walkable Communities Grant**
- 5. Sidewalk Resolution**

**GASTON URBAN AREA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING**

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January 31, 2002

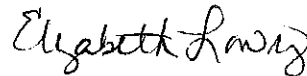
Dear CRAFT Technical Committee member:

Attached you will find the agenda to the first full meeting of the Charlotte Regional Alliance for Transportation (CRAFT) Technical Committee. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 12, 2002 at the Schiele Museum of Natural History in Gastonia. The location is in keeping with the decision to rotate the quarterly meetings among the four member MPOs.

The Technical Committee is comprised of staff from the four MPOs in the region, along with representatives from both state DOTs, Councils of Government, county planning departments, transit agencies and other interested groups. As stated in the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), the purpose of the committee is "to provide general review, guidance and coordination of the transportation planning process in the Charlotte region to the Executive Committee".

As this is the first time the entire Technical Committee has come together, there are many organization issues to discuss. We will also be working to establish a Work Program to outline issues for future discussion. Should you have any questions concerning the meeting, please do not hesitate to contact me at elizabethl@cityofgastonia.com or 704/854-6663. I look forward to seeing you in Gastonia on February 12th.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Lowry, AICP
Senior Transportation Planner
Gaston MPO

**Meeting Summary
CRAFT Technical Committee
February 12, 2002
Gastonia, NC**

PRESENT:

Terry Arellano	NCDOT Statewide Planning Branch
Wendy Bell	Catawba Council of Governments
John Cock	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission
Laura Cummings	Mecklenburg Co. Dept. of Environmental Protection
Bill Duston	Centralina Council of Governments
Jack Flaherty	NCDOT Public Transportation Division
Bjorn Hanson	Rock Hill-Fort Mill Area Transportation Study
Willie King	Gaston County Community Development
Jack Kiser	City of Gastonia
David Kraus	City of Mount Holly (Gaston MPO TCC Chair)
Brock La Forty	Cabarrus-South Rowan MPO
Patrick Longpre	SC Dept. of Health and Environmental Control
Tonya Lott	SC Dept. of Health and Environmental Control
Elizabeth Lowry	Gaston MPO
David McDonald	Charlotte Department of Transportation
Melanie Reeder	Cabarrus-South Rowan MPO
Danny Rogers	Mecklenburg-Union MPO
Scot Sibert	Gaston MPO
David Williams	Gaston County Community Development

AGENDA:

1. Welcome and Introductions, Presenter: David Kraus, Gaston TCC Chair

Mr. Kraus welcomed those present to the first full meeting of the CRAFT Technical Committee. Members introduced themselves.

2. Organizational Issues, Presenter: Melanie Reeder, Cabarrus-S. Rowan MPO

Ms. Reeder led a discussion regarding how the Technical Committee should be organized including the issues of a Chairperson, Bylaws, meeting schedule and voting. Some of these issues had been previously discussed by staffs of the four MPOs and their ideas were discussed with the full committee.

It was determined that the Technical Committee will meet quarterly and the meetings will rotate among the MPOs. The meetings will be held annually in February (Gaston MPO), May (RFATS), August (MUMPO) and November (C-SRMPO). The next meeting will be held on May 14, 2002 in Rock Hill at noon.

The group also decided that it would be helpful to have a Chairperson to lead the meetings and give input on the agenda. After much discussion, the group resolved to rotate this position among the four MPO TCC Chairs. The person would serve a one-year term. Nominations will be taken at the May meeting. The MPO hosting the meeting will be responsible for setting up the meeting and preparing meeting notices, agenda and summaries.

The need for Bylaws was also discussed, and Ms. Lowry and Mr. Rogers volunteered to begin work on a draft. This will be presented in May.

On the issue of voting, it was determined that any member (or his/her designee) named in the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) would be a voting member.

According to the MOA, the Executive Committee is to meet after the Technical Committee. It has been quite some time since this group has met, and it was determined that there should be a brief meeting prior to the next MTC meeting in Charlotte. That meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 27, 2002.

3. CRAFT Work Program, Presenter: Elizabeth Lowry, Gaston MPO

The committee discussed the function of the CRAFT organization and what specific issues should be addressed by the group. Related to the purpose of the organization, some of the ideas mentioned were:

- cooperate on issues of regional significance, including air quality
- serve as a unified voice for funding for this region
- provide a forum for education and networking
- keep other MPOs up-to-date on local issues, including major land use changes
- coordinate with RPOs
- oppose forced consolidation

Several topics were mentioned for future meetings:

- air quality
- update on the regional model
- Charlotte's transit corridors
- creating a regional thoroughfare plan

Other groups not included in the MOA were discussed, including FHWA, FTA, Monroe and Iredell County. Members felt we should make them aware of this organization and put them on the mailing list.

4. Walkable Communities Grant, Presenter: John Cock, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission

Mr. Cock gave an overview of the Walkable Communities program and the eight local workshops held throughout our region, two in each MPO. Each workshop was community specific and addressed local needs. There was good participation at each of the events, which were held in Belmont, Bessemer City, Rock Hill, Fort Mill, Charlotte, Matthews, Landis and Concord.

Following the workshops, a review session was held at which Dan Burden gave some overall recommendations for the region. One idea that came from this process was to work with NCDOT to change their policies on sidewalk construction.

A CD-ROM of all eight presentations is available.

5. Sidewalk Resolution, Presenters: Danny Rogers, Mecklenburg-Union MPO and Bjorn Hansen, York County Planning/RFATS

Mr. Rogers began the discussion by stating MUMPO's concern about the lack of sidewalks on bridges constructed by NCDOT. In response to this problem, a resolution has been adopted by MUMPO and sent to NCDOT.

Mr. Hansen then reviewed the sidewalk resolution prepared by RFATS which addresses the need for pedestrian facilities more broadly. It reads in part, "*...be it resolved that the South Carolina Department of Transportation include in its design process that pedestrian amenities be examined for all new projects within the RFATS planning area. Notwithstanding any fiscal or functional constraints, all construction lettings within the RFATS MPO boundary will address pedestrian movement*".

There is concern that this resolution allows for cost to be used as an excuse not to build the necessary pedestrian facilities. It was noted, however, that sidewalks cost approximately \$12-\$14 per linear foot when installed at the time of original construction, but approximately \$40 per linear foot to build them later. Other committee members discussed the need to address bicycle facilities and public transit as well. The issue of sidewalk maintenance outside city limits was also discussed.

The need to have a bicycle and pedestrian facilities resolution adopted by CRAFT was discussed and it was decided that the issue warrants further discussion.