

# CHARLOTTE REGIONAL ALLIANCE FOR TRANSPORTATION

## Technical Committee

Meeting Minutes

May 25, 2010

The May 25, 2010 meeting of the CRAFT Technical Committee was called to order at 10:00 AM.

### Present:

Andy Grzymyski, CDOT  
Anil Panicker, NCDOT-TPB  
Anna Gallup, CDOT  
Bob Cook, MUMPO  
Bjorn Hansen, Lake Norman RPO  
Dana Stoogenke, Rocky River RPO  
Eldewins Haynes, CDOT  
Joe McLelland, CDOT  
Lynn Purnell, Parsons Brinckerhoff  
Martin Kinnamon, CDOT  
Nick Polimeni, MUMPO  
Rebecca Yarbrough, Centralina COG  
Sarah Rayfield, York County

Scott Lane, Stantec Consulting

Stuart Basham, MUMPO

Tim Gibbs, CDOT

### By telephone:

Bernie Yacobucci, Gaston MPO

David Hooper, RFATS

David Wasserman, NCDOT-SPOT

Frances Thomas, RFATS

Hank Graham, Gaston MPO

Jamal Alavi, NCDOT-TPB

Jennifer Harris, NCTA

Jon Barrett, Gaston MPO

Phil Conrad, CRMPO

Unwanna Dabney, FHWA

## 1. Welcome & Introductions

Bob Cook welcomed everyone to the meeting. Those in the room introduced themselves followed by those participating by telephone.

## 2. Business Items:

### a. Establish Regular Meeting Dates

A determination was made that the CRAFT Technical Committee would meet quarterly and that meetings would be held on the third Tuesday of the designated month. It was further decided that the third quarter 2010 meeting would be held on Tuesday, September 21 and would be hosted by the Gaston MPO, and that the fourth quarter 2010 meeting would be held on Tuesday, November 16 and would be hosted by the Rocky River RPO.

### b. Executive Committee Meeting

The discussion focused on the need to hold an Executive Committee meeting in light of various ongoing or upcoming issues affecting MPOs and RPOs. The last Executive Committee meeting was held in March 2009. Considerable discussion focused on a meeting tied to the release of the findings of COG's Regional Transportation Planning Study. Rebecca Yarbrough asked for time to get feedback from the COG's Board of Delegates. It was determined that the Technical Committee would wait to hear back from Ms. Yarbrough, then the MPO and RPO coordinators would discuss next steps.

## 3. I-77 HOV-to-HOT Lanes Conversion & Extension

Lynn Purnell of Parsons Brinckerhoff discussed a feasibility study authorized by NCDOT to analyze the possibility of converting the existing HOV lanes on I-77 to HOT lanes, as well as extending them to exit 28.

## 4. NC Mobility Fund

David Wasserman of NCDOT discussed the NC Mobility Fund proposed by Governor Perdue as a part of her budget proposal. He noted that the Fund had not been included in

the NC House's budget. The Fund's goal is to generate new revenue to fund projects of statewide significance and would be phased in over three years. Mr. Wasserman noted that another prioritization process would be developed to rank potential projects.

## **5. Federal Update**

Unwanna Dabney of the FHWA provided updates on the following topics:

1. Reauthorization: no significant activity on reauthorization; funding is authorized until the end of the calendar year.
2. Census: an intergovernmental advisory group has been formed to analyze various Census-related issues; there will be a focus on changes to MPO boundaries.
3. HUD-DOT-EPA Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities: no new information on when the notice of funding availability will be released for the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program.
4. TIGER II: grants will provide capital assistance to states, local governments and transit agencies for TIFIA financing, capital grants or transportation planning activities; grants will be awarded on a competitive basis for projects having a significant impact on the nation, a metropolitan area or a region.

## **6. Upcoming Conformity Determinations**

Hank Graham stated that the Gaston MPO needs to make a conformity determination for the Garden Parkway because its LRTP was adopted showing the portion of the project from US 321 west to I-85 as a four-lane facility in the 2035 horizon year. The current proposal is to construct a two-lane roadway from US 321 to I-85 in the 2015 horizon year. It remains unclear if MUMPO needs to participate in this action.

It was noted that MUMPO will need to make a conformity determination if the I-77 HOV-to-HOT conversion moves forward.

## **7. NCDOT Noise Abatement Policy**

A brief discussion was held on this topic. NCDOT is revising its noise abatement policy, and is seeking comments until June 25. Jennifer Harris stated that NCDOT's decision to revise the policy was based on an issue related to the NCTA's Western Wake Parkway.

## **8. NC Turnpike Authority Update**

Jennifer Harris stated that the NCTA received notification that the FEIS for the Monroe Parkway had been approved.

## **Next Meetings**

- Tuesday, September 21, 2010: Will be hosted by the Gaston MPO
- Tuesday, November 16, 2010: Will be hosted by the Rocky River RPO