

CRAFT Technical Committee
Meeting Notes
August 22, 2007

Attendees: Hank Graham, Gaston MPO; Bob Cook, MUMPO; Shannon Ransom, NCDOT; Barry Mosley, MUMPO; Stuart Basham, MUMPO; Michael Orr, NCDOT; Jonathan Parker, NCDOT; Randi Gates, Gaston MPO; Jack Flaherty, NCDOT; Bill Duston, Lake Norman RPO; Bernie Yacobucci, Gaston MPO; Dana Stoogenke, Rocky River RPO; Allison Love, York County; David Hooper, RFATS; Rockne Bryant, NCDOT; Brett Wallace, HDR; Sherry Elmes, UNCC; Steve Dewitt, NCTA; Jennifer Harris, NCTA; and Phil Conrad, Cabarrus-Rowan MPO.

1. Mr. Hank Graham from the Gaston MPO convened the meeting at 10:04 AM and welcomed all in attendance. He then asked for everyone to introduce themselves.
2. Mr. Graham asked for any comments or corrections to the April 24, 2007 meeting notes. Mr. Bob Cook made a motion to accept the notes as presented and Ms. Dana Stoogenke seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
3. Mr. Hank Graham asked for a discussion on the next Executive Committee meeting. The last Executive Committee meeting was held on January 2006 in Gaston County. Technical Committee members felt that the meeting date should be delayed until after the fall elections given the number of meetings and conferences scheduled for this fall. Mr. Graham indicated that the agenda for the Executive Committee could include a discussion of funding, the 2009-2015 TIP, and recently authorized revenue options for local governments i.e. Real Estate Transfer Tax. Committee members suggested scheduling an Executive Committee meeting in January or February. Phil Conrad offered to host the meeting in Cabarrus County and will prepare a proposed agenda for Technical Committee members to review. Mr. Bob Cook offered to host the next Technical Committee meeting in Charlotte in early to mid November.
4. Mr. Hank Graham introduced Peter Stone with Global Insight to give a presentation on Regional Freight Data. Mr. Stone indicated that his company can provide basic freight data at the regional level for about \$15,000. There was some discussion of how the freight data could be incorporated into the Regional Travel Model. Mr. Stone indicated that his data is split into 7 modes of transport and can be disaggregated to the zip code level. Committee members inquired as to whether other NC MPO's or State agencies had purchased freight data. Mr. Graham indicated that his staff would followup with the NCDOT Rail Division to see if they had purchased any freight data.
5. Mr. Hank Graham introduced Brett Wallace with HDR to give a presentation on the Gaston Transit Expansion Study. Mr. Wallace explained that the Transit Expansion study was an opportunity to look at possible coordination of rural and urban transit systems in Gaston County. He explained that the Gaston Express

- was not included in the study. The initial impetus was to expand the system beyond the city limits and assess more frequent service and hours of operation. The consultant came up with 8 strategies for Gaston to consider. The Draft Final Report will be presented to City Council on September 13th.
6. Mr. Jack Flaherty provided an update on the HOV/HOT Study. The Stakeholder workshop was well attended and last approximately 4.5 hours. Several issues and concerns were raised by the group such as funding issues, coordination with existing and proposed transit service, public perception, enforcement, etc. The next Technical meeting is scheduled for September 21st.
 7. Ms. Allison Love provided some information on the York County One Cent Sale Tax reauthorization. She explained that the program began in 1997 and was reauthorized in 2003. York County is planning for their next list of projects. The One Cent tax is levied for 7 years. They expect the next round of projects to be on the voter ballots in November 2010. Staff has begun the data collection at several key intersections. She indicated that there may not be as much emphasis on capacity adding projects in the next round. There will be a citizens group charged with garnering support for specific projects. The list of projects is set by referendum.
 8. Mr. Steve Dewitt explained that toll road development is a complex process. He stated that the Turnpike Authority had pursued gap funding through the NC General Assembly in 2007. He mentioned a potential special session of the General Assembly later this fall. In the absence of state funding, Mr. Dewitt indicated that the Turnpike Authority was considering private gap funding for the Triangle Expressway. Ms. Jennifer Harris gave an update on the Metrolina candidate toll projects: Monroe Bypass, Gaston East-West Connector, and Yadkin River Bridge. She stated that the MUMPO is considering building the connector and bypass as a toll or building the connector as a toll. The Turnpike Authority is currently performing the toll traffic forecasting and will be studying alternatives in the fall of '07. The Draft EIS should be complete by the summer of '08. The Turnpike Authority is currently working on the environmental document to protect the corridor. (There were previously 16 study alternatives.) The Draft EIS should be complete by early 2008. The Yadkin River Bridge is of statewide significance. The Turnpike Authority has contracted for a traffic study that reveals significant truck diversion onto US 29 from the toll facility. From a federal perspective, the bridge can be tolled relatively easily, but state law currently prohibits tolls on existing highways. Mr. Dewitt stated that the Turnpike Authority was trying to gauge the public's acceptance of tolls. He also indicated that the Authority was currently conducting a Transponder Study to determine the number of people who have the technology for electronic toll collection.
 9. Mr. Bob Cook gave an update on the 2008 MPO Conference. He stated that the Charlotte Convention and Bureau Center was a possible destination. With the

other activities in 2008, it would be necessary to delay the conference to late fall 2008. Bob wants to get concurrence on the hotel costs from the NCAMPO Board and confirm the availability of the Convention and Bureau Center. CRAFT members expressed their willingness to assist with the '08 conference.

10. The meeting was adjourned at noon.