

Charlotte Regional Alliance for Transportation (CRAFT) Executive Committee Meeting Meeting Notes January 30, 2006

The Executive Committee of the Charlotte Regional Alliance for Transportation (CRAFT) held a meeting on Monday, January 30, 2006 at 5:00 pm at the Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden located at 6500 South New Hope Road, Belmont, NC, hosted by the Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization.

This important meeting was specifically designed for local officials to hear and discuss funding options and opportunities for road projects within the Charlotte Metropolitan region. The Federal Highway Administration, the North Carolina Turnpike Authority and the North Carolina Department of Transportation presented important information on transportation funding and local turnpike projects.

Dinner was served.

Call to Order – Mr. Jim Long, Gaston Urban Area MPO TAC Chair, welcomed everyone to the Gaston Urban Area and introduced all guest speakers.

Federal Transportation Funding Presentation – Ms. Loretta Barren, Community Planner for the Federal Highway Administration gave a presentation on Federal Transportation Funding. Ms. Barren gave an overview of the various Federal-Aid Highway Programs (FAHP), including:

- Interstate Maintenance
- Surface Transportation Program
- National Highway System (NHS)
- Highway Bridge Program
- Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ)
- Tolling Program
- Statewide Planning and Research
- Metropolitan Planning

Ms. Barren also spoke very briefly about the Federal Motor Fuel Tax and the State Motor Fuel Tax.

Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users Presentation – Ms. Loretta Barren gave a presentation on the specifications and requirements of SAFETEA-LU, including those related to:

- Planning Factors
- Update Cycles
- Air Quality

- Mitigation Activities
- Consultation/Participation
- Operational and Management Strategies

NC Turnpike Authority Presentation – Mr. David Joyner, Executive Director of the NC Turnpike Authority, gave a brief, but very information presentation explaining the establishment of the NCTA, and the authority that it possesses. Mr. Joyner explained the limitations of the program, as well as an explanation of the NCTA project approval process. Mr. Joyner spoke about how projects are financed, as well as gap funding options. A status report of current projects was given, including an update on the Garden Parkway in Gaston County.

NCDOT Funding Presentation – Mr. Calvin W. Leggett, P.E., NCDOT Program Development Branch, provided information on TIP Funding and the TIP Process. An explanation of the current equity formula was given as well as division allocations for FY 2006-2012. An update on the remaining intrastate mileage for each division was included in the presentation also. Mr. Leggett also gave time to explaining Garvee Bonds, including the advantages and criteria that a project must meet to qualify. At the time of the Jan. 30, 2006 meeting, no projects had been selected, but Mr. Leggett provided a sample list of local candidate projects (including those from Divisions 10 and 12). Mr. Leggett also provided information on Federal Earmarks.

Executive Committee Action – Mr. Long called for an amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding adopted and signed April 25, 2001 to include Rural Planning Organization's (RPO's) Chairs as members of the CRAFT Executive Committee. The amendment passed unanimously.

The Executive Committee also voted to send a regional resolution to Raleigh calling for re-visitation of the Highway Trust Fund Equity Formula.

Adjournment – Mr. Jim Long adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:00 pm.