

CRAFT Technical Committee
Meeting Notes
February 24, 2009

Attendees: David Hooper, RFATS; Don Voelker, NCDOT; Alpesh Patel, NCDOT; Linda Dosse', NCDOT; Sarah Rayfield, York County; Bernie Yacobucci, Gaston MPO; Joe Wilson, City of Concord; Reid Simons, NCTA; Tim Gibbs, CDOT; Jamal Alavi, NCDOT; Shannon Ransom, NCDOT; Hank Graham, Gaston MPO; Vincent Wong, Gaston MPO; Jack Flaherty, NCDOT; David Wasserman, NCDOT; and Phil Conrad, Cabarrus-Rowan MPO.

1. Phil Conrad from the Cabarrus-Rowan MPO began the meeting at 1:45 pm and welcomed everyone in attendance and asked for adjustments to the agenda. Mr. Conrad suggested that the Air Quality item be moved to the bottom of the agenda since SC DHEC or NC DAQ were unable to attend the meeting.
2. Mr. Conrad asked if there were any corrections, additions and/or deletions to the October 31, 2008 minutes. Mr. Hank Graham made a motion to accept the minutes as presented and Mr. Conrad seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by the committee.
3. Mr. Conrad asked Tim Gibbs to brief the Technical Committee on the upcoming March Executive Committee meeting. Mr. Gibbs indicated that he had talked with Bob Cook from MUMPO and he was finalizing the arrangements for an Executive Committee meeting. He said that the meeting would be held on March 18th in the afternoon and MUMPO would be host. He stated that Mr. Cook was trying to finalize the speakers for this meeting. Phil Conrad indicated that he and Hank Graham would be arranging the arrival of the National AMPO Director and would need a firm date soon. Mr. Gibbs indicated that he would followup with Mr. Cook on the final arrangements.
4. Mr. Don Voelker gave a presentation on the Strategic Planning Office of Transportation (SPOT). He explained the Mission and Goals of NCDOT. He explained that SPOT will manage a new strategic planning and prioritization process, which will include setting a strategic direction every 4 years, developing a strategic prioritization every 2 years, and creating action plans every 1-2 years. All of these processes will begin in calendar year 2009. SPOT will enable NCDOT to prove what NCDOT needs to do, what NCDOT can do, and what NCDOT plans to do. He explained that the Draft State TIP will be released in November 2009 and a new approval process will be unveiled by the Secretary of NCDOT at the March Board of Transportation meeting. He asked Alpesh Patel to provide a presentation on intranet-based template. Mr. Patel reviewed the interface with the group including the drop down menus and available data. Mr. Voelker encouraged MPOs/RPOs to register their NCID and indicated that Charlotte still needed to do this task.
5. Ms. Reid Simons provided an update on the Monroe Connector and Garden Parkway. She stated that both projects are progressing with gap funding approved in the most recent session of the NC General Assembly. She presented a handout on the Monroe Connector (Union County) that identified work on a draft EIS in early 2009 with a final EIS complete by the end of 2009. A Record of Decision is expected in early 2010 and the project is scheduled to be open to traffic in 2013. The Garden Parkway in Gaston

County will follow a similar schedule with the project opening in 2014. The priority segment for this project is from 485 to US 321 although the NCTA is reviewing many alternatives and connections. Both projects also have some funding in the current STIP. A brief discussion followed Ms. Simons presentation.

6. Mr. Tim Gibbs and Mr. Jack Flaherty gave an update on the Fast Lanes Study. Mr. Gibbs indicated that the Fast Lanes Study was close to being complete. The final Technical Team meeting has been scheduled for the morning of March 19 in Charlotte and the final workshop is scheduled for the morning of April 9 in Charlotte. He distributed a handout which indicated that the following is complete: projections of annual revenue in 2013 and 2030, vehicle and person trips by corridor in 2030, estimated travel time savings in 2030, initial capital cost estimates, and operating and maintenance cost estimates by corridor for 2013. He explained that the Phase 2 of the study would reveal the following: type of lane treatment, type of operation strategy, HOV and HOT policy, truck potential, revenue potential, access, connectivity, and phasing. According to the schedule, the Fast Lanes study should be complete in April.
7. Phil Conrad suggested that the CRAFT Technical meeting be adjourned so those guests from out-of-town could get back to SC and Raleigh at a reasonable business hour. He invited other CRAFT members to remain in attendance and view the air quality presentation and voice over from NCDAQ.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 pm.