

MINUTES

CHARLOTTE REGIONAL ALLIANCE FOR TRANSPORTATION

Thursday, September 30, 2004 – 4:30 pm

Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce

Members:

Jim Long
Ken Geathers
Lee Myers
Tom Anderson

Gaston MPO
Cabarrus/Rowan MPO
Mecklenburg/Union MPO
Lake Norman RPO

Others:

Phil Conrad
Mike Nunn
Connie Cunningham
Hank Graham
Barry Mosley
Andy Grzynski
Rodger Lentz
Rebecca Yarbrough
Tim Gibbs
Bill Finger
Stuart Basham
Fred Houser
CRMPO Staff
CRMPO Director
CRMPO Staff
Gaston MPO Staff
MUMPO Staff
CDOT Staff
CRMPO TCC
LN/RR RPO Staff
CDOT
CDOT
MUMPO Staff
LN RPO

Call to Order

Presiding Officer Ken Geathers called the September 30, 2004 CRAFT meeting to order. Mr. Geathers welcomed the members and read the roll call to confirm a quorum. With a quorum confirmed, Mr. Geathers asked the members if there were any additions to the agenda. With no additions to the agenda, Mr. Geathers moved onto the next item of business.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Geathers asked for comments or corrections to the minutes from the October 10, 2002 meeting. Ms. Rebecca Yarbrough asked if the Rocky River RPO had been omitted from the minutes as an additional member of CRAFT. Cabarrus-Rowan MPO Executive Director Mike Nunn stated that staff could re-check the record. Mr. Jim Long made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction and Mr. Ken Geathers seconded the motion. The CRAFT members followed with a unanimous vote.

Regional HOT Study Grant Application

Bill Finger from Charlotte DOT made a presentation on HOV/HOT lanes. He explained the difference between the 2 types of facilities and gave examples of their use in parts of the US. He highlighted the opening of the HOV lanes on I-77 between I-485 and I-277 in Charlotte. He also mentioned the I-40/CMS study in the Raleigh/Durham area. This study was performed by NCDOT with assistance from consultants. CRAFT members discussed the merits of HOV versus HOT lanes and asked for a cost estimate and breakdown for performing an HOT study. Mr. Finger indicated that the study would cost approximately \$300,000 with 80 percent reimbursed by the Federal government. CRAFT members expressed reservations about providing the 20 percent local match and asked staff to provide more details at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Regional Financial Plan

Tim Gibbs from Charlotte DOT gave a presentation on the Regional Financial Plan. He distributed a graph showing the projected vehicle miles traveled, population growth, and NCDOT budget growth for North Carolina. This graph showed an increasing gap between population/travel demand and NCDOT projects. Mr. Gibbs explained that the Metrolina Region was an example of this gap. He stated that by 2030 an additional 1.2 million trips will traverse the Mecklenburg County line than in the year 2000. He stated that the solution to projected congestion is regional collaboration on projects such as the Long Range Transportation Plan and Air Quality Conformity. He referenced a toolbox of funding options which included the Equity Funds, Urban Loop funds, Local funds, etc. He highlighted the fact that several large projects cannot be funded under the current Equity Formula such as I-85 in Cabarrus County, NC 279 in Gaston County, and I-77 in Mecklenburg County. He stated that the CRAFT Technical Committee was recommending 2 options from the toolbox to generate additional funds: change in the Equity Formula and 5 cent gas tax beginning in 2011. The change in the Equity Formula would result in distribution based on 1/3 equal share and 2/3 population. Mr. Gibbs stated that the gas tax would generate approximately \$70 more annually for each of the Highway Divisions in the Charlotte Region. CRAFT Executive Committee members questioned whether the change in Equity Formula might actually happen, but showed general support for some change in the formula due to the current controversial allocation. CRAFT members also questioned the need for a gas tax increase with the price of gasoline already near \$2 a gallon. They were generally concerned about the economic impact of a gas tax to the traveling public. Mr. Jim Long made a motion to support the Regional Financial Plan without the 5 cent gas tax and Mr. Lee Myers seconded it. The vote was unanimous.

Reports & Updates

- Air Quality Update – Mr. Geathers asked LRTP Process Manager Tim Gibbs if the Model, LRTP update, and Air Quality Conformity were on schedule to be complete by June 15, 2005. Mr. Gibbs confirmed that everything was on schedule.
- CRAFT Technical Committee Meeting Notes from August 20, 2004 were included in the members packet for information.

Adjournment

With no other business to consider, the CRAFT adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for February 2005 with the Mecklenburg/Union MPO will serve as host.