



## TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

### MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 18, 2020

2:00 p.m., Greensboro, NC

WebEx Online Virtual Meeting

#### Attendance

Tyler Meyer	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>	George Linney	<i>GTA</i>
Hanna Cockburn	<i>GDOT</i>	Mark Kirstner	<i>PART</i>
Chris Spencer	<i>GDOT</i>	Suzette Morales	<i>FHWA</i>
Deniece Conway	<i>GDOT</i>	Elizabeth Jernigan	<i>GSO Parks and Rec.</i>
Craig McKinney	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>	Scott Whitaker	<i>Town of Summerfield</i>
Lydia McIntyre	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>	Michael Abuya	<i>NCDOT TPD</i>
Tram Truong	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>	Pat Wilson	<i>NCDOT</i>
Yuan Zhou	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>	Stephen Robinson	<i>NCDOT Div. 7</i>
Chandler Hagen	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>	Tamara Njegovan	<i>NCDOT Div. 7</i>
Gray Johnston	<i>GDOT/GTA</i>	Sean Taylor	<i>Town of Oak Ridge</i>

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*Lydia McIntyre called the meeting to order at approximately 2:02 PM.*

#### Introductory Items

##### 1. Orientation to WebEx Software

Lydia McIntyre welcomed everyone to the August virtual meeting. Virtual meetings are required during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the MPO anticipates having virtual meetings until the state deems it safe for in-person meetings.

A special arrangement was made for all public comments to be submitted prior to the TAC meeting on August 19th via email or by phone. Information about the new process was posted on the MPO website, and comments were due by 5:00 PM on August 18th.

McIntyre gave a brief overview of the Cisco WebEx software, detailing the layout and features.

##### 2. Roll Call

Lydia McIntyre took a roll call of everyone in the meeting for the record.

McIntyre reviewed the voting procedures for TCC members. All voting is to be done verbally, with a motion first, then a second. Members must state their last name as they make the motion and second. Members will not be asked who is in favor, but instead, if there are any “no’s” or abstentions. Those who are voting against an item under discussion must also state their last name.

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#### Planning for the transportation future

## Action Items

### 1. June 23, 2020 Meeting Minutes

*Hanna Cockburn moved to approve the minutes of June 23, 2020. Elizabeth Jernigan seconded. The TCC voted unanimously to approve.*

### 2. Resolution of Appreciation for Mike Mills Service

Tyler Meyer noted the TAC would be recognizing Mike Mills with a resolution of appreciation in recognition of his service and contribution to the MPO. Mike Mills had recently retired after almost 45 years with NCDOT, the last 21 years as the Division 7 Engineer. The new Division 7 Engineer has not been announced.

Pat Wilson noted the new Division 7 Engineer had not been announced.

*Approval was not required.*

### 3. FY 2020-2029 MTIP Amendment: Add Statewide Transit Projects

Tyler Meyer presented an MTIP amendment requested by NCDOT to add seventeen statewide transit projects, which will be used to distribute \$12.6 million in state-directed Section 5339 and Section 5307 funding to transit systems projects across NC. The majority of the funding provides for construction and renovation of transit facilities (\$10.7 million), with smaller amounts available for purchasing electric buses and charging stations, operations support for transit systems, and bus purchases.

The purpose of the amendment is to maintain consistency with the STIP and establish eligibility for Greensboro area transit agencies to be awarded funding under these projects.

*Sean Taylor moved to approve. Mark Kirstner seconded. The TCC voted unanimously to approve.*

### 4. FY 2020-2029 MTIP Amendment / Modification: B-5713 Willow Road Bridge / U-5850 Randleman Road

Tyler Meyer presented an MTIP amendment and modification to delay project phases to assist in fund balancing in the TIP. Project B-5713 (Willow Road Bridge over I-40/I-85) will replace the old bridge and add sidewalk and bicycle accommodations to the new bridge. The amendment shifts project R/W from FY 2022 to 2025 and construction shifts from FY 2023 to 2026.

Project U-5850 (Randleman Road Complete Streets Widening) will extend the five lane cross section to the south and will add a 10-foot sidepath for pedestrians and cyclists on one side of the road and sidewalks to the other. The modification shifts R/W from FY 2021 to 2022. Delays for the project were adopted in a June 2020 MTIP amendment to shift construction from FY 2023 to FY 2024.

*Chris Spencer moved to approve. Scott Whitaker seconded. The TCC voted unanimously to approve.*

### 5. FY 2020-2029 MTIP Amendment: MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects U-5532 & C-5555

Tyler Meyer presented an MTIP amendment to adjust construction schedules and update funding sources and amounts for two MPO-directed bicycle and pedestrian umbrella projects. The MPO created U-5532 & C-5555 as umbrella projects to serve as a mechanism to establish funding for contracts under the project number. The projects have mostly been used for sidewalk contracts, although some contracts for greenway projects were included under U-5532. The amendment shifts construction from FY 2020 to FY 2021 and includes additional available funding in FY 2021 to provide for anticipated costs, increasing total funding from \$5.8 to \$7.6 million.

Meyer noted the College/New Garden Sidewalk Project (C-5555E) is expected to be approved for construction in the near future. Project U-5532 provides for six pedestrian & bicycle projects, including the Josephine Boyd and Walker Avenue Roadway and Sidewalk Project (U-5532A). However, this project is expected to receive authorization for construction and should not be affected by this action.

*Hanna Cockburn moved to approve. Michael Abuya seconded. The TCC voted unanimously to approve.*

#### **6. FY 2020-2029 MTIP Amendment: TA-6714 Electric Buses & Charging Infrastructure**

Tyler Meyer presented the MTIP amendment for Project TA-6714 to add funding awarded to GTA by North Carolina's Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) under a discretionary grant competition. GTA received \$502,000 in VW settlement funds to purchase an additional electric bus, which will bring GTA's electric fleet to 17 buses. The total cost of the electric bus will be supplemented with \$191,000 from CMAQ funding and \$167,000 from City funds.

TA-6714 was amended at the June 2020 TAC meeting to add \$680,000 funds for FY 2020 to purchase a second electric bus fast charger in FY 2020.

*Pat Wilson moved to approve. George Linney seconded. The TCC voted unanimously to approve.*

#### **7. 2020 Memorandum of Agreement for Air Quality**

Tyler Meyer presented the 2020 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for Air Quality to replace the existing 2013 MOA between the MPO, NCDOT, NCDEQ, and the EPA. The MPO has been under air quality regulation since a non-attainment designation in 1993. The MPO has been designated as an attainment area since 2015.

The revised document updates the interagency consultation procedures for transportation organizations and air quality conformity for consistency with current laws, regulations, and interagency consultation practices.

*Michael Abuya moved to approve. Sean Taylor seconded. The TCC voted unanimously to approve.*

#### **8. 2020 Public Participation Plan**

Tram Truong presented the 2020 Public Participation Plan update to add a process for virtual meetings and streamlines the sharing of documents to comply with federal Metropolitan Planning Regulations.

The Plan update improves the document by restructuring the document organization for readability and evaluating the effectiveness of delivering information and documents to the public, resulting in the removal of previously required locations where documents were never reviewed. New content was also added to address the suspension of normal document distribution during public review in the case of public health emergencies or other extraordinary reasons.

The Plan was sent out for public review from June 9 - July 24 2020 and received one comment. The comment did not address the Plan but was a general comment about traffic flow in Greensboro.

Meyer noted while the Plan did not mandate new social media requirements, it did include recommendations and the MPO is committed to pursuing the approach to reach a larger audience.

*Hanna Cockburn moved to approve. Scott Whittaker seconded. The TCC voted unanimously to approve.*

## **Business Items / Potential Action Item**

### **1. Division Engineer Updates**

Pat Wilson provided NCDOT project updates:

The remaining section of the western Urban Loop (U-2524D) from Elm Street to Lawndale Drive is still on schedule to open by December 2020.

The US 70 widening project (U-2581BA) connecting to the Publix Distribution Center is underway and currently working on utilities.

Duke Energy is working on-site at the Reedy Fork/US 29 interchange project (R-4707) in order to complete utility adjustments.

## **2. Project Updates**

Tyler Meyer shared an update on the status of the W. Market Street /College Road Project (U-5326) to address questions brought up by the TAC in the previous meeting in June. Significant utility delays created major impacts to the project timeline, which was then further extended by a slow moving contractor. NCDOT and the City are working together to expedite the project to be sure it is completed by the deadline within the current timeframe. Inspectors are out working with contractor on a daily basis to make sure reasonable progress is made, NCDOT has set milestones for the contractor to meet, and having bi-weekly meetings to keep progress moving forward. Project completion is expected by summer 2021.

Construction recently started on the Depot Renovation project and has a 9 month timeframe for completion.

MPO DA Projects and locally administered STI Projects have been on hold for several months due to NCDOT fiscal instability. NCDOT has recently released the first \$15 million of funding authority statewide, with \$1.4 million of that for MPO DA priority projects in the Greensboro area. NCDOT requested the MPO submit a list of DA priority projects back in late June.

The funding will cover the costs for the Josephine Boyd Street / Walker Avenue Roadway and Sidewalks Project (U-5532A) which has received authorization for construction. There may be enough funding capacity for New Garden / College Road Sidewalk Project (C-5555E) to move forward, possibly by partially deferred reimbursements, construction authorization pending.

MPO staff has also prioritized locally administered STI projects, although NCDOT has not requested this list. NCDOT is planning to address MPO DA projects, then CMAQ projects before allowing STI projects to move forward but there are some projects may have special circumstances. Downtown Greenway Phase 2 has experienced additional costs to rehabilitate the bridge over Church Street and the Ballinger Road Bridge is in dire need of replacement. And the Atlantic & Yadkin / Downtown Greenway Phase 4 project hopefully to receive additional funding through discussions with NCDOT. Also it is highly important that approval be received soon for the transit related sidewalk project on Meadowview Road to enter R/W phase, a relatively minor expense.

Craig McKinney asked isn't EL-5101DJ a DA funded project? Meyer responded that El-5101DJ is a hybrid, with more STI funds than DA funds and that the additional funding for the bridge will be requested once cost estimate from the consultant is provided.

## **3. Strategic Reports**

Tyler Meyer reported GTA will return to a regular schedule on September 1. Normal operations were able to resume by leveraging available federal funds and as a result of cost savings from reduced SCAT trip numbers easing budget pressures and eliminating the need for the planned fixed route service cuts.

Lydia McIntyre then briefly presented on the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), a planning document required by federal regulations to support the MPO project identification and prioritization process. Prioritization is the analysis used to identify project recommendations for NCDOT Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

The MTP is updated every 5 years and focuses on providing metrics to inform recommendations and progress of the multi-modal transportation network. The plan is made up of multiple components, including significant modeling work via the Piedmont Triad Regional Model developed by PART for socioeconomic and land use data, individual chapters for roadway, transit, bicycle, pedestrian, and freight and environmental and financial analyses. The renamed Performance Based Planning chapter includes previous data metrics and establishes new targets created through agency partnerships.

As part of the 2045 update, the MTP will have a new Emerging Trends chapter, feature an updated Greensboro Urban Area MPO logo, and will be promoted as an online document for public review using the ESRI platform.

The MTP is scheduled to be completed at the end of September 2020 in order to conduct the required 30-day public review period prior to the November MPO meetings. MPO staff will host a virtual public review meeting, during the public review period. The MTP is expected to be presented for adoption at the TAC meeting on November 18, 2020.

Michael Abuya asked if the MTP maps were complete. Tram Truong confirmed the bicycle, pedestrian, and transit maps were complete and noted she still needed a few pieces of information in order to complete the roadway and highway maps.

Sean Taylor asked when the new Prioritization 6.0 Projects list was expected to come out. Meyer clarified the Projects Submittal list had been sent to NCDOT but results were not expected until the spring of 2021. McIntyre and Meyer explained there would be additional steps after receiving the results from NCDOT.

## **Other Items**

### **1. Member Updates**

Lydia McIntyre noted the Vision Zero Greensboro art competition had recently ended and winners would be announced at the next meeting. John Clark of State Farm was a partner in the initiative and had provided cash prizes for the winners.

Tyler Meyer added the Transportation Planning Branch newsletter was recently released.

Meyer informed the committee the MPO was recently notified the State Planning and Research (SPR) funds plus state funds reimbursement grant agreement awarded by NCDOT to administer the Piedmont Triad Regional Model (PTRM) Household Travel Survey may be canceled due to fiscal constraints and the disruptive influence of Covid-19 on travel patterns and household behaviors. If this is the case, the region can reapply in FY 2022 for funding the project.

### **2. Wrap-Up**

Meyer noted the September MPO meetings were cancelled in order to dedicate staff time to completing the MTP document.

The next TCC meeting will be November 17, 2020, at 2:00 PM.

***The meeting was informally adjourned by Tyler Meyer at approximately 2:52 PM.***

