



Transportation Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes of September 21, 2022

2:00 PM, Greensboro, NC
Zoom Online Virtual Meeting

Attendance

Marikay Abuzuaiter	<i>TAC Chair</i>	Raunak Mishra	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>
Yvonne Johnson	<i>TAC Member, City of Greensboro</i>	Joshua Hoffman	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>
Tammi Thurm	<i>TAC Member, City of Greensboro</i>	David Pegg	<i>GDOT/GTA</i>
Mike Fox	<i>TAC Member, City of Greensboro</i>	Hanna Cockburn	<i>GDOT Director</i>
Carly Cooke	<i>TAC Member, City of Greensboro</i>	Stephen Robinson	<i>NCDOT Div. 7</i>
Tyler Meyer	<i>TCC Chair</i>	Jeff Sovich	<i>GSO Comm. Dev.</i>
Lydia McIntyre	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>	Jason Geary	<i>GSO E&I</i>
Tram Truong	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>	Nathanael Moore	<i>GSO Field Ops</i>
Craig McKinney	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>	Scott Rhine	<i>PART</i>
Craig McKinney	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>	Suzette Morales	<i>FHWA</i>
Chris Spencer	<i>GDOT Eng.</i>	Michael Abuya	<i>NCDOT TPB</i>
Yuan Zhou	<i>GDOT/MPO</i>	Nicole Lindahl	<i>BIG</i>

Marikay Abuzuaiter called the meeting to order at approximately 2:00 PM.

Introductory Items

1. Opening Remarks and Roll Call

Marikay Abuzuaiter welcomed everyone to the meeting. She noted the meeting is being recorded for the purpose of developing minutes. Abuzuaiter then took roll call of TAC members. She then asked Craig McKinney to take the attendee verification for other attendees.

2. Ethics and Awareness & Conflict of Interest

Marikay Abuzuaiter read the Conflict of Interest Policy Statement required by the State Ethics Act, which states it is the responsibility of each committee member to avoid conflicts of interest and if there are any to identify them now. No conflicts of interested were identified.



3. Reports, Concerns, and Discussion from MPO Area Towns

Marikay Abuzuaiter noted that Reece Walker is unable to attend and so there would be no town updates today.

4. Public Comments

Nicole Lindahl noted that she is speaking as a representative of Bicycling in Greensboro's Advocacy Committee. The group is thrilled with the draft State Transportation Improvement Program. Thank you to the MPO elected officials and staff as well as NCDOT for looking at the bigger picture and planning valuable connections to our current greenway system for those who use alternative modes of transportation. Notable projects include

- a connection of the A&Y greenway to the Bicentennial Greenway via a greenway sidepath along Old Battleground Road;
- Downtown Greenway Phase 4 will connect to the Lake Daniel and Latham Park greenways;
- Summerfield South Greenway will take folks from the A&Y tunnel under US 220 to Centerfield Drive where the Town park and the recreation center are located; and
- Vance Arlington Greenway will connect Florida Street to the Downtown Greenway at Bragg Street.

These projects are working towards a complete streets network and safe streets for all users. They also show that you, our MPO and City's decision makers, planners, and engineers are making an effort to improve the Greensboro area in ways that will benefit everyone economically and environmentally; will make for a healthier and safer city; and will improve quality of life for our community overall. The group appreciates the MPOs good work on this.

Marikay Abuzuaiter thanked Lindahl and commended her and the groups for coming forward with ideas and suggestions and said it would be great for her to come to City Council and say exactly what you just said. Tyler Meyer thanked Lindahl for her comments as well.

Action Items:

1. August 10, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Mike Fox moved to approve. Tammi Thurm seconded. The TAC voted unanimously to approve.

2. MTIP Amendment & Modification: Roadway Projects

Tram Truong noted this amendment and modification affects two projects. The first change is to add a new “E” break to grouped safety project HS-2007. The break will provide for improved pavement markings and associated safety improvements on NC 62 from west of Thornbrook Road to west of the Alamance County Line. The action adds \$715,000 in FY 23 for that purpose.

The second project increases funding for I-40 & Sandy Ridge Road Interchange project (I-5712) by \$4.5 million based on current estimates. Construction remains scheduled for 2023. The recommendation is to amend and modify the MTIP.

Abuzuaiter asked Truong to clarify for the group what was meant by an “E” break. Truong explained the break mechanism allows for grouping multiple subprojects or phases under a single

project number. In this case, “E” is the next available letter under the HS-2007. For HS-2007, the letters A, B, C, and D are already in use, so the next available break is HS-2007E.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson moved to approve. Mike Fox seconded. The TAC voted unanimously to approve.

3. MTIP Modification: Aviation & Rail Projects

Tram Truong noted this modification will shift construction schedules to provide more time for design and project development for two projects. The first project (AV-5711) will update service movement guidance and control system at PTI. The modification will shift construction from FY 22 to FY 25 to provide PTI more time to assemble the full funding package and complete the necessary preparatory work. The second project (Y-4807B) will realign the Lowdermilk Street, Sykes Avenue, and East Market Street intersection with a new traffic signal. It will also remove the Pine Street rail crossing and extends sidewalks and curb and gutter added under MPO supported City of Greensboro project EL-5101DM. The modification shifts construction from FY 22 to FY 23. The recommendation is to modify the MTIP accordingly.

Tammi Thurm moved to approve. Mike Fox seconded. The TAC voted unanimously to approve.

4. MTIP Modification: Pedestrian & Bicycle Projects

Tram Truong noted this item shifts right-of-way from FY 22 to FY 23 for the Summerfield South Greenway (EB-5900) to allow for additional planning. Construction remains in FY 24 and funding amount does not change at this time. The item also shifts the right-of-way from FY 22 to FY 23 for the Benjamin Parkway sidepath project (EB-5986). The project includes pedestrian signals and sidewalks or sidepath where needed from Battleground to Elam. There are no change to construction schedules or funding amounts at this time. The recommendation is to modify the MTIP.

Carly Cooke moved to approve. Tammi Thurm seconded. The TAC voted unanimously to approve.

Business Items / Potential Action Item(s):

1. Division Engineer Report

Stephen Robinson delivered the Division Engineer Report. Robinson displayed a drone photo of the urban loop taken August 29 and described progress on the project. Construction is ahead of schedule and completion is expected in by spring 2023 or possibly sooner based on current rate of progress. He noted he had provided a short video, and that Craig McKinney would show it later in the meeting.

2. Local Projects Update

Jason Geary provided an update on recent and upcoming locally administered projects.

- Value engineering is underway for the revisions to Downtown Greenway Phase 4 project. Staff plans to put out to bid in December 2022 with the goal of a construction start in May 2023. Changes under way include the removal of enhancement area along the Greensboro College campus and removal of the extension of the A&Y Greenway from Smith Street to Benjamin Parkway. That section will be added to the next phase of A&Y Greenway construction.

- The Greene Street Streetscape project is set to begin construction once the necessary water line materials arrive in January 2023.
- The Alamance Church Road improvements are underway and going well. Clearing and private utility relocations are complete, and new water line and storm sewer installation is ongoing. Widening is underway in areas where utility installations are complete. Construction completion is expected by Spring 2024.
- Construction on the Ballinger Road Bridge continues apace after various delays in obtaining necessary supplies. Utility installations are complete and widening is in progress. Completion is expected by December 2022.
- The water line work for the Eugene and Bellemeade Streetscape project is complete and the roadway project will restart November 1.
- Construction of the Horse Pen Creek Road Widening is substantially complete.
- Summit Avenue Streetscape construction is well underway. Utility work on phase one is complete. Yanceyville Street construction expected to be complete by the end of the year. Once phase one work is complete phase two will begin.
- The College and New Garden Road sidewalk project and the North Elm Street sidewalk project are going well with completion expected by the end of the year.

3. Strategic Reports

Tyler Meyer noted NCDOT recently began feasibility studies for two rail grade separation projects. The MPO submitted these projects for prioritization several years back in consultation with the Rail Division. These studies are intended to validate and define the scope of each project and estimate probable cost. The first project is the Yanceyville Street grade separation (P-5735). This project is listed in the Draft STIP for preliminary engineering only and is subject to reprioritization. The second project is the South English Street grade separation (P-5747). This project is programmed for construction in FY 26 in the draft STIP and is not subject to reprioritization.

MPO staff completed and submitted the grant application for the USDOT *Safe Streets and Roads for All* discretionary grant opportunity that he had mentioned at the last meeting. The purpose is to secure funding to develop a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan for the MPO area.

Work began on the Downtown Parking Plan last month. The consultant is in the early phases on that project. This includes preliminary stakeholder engagement and a City Council briefing later in the month to update City Council on the initiative

MPO staff has completed the scope of work for the Mobility Greensboro 2045 Long Range Transit Plan in coordination with GTA. The Request for Letters of Interest will be issued shortly with letters of interest due by November 10.

Staff is analyzing the need and potential for project swaps in the Draft 2024-2033 STIP and is actively coordinating with Division 7 on that endeavor. The results and recommendations from this work will be presented for TAC consideration at future meetings.

Meyer noted that a conflict has arisen for the currently scheduled November 9 TAC meeting. He asked whether rescheduling that meeting to November 16 would work for TAC members. Members present unanimously agreed, and Meyer noted that staff had already checked in with Reece Walker and it worked for him too. Based on this, TAC agreed to change the meeting date.

Meyer concluded with an introduction of Raunak Mishra, recently hired into a new MPO Transportation Safety Engineer position. Mishra began his career in the National Rural

Infrastructure Development Agency in India where he gained valuable on the ground experience. He then then came to the US for advanced studies, recently completing his PhD at UNC-Charlotte in transportation engineering with a focus own transportation safety. The TAC warmly welcomed Mishra.

Other Items

1. Board Member Update

Mike Fox delivered the board member update. The draft 2024-2033 State Transportation Improvement Program (August version) is now out for public review and comment. MPO and Division 7 staff are collaborating to identify and determine whether to recommend any project swaps. This will be discussed at future meetings. Fox then noted the General Assembly's farsighted move in the budget bill to shift a significant amount of tax revenue from the General Fund to the Highway Trust Fund to support NCDOT's project delivery efforts. This tax revenue is from transportation related services such as when you buy a new set of windshield wipers or you get your tires rotated and changed. The General Assembly and Governor's action to dedicate these funds to transportation will substantially bolster the 2024-2033 STIP, and in fact is the reason NCDOT was able to release an expanded draft STIP in August to replace the earlier version from April. From a longer-term perspective, the continuing increase in hybrid and battery electric vehicle numbers will put additional downward pressure on gas tax revenues, meaning the primary source of revenue will continue to decrease over time. Adding these additional revenue streams was especially important given that, and was one of the NC First Commission's recommendations to address the problem. Fox closed by noting NCDOT's recent successes in obtaining USDOT discretionary grants is a promising trend that will also enable the Department to do more in the face of rising prices and continuing inflation.

2. Regional Updates

Marikay Abuzuaiter gave the regional updates. She first noted that PART has expanded its Randolph County bus line to connect to the Asheboro zoo. This is a great way for groups, families, and folks in general to get to the zoo and she recommends it. Secondly, Scott Rhine is in discussions with the Toyota (for the electric automotive battery manufacturing facility at the Greensboro – Randolph Megasite in Liberty) and Boom Supersonic (at PTI) about establishing vanpools to facilitate connecting the area workforce to employment at these major sites.

3. Wrap-Up & Adjournment

Abuzuaiter asked Craig McKinney to play a video of drone footage collected on August 29 of construction progress on the northern urban loop. This seven-minute video flies the corridor from Elm Street eastwards to US 29. As the video indicates, work is proceeding expeditiously and a great deal has been accomplished since the last drone video TAC reviewed from April. Stephen Robinson estimated the work was around 80% complete and noted that and the end of the year target for completing construction appears realistic.

Marikay Abuzuaiter added she will be at an event in Raleigh at NCSU November 2 and 3 for a Federal Railroad Administration summit on reducing rail related pedestrian fatalities. She and GPD representatives will present on the much-admired GPD rail safety initiative. This initiative involves sending regular ATV patrols along the NCRP corridor in east Greensboro to find people walking on the tracks and to provide them a warning and information about the hazards of doing so. This

initiative is credited with a major reduction in pedestrian train fatalities along these tracks compared to before the initiative.

Abuzuaiter closed by reminding everyone the next TAC meeting date has been changed to November 16 at 2:00 PM and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Marikay Abuzuaiter adjourned the meeting at 2:39 PM.