

## **Rocky River RPO Transportation Advisory Committee**

**Minutes for October 19, 2006**

**Cyber Center Community Room, Horne Library  
Polkton, NC**

### **Members:**

Tony Dennis (Stanly County – TAC Chairman), Larry Helms (NCDOT – BOT), Calvin Gaddy (New London – alternate), Frank Deese (Marshville), Harold Thompson (Norwood), Joe Estridge (Ansonville), Jarvis Woodburn (Anson County), Steven Garris (Peachland), Bobby Sikes (Anson County)

**Others:** Van Arabright, NCDOT, Mike Bruff, NCDOT, Scott Rowell (Anson County – TCC Chairman), Bryan Steen (Stanly County), Dana Stoogenke (RPO staff), Barry Moose (NCDOT), Andy Lucas (Anson County Manager), Jack Flaherty (NCDOT)

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Chairman Dennis called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

### **2. Amendment to/Adoption of Agenda**

Steve Garris made a motion to approve the meeting agenda without changes. Harold Thompson seconded the motion and the agenda was approved unanimously.

### **3. Approval of Minutes for the TAC meeting on August 24, 2006**

There were no changes made to the minutes of the meeting. Calvin Gaddy made a motion to approve the minutes and Bobby Sikes seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

### **4. NCDOT Funding (Information)**

Van Argabright, Program Development Branch with NCDOT handed out a PowerPoint presentation about funding opportunities with NCDOT. The presentation explored the different pots of money available in North Carolina. Most of the money is distributed according to RPO/MPO Priority Needs Lists. It is important communities realize there may be a match required depending on the program.

The following are some of the federal funds: Bridge Program, Surface Transportation Program, and Bike Program. Each of these programs has its own rules and restrictions. Other ways to gain funding include congressional earmarks, however, these typically displace funds and do not bring new funds to the State.

The state funds are distributed much like federal funds by way of a Priority Needs Lists. Some of the state funds are competitive statewide, while others are competitive only within the Division. Most of the funds are designed to be used on State roads, however, Powell Bill funds are for municipal aid. The following are state funded: Small Construction Funds; Statewide Contingency Funds; Spot Safety Program; and

Public Access/Service Funds. In addition, TIP Economic Development Program and Economic Development Funds are two tools used to create trade and industry. Several examples of successful projects using various programs were given by Larry Helms. These included the Anson County Airport project and the bridge replacement for Ansonville.

Barry Moose offered to include municipalities in the Division's bid for paving in order for communities to gain the benefit of economics-of-scale. The municipalities can pay the Division for the work. Mr. Moose indicated several municipalities already benefit from the reduction in the cost this provides. Calvin Gaddy inquired if you can accumulate Powell Bill dollars. Mr. Moose explained that as long as you have a plan in place to spend the dollars, then it should be fine.

In a final note, Mr. Argabright explained most of the state-funded programs have websites and forms to fill out. But, Larry Helms and Mr. Moose clarified that writing a letter to either of them would be just as effective.

**5. HOV/HOT Lane Study (Adopted)**

Jack Flaherty, NCDOT-Transit, explained the HOV/HOT Lane Study and invited the RPO to participate in the process. The Study purpose is to determine if there are any potentially viable HOV/HOT corridors; if managed lanes, express lanes or contra-flow lanes are feasible and where and how these facilities might be connected to form a system. The cost of the study totals \$500,000, but the Rocky River RPO will not be required to make a dollar match. Instead, the Rocky River RPO is requested to provide in-kind services. Larry Helms asked if the study would be executed without our participation and Mr. Flaherty remarked that the study would carry on. Mr. Calvin Gaddy made a motion to have staff participate in the HOV/HOT Lane Study. Frank Deese seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

**6. Planning Work Program/Five Year Calendar (Adopted)**

Dana Stoogenke, RPO Staff, presented the 2006-2007 Planning Work Program and Five Year Calendar. These documents are NCDOT requirements and usually adopted in February/March timeframe, however, the Lead Planning Organization's change caused a delay in review and adoption. Once adopted and submitted to NCDOT, a Rocky River account can be created for draw-down. Ms. Stoogenke reviewed the program summary and explained how she will divide her time to meet NCDOT requirements.

Larry Helms did not want duplication of services and encouraged Ms. Stoogenke to utilize the resources within NCDOT's Transportation Planning Branch and the Division 10 office. Mr. Helms reiterated the focus of the RPO should be on the communities within Rocky River.

Mr. Calvin Gaddy made a motion to adopt the Planning Work Program and Five Year Calendar. Harold Thompson made the second and it passed unanimously.

**7. Transportation Improvement Program- TIP (Information)**

The 2007-2013 Draft TIP was released in mid-September for review. Ms. Dana Stoogenke, RPO Staff, distributed copies of the TIP for the TAC to review. The worksheet compares the draft TIP with the 2006-2007 TIP. This makes it easier to compare if the project funds or timetables have changed.

The public hearings for the draft TIP will be on November 8<sup>th</sup> at the Rowan-Cabarrus Community College. During the public hearing, NCDOT Board members and other NCDOT staff will be recording and taking comments. However, writing a letter voicing concern about a specific project to Van Argabright, Larry Helms or Barry Moose is just as effective. The RPO's role in this process is to speak for the region's major goals. NCDOT wants the region to speak with one voice. The region should be unified.

The final TIP could be out as early as January 2007, but, more likely in March 2007. All comments are needed by December 1, 2006. Larry Helms suggested that RPO Staff submit a written letter to NCDOT. At the November TCC/TAC meeting the RPO can determine a unified statement and submit it before the December 1 deadline. Ms. Dana Stoogenke will email all RPO members to solicit their input prior to the November meeting.

**8. Redesign RPO Logo (no action)**

Ms. Dana Stoogenke, RPO Staff, forwarded a recommendation from the TCC to redesign the RPO logo. TAC members indicated not to make it a priority, but, if there is time, a new logo would be fine.

**9. Alt US 52 (Adopted)**

Calvin Gaddy explained the recommendation he brought forth to the TCC, which was endorsed and recommended to this body. US 52 TIP # R-2903, which is described as multi-lane South of NC 49 at Richfield to I-85 north of Salisbury, has been put on the "back burner." However, Mr. Gaddy proposes the TCC support a two-lane bypass around Misenheimer and Richfield. Barry Moose supports not putting more money into the planning process for US 52. He suggested a new project be created to insure the safety around Pfieffer College. Barry Moose's idea is to purchase right-of-way for a four-lane divided cross section and construct a two-lane bypass. The proposed project would begin around US 52 and NC 49, go north past NC 49 and Bojangles, and tie back into US 52 around the Cabarrus County line.

Mr. Larry Helms suggested that the TCC recommend both projects. He feels the new bypass should be in addition to the current 52 project.

Mr. Gaddy made a motion to have these two projects be explained and submitted to NCDOT staff during the 2007-2013 TIP process. Mr. Harold Thompson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

## **10. Old Business**

### **Update of Settlement of RPO Assets (Adopted)**

Bryan Steen reviewed the latest letter from the Centralina Council of Governments (COG) regarding the transfer of RPO equipment and cash. COG declined to agreement set forth by the TAC. Mr. Calvin Gaddy made a motion that the matter be resolved by NCDOT's external auditor. The motion was seconded by Steven Garris. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **11. New Business**

### **Monroe Bypass (Information)**

Larry Helms informed the group that Mecklenburg-Union Metropolitan Planning Organization (MUMPO) approved a motion to combine sections B and C of the Monroe Bypass into one environmental document. This project will be administrated by the North Carolina Turnpike Authority. In addition, the road project will take advantage of a new process under section 6002 of SAFETY-LU. This process streamlines the environmental review and can shave years off construction, moving up completion. The MUMPO consultant indicated the project would be reduced from an eight-year project to a three-year project.

### **Next Meeting Date/Place**

The next meeting will be held somewhere in Stanly County on November 16, 2006 from 6 pm until 8 pm. Tony Dennis will coordinate the arrangements with Dana Stoogenke.

## **12. Public Comment**

None.

## **13. Adjourn**