



Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Charlie Akin (New London), Bobby Sikes (Anson County), Minnie Staton (Polkton), Jim Harrison (Badin), Larry Smith (Red Cross), Harold Thompson (Norwood – TAC Chairman), Jann Lowder (Stanly County X-alt.), Denise Whitley (Marshville), Garrett McLendon (Peachland X-alt.), Martha Sue Hall (City of Albemarle), Tony Dennis (NC Board Member), Walter S. Edwards (Town of Ansonville X-alt.) and Michael Riemann (Misenheimer X-alt.)

Members Absent: Jason Smith (Stanfield) Wade Barbee (Richfield), Allen Baucom (Union County), Harold Green (Locust) and Roy Helms (Oakboro).

Others Present: Calvin Gaddy (New London), Larry Milano (Badin), Larry Branch via phone conference (Town of Oakboro), John Witherspoon (Wadesboro), Dana Stoogenke (RPO), Jamal Alavi (NCDOT), Reuben Crummy (NCDOT), Shannon Ransom (NCDOT) and Betty Whitley (RPO).

A. Welcome

The meeting convened at 6:00 pm and quorum was established.

B. Approval of agenda (Approved)

There was a request to add “item c” to the agenda under Old Business, to discuss Air Quality and to give an update on COG. Martha Sue Hall made a motion to approve the amended agenda and Denise Whitley seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

C. Approval of minutes (Approved)

A motion was made by Martha Sue Hall to approve the minutes for July 16, 2009. The motion was seconded by Denise Whitley and passed unanimously.

D. Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) Information

Jamal Alavi (NCDOT- TBP) explained that the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) is a 30-year transportation plan created by NCDOT in partnership with communities. These multi-model documents project transportation needs in the future and provide improvement to handle development. The final CTP will show maps that include all forms of transportation (roadways, bike, bus, rail and pedestrian).

Stanly, Anson and Union Counties are currently holding monthly Focus Group meetings to gather information and make decisions for each CTP. If all goes well, these plans should be finished in the next six months.

Once completed and adopted, CTPs will be utilized by NCDOT as a blueprint for how money is spent. The CTP helps influence the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Reuben Crummy (NCDOT) presented CTP maps of Stanly County and rural areas of Union County. These maps identified roadways that had deficiencies and showed roads in need of improvement. NCDOT will make recommendations and suggestions for alternatives to handle traffic demands.

Shannon Ransom (NCDOT) presented CTP maps of Anson County and Wadesboro. Hand allocations analysis was used to calculate future road needs. The remaining towns and County used historic data with trend line analysis to determine future needs.

E. NCDOT Updates

a. Stimulus and County Updates (information provided by Tony Dennis)

Tony Dennis advised everyone things are on track with the road projects for our area. Barry Moose and Richard Hancock were both unable to attend the meeting.

Walter Edwards asked about the Hwy 218 funding stream. Money was taken from the Polkton project to pay for this improvement. Will the Polkton project be placed back on the Transportation Improvement Program? Tony Dennis will have Barry Moose look into the matter.

b. Transportation Planning Branch Update (Information)

Reuben Crummy advised everyone that the new TIP database-SPOT is open for input.

F. Old Business (Information)

a. SPOT Program

Information provided by Dana Stoogenke.

Starting next week, Dana will be entering information into NCDOT's new SPOT database. The RPO is required to input and rank its top 25 highway projects. The RPO will use the TIP prioritization list that was adopted last fall as its list of projects.

b. Monroe Connector –Bypass Update
Update by Dana Stoogenke

Construction on the Monroe Bypass will start in the fall 2010 and should be completed in the fall of 2013. The North Carolina Turnpike Authority picked the route in Marshville with already purchased right-of-way.

c. Air Quality /COG Update

▪ **EPA's Re-evaluation of the Air Quality Standard**

EPA announced its decision to re-evaluate the air quality standards previously set up during the Bush administration. The current air quality standard was set at .75. The decision should be made in December whether the standard will stay the same or be more restricted. Union County is non-attainment. Stanly and Anson Counties may have to wait another year for their finalized air quality status.

▪ **Carol Lewis/COG "Clean Air for Kids Program"**

Martha Sue Hall was very concerned during the July TAC, when Carol Lewis made the comment that she had been unable to get responses from Stanly County and Union County School Systems to support the "Clean Air for Kids Program". Afterwards, Martha suggested to Carol that a letter be sent to the Stanly County Board of Education.

Martha announced that Carol Lewis will be coming to Stanly County to present the "Clean Air for Kids Program" to the school principals. The first meeting will be to the Stanly County Board of Education on October 6, 2009 and presented to the principals on October 8, 2009.

G. New Business

a. Grade Plus Program:

This program is to replace diesel engines and older farm equipment. There is a 75% reimbursement on engines or 25% when the entire vehicle is replaced. This program was originally for Mecklenburg County, but has been extended to include Stanly, Anson and Union Counties. The deadline for the grant application is October 2009.

b. Carolina Thread Trail:

Carolina Thread Trail will hold its annual meeting November 5, 2009 in Mooresville. Dana will be attending this meeting.

c. MPO-RPO Conference:

The annual conference for both the MPOs and RPOs will be held November 04 – 06, 2009 in Raleigh. Last year, staff attended the meeting, but will not be able to attend this year.

d. Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program (CMAQ):

The deadline for Union County and Marshville to apply for this grant is October 31, 2009. Union County and Marshville are currently not interested in CMAQ because the jurisdictions do not have 20% matching money.

e. Walk to School Day:

Walk to School Day will be held on October 7, 2009. This is a good way to get children involved and promotes safe walking and bicycling.

f. Parking Lot Inventory:

Rocky River RPO hired Adrienne Ward as an intern. Adrienne worked for the past year conducting field work and gathering information on all parking lots in our area. The study is now complete and GIS information is now available. A draft was given to TCC members last month and a final version will be available in the next few weeks.

H. Public Comment

I. Adjourned at 7:29 pm.

A motion was made by Martha Sue Hall to adjourn and Michael Riemann seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Adopted: This the 19th of November, 2009.

Harold Thompson, TAC Chairman

Attest:

Dana Stoogenke, Secretary