

2. Minutes

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD February 20, 2023

The Transportation Advisory Committee held a virtual and in-person TEAMS meeting on Monday, September 19, 2022 at 4:30pm

Members

Rocky Mount – Reuben Blackwell, Richard Joyner, Brad Kerr, Jordan Reedy
Edgecombe County – Evelyn Powell
Nash County – Robbie Davis
Nashville – Louise Hinton
Sharpsburg – David Pride
NCDOT – Melvin Mitchell

Members Absent

Mayor Sandy Roberson

Alternates Present

Others Present

Linda Rideout
Jennifer Collins
Scott Miles
Ramon Muckle
James Salmons
Tom Gardner
Brandon Oliver

1. Welcome and Introductions

Meeting came to order at 4:32pm called by [REDACTED]

A quorum was met.

Introductions were given briefly at the beginning of the meeting.

2. Minutes of the 11/21/22 TAC Meeting

The minutes of the November, 21,2022, TAC meeting had been mailed to members with the current meeting agenda.

Motion made to approve the minutes was made by [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] voiced the second. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Action Items

3.1 TAC Meeting Schedule Adjustment.

Jordan Reedy discussed the need to change the upcoming TAC meeting from September 18th to August 7th, 2023. Mr. Reedy stated that this is needed so that the MPO can meet the September 19th adoption deadline for the MTP. Following this meeting change, meetings are expected to resume at the normal schedule.

Motion by [REDACTED], Second by [REDACTED].

The motion was unanimously approved. None opposed.

3.2 TAC Special Called Meeting.

Jordan Reedy requests a special called TAC Meeting prior to March 31st. Mr. Reedy explained that this meeting is a move towards adopting the FY24 budget for the MPO. Jordan states that the preferred format of this special meeting is virtual because it is expected to be a short meeting and virtual should be the most convenient method of attendance. He also stated that a copy of the funding sources table was provide today, but if anyone wants to see the draft version, to contact him, and it can be made available. Jordan stated that there may be one or two other brief items added to this agenda prior to the meeting. Jordan suggested a date of **March 3rd at 4:30**. Links to the virtual meeting will be sent by email to all members. Melvin Mitchell stated that he may have a potential conflict with the date, but he will try to log on virtually from his expected location.

Chair asks for approval. First motion: [REDACTED]
Second motion [REDACTED].

Motion approved, no opposition.

4. Transportation Planning Activities and Initiatives

4.1 Microtransit Presentation: Kai Monast and Mariate Echeverry.

Two guest speakers were attending virtually to each give a presentation on micro transit. Prior to the guest speakers, Jordan gave briefing on micro-transit system. The system is operates similarly to UBER or LYFT – where riders can contact transit agency to get

rides rather than use fixed-route transit routing. Todd Gardner added explanation. Rocky Mount is currently working on a feasibility study with AECOM.

The first guest presentation was by Mariate Echeverry, a senior transport employee with AECOM, previously a planner, now in private sector. Heading RM micro-transit plan. The second guest presentation was by Kai Monast, PhD, NC STATE ITRE, provides training, technology, operation improvement advice. The presentations focused on the topic of micro-transit, and the benefits and complications that arise from it. Attention and detail was given to the implementation of micro-transit in the Rocky Mount area.

Mariate Recommended Service Proposals: Eliminate some fixed routes – biggest change elimination of route 9 – low ridership. Shorten route 8 serve area with Micro-transit instead. Keep routes 5 and 7 – strongest routes in fixed route system. Add Micro-transit zone to southwest - eliminate route 10. Changes to routes 1, 2, 4 to make them more straight-forward. Other recommendations: Increase hours of operation/weekends. Develop partnerships with colleges/employers.

The chair asked if there were any questions: Tom: Thanks for presentation – information in presentation was for FY 2019 – was it because of Covid? Mariate replied “YES – after 2019 huge decrease in ridership – all projects are being affected”.

Jordan thanked Mariate – great update, looking forward to seeing what comes from it.

Presentation by Kai Monast:

Micro-transit: defined as shared technology-enabled, public transport system with flexible routing options/real-time trip demand and origin-destination patterns. Provides trip scheduling/real-time vehicle tracking.

Dr. Monast then reviewed different types of Micro-transit systems and how they operate.

Can it work in RM? Per Dr. Monast, “No question it can work”, but depends on what you want to accomplish and where and how it is implemented.

The chair opened the floor to questions. None were voiced following Dr. Monast’s presentation. Jordan and the TAC chairperson thanked Dr. Monast and Ms. Echeverry.

Anyone that wishes to review the presentation recordings should contact Jordan Reedy.

4.2 Travel Demand Model Update.

Jordan discussed the Travel Demand Model. 2 updates in one: Wrapped up – TCC representatives at workshop last month that pinpointed locations where planned growth

and development have occurred. TDM can be presented at next TAC meeting – or in meantime, will be implemented in MTP update.

Christina from Kimley-Horne gave a brief presentation about the MTP/Connect 2050. Over next 7 months, the MPO seeks to establish a vision and turn deficiencies and goals into MTP. Put together action plan – tie to real dollars.

Public Involvement – TCC+ steering committee. Already had first meeting. Next week stakeholder interviews. We had the first pop-up event at the recent poetry event at the Booker T. Theater last week. One more to be scheduled.

Area snapshot: Important to recognize we are not starting from scratch – Rocky Mount already has robust plan – MTP builds on the work of the previous plan and policies.

Schedule for the MTP: Kicked off in December – because RM is subject to air quality review, it pushed the MTP schedule to tight deadlines. Stakeholder and other meetings to continue in June and July – action plan/documentation of plan/adoption will be presented at meeting in August.

Financial plan and performance measures: The MTP team will analyze recommendations to see if they meet goals for the MPO. Cost estimations on how and when projects can be funded will be provided. Projects will be prioritized based on cost/need/effectiveness. All by early July.

Other objectives: First summary report – July 17. Federal deadline Sept 17.

Next steps: Stakeholder interviews will begin next week. Online survey is already live for public input which began with the public pop-up event last week.

Questions: Mr. Melvin wants copy of presentation. Jordan will send to all TAC members.

4.3 CMAQ Call for Projects.

Jordan Reedy discussed the CMAQ. Emailed to TAC and provided hard-copy on desk today. There are 3 ongoing CMAQ projects. Red item is underfunded amount. Close to 500k in current state. Good news current FY 23 paired with Carbon reduction – will offset underfunded ongoing projects. DOT called for new CMAQ projects – see previous email on Jan 26th. Jordan Reedy then gave a brief explanation about applying for CMAQ – valuable because can be scheduled into the future. Any project that reduces congestion mitigation to lessen carbon emissions would most likely qualify – anything you have going on, feel free to apply.

The chair asked if there were any questions. None were voiced.

4.4 Carbon Reduction Program.

Jordan Reedy discussed the Carbon Reduction Program and detailed the allocation and purpose of the funding. Mr. Reedy asked members that if they have any projects that would qualify as carbon-reducers, to please contact the MPO staff.

4.5 Draft FY 24 MPO Budget.

The FY 24 MPO Budget was discussed by Jordan Reedy – on first page of current agenda – draft budget – explanation of budget discussed earlier. Mr. Reedy gave a breakdown for each funding source from the hand-out that has been provided, and reminded members that the draft budget can be provided if anyone wants to see it. Please contact Jordan Reedy for more information.

The chair opened the floor to questions. None were heard.

5. Information Items

5.1 STIP Project Status.

Jordan gave the following report:

- U-5026 & R-5720 (Sunset Ave/ 1-95 Interchange and Eastern Ave widening) Update:
 - 60.5M
 - 63.83% Complete.
 - Original completion date was 6/30/2023. Revised completion date is expected to be 9/29/2024
- B-5980 (1-95 Interchange Improvements at Halifax Road, SR1544) Update:
 - 23M
 - Work began 9/9/2021. 50% complete.
 - Completion date expected to be 4/29/2024.
- U-5996 Old Carriage Road widening. Update:
 - Work began 7/12/22
 - About 20% complete.
 - Completion date expected to be 4/30/2025
- U-5947 Benvenue Road / US 64 Ramp Roundabout. Update:
 - Let date 4/26/2022
 - Has begun. Lots of barrels out there.
 - Expected completion date was 9/29/2023 (likely to change)
 - Expect delays through this area.

Chair asked if there were any questions?

Evelyn Powell spoke, asking for an update on Seven Bridges, she had also asked at last meeting?

James Salmons responded – still on target, about 63% complete.

No other questions were asked.

5.2 TAC Ethics Filing for 2023.

Jordan Reedy gave an overview of the TAC Ethics Filing for 2023 requirements. Date sensitive – try to pay attention.

TAC ethics filing for 2023 has begun – please provide the state office of ethics with your statement of economic interest and real estate disclosure forms. Failure to file is about \$250 - so file prior to April 17th – please don't wait. As always, please contact the MPO if you need assistance with the forms, we can schedule time to come into office. It is required that the alternates file as well. Jordan will reach out to county and town clerks to advise them to file their ethics requirements. An alternate has been fined for non-compliance with this requirement. – all are required to file. This requirement is different and in addition to those you file for other purposes for your position.

The floor was opened for questions. None were heard.

6. Other Business

6.1 Open Discussion for TAC Members and the Public.

 spoke on behalf of the mayor – requesting widening of highway 97 at the airport out to route 95. Said there has been a 1000% increase in flight operations. There is currently a study underway on how to enhance what airport does. Consider freight movement to 95 from the airport. Airport is in the MPO all the way to 95. DOT members present at today's meeting were just prior at the airport to discuss the study.

Rueben Blackwell asked – are we asking for that project to be considered in addition to current plans or replacing a project on the current plan? This was not explicitly communicated by the mayor, but per the chair – we'll consider it “in addition to”.

The chair asked if anyone had any other questions. None were heard.

7. Announcements

Chair announced the next TAC meeting will be **March 31, 2023** at 4:30pm in this same place.

8. Adjournment

The TAC adjourned at pm.