



Minutes of April 19, 2022
 CAMPO Host
 In-Person and Virtual WebEx Meeting

Attendees:

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Abby Lorenzo	WMPO	Jamal Alavi	NCDOT TPD
Alena Cook	NCDOT	Jordan Reedy	Rocky Mount MPO
Alex Rickard	CAMPO	Julio Paredes	GCLMPO
Agustin Rodriguez	CRTPO	Karyl Fuller	Foothills RPO
Beau Mills	NC Metro Mayors	Kelly Garvin	WSUAMPO
Brian Horton	GHMPO	Leigh Wing	NCDOT STIP
Byron Brown	WSUAMPO	Loretta Barren	FHWA
Chris Lukasina	CAMPO	Mark Hoeweler	GSATS
Curtis Bridges	CRTPO	Mike Kozlosky	WMPO
David Wasserman	NCDOT STIP	Neil Burke	CRTPO
Deloma Graham	FAMPO	Phil Conrad	CRMPO
Eliud De Jesus	Greenville MPO	Randi Gates	GCLMPO
Elizabeth Tucker	GSATS	Tristan Winkler	FBRMPO
Evan King	GSATS	Tyler Meyer	GUAMPO
George Hoops	FHWA	Wannetta Mallette	BGMPO
Greg Venable	HPMPO	Whitney Warner	GSATS
Hank Graham	FAMPO	Yolanda Bennett	FAMPO

1. **Welcome/Introductions** – Chris Lukasina called the meeting to order and opened the meeting by welcoming all present, both in-person and virtually.
2. **Minutes** – Chris Lukasina presented the minutes.
 - The minutes were reviewed by all. Chris asked if any revisions were needed.
 - Phil Conrad made a motion to approve the minutes as presented which was seconded by Wannetta Mallette. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved unanimously.
3. **2022 Conference** – Abby Lorenzo gave the following update:
 - As of late Friday, there are 470 registered with several more asking if they can still register. At this point they are expecting at least 500 total participants in the conference.
4. **Future Conference Planning**
 - 2023 Conference
 - Greenville MPO noted that they are ready and able to host the 2023 Conference. There was unanimous approval for the Conference to be in Greenville in 2023.

- NCAMPO needs to clarify if there is already an agreement or not with the Convention Center and if a deposit has been paid.
- Future Conferences
 - New Bern offered to host the 2024 NCAMPO Conference. Phil Conrad made a motion to approve and a second was received. The vote passed unanimously.
 - It was noted that we need to find a way to make determining future conference locations a little easier in order to create more surety for hosts, conference partners, NCAMPO Board, etc. It would be good to be able to line up conferences two to three years out. It would be good to have a list of tasks that it takes to really pull off a conference. This would be helpful for smaller MPOs to see.
 - Neil suggested to send email to NCAMPO about today's conference votes and ask for volunteers for the next few years.
 - The Spring timeframe works, but it isn't required for the conference to happen in a particular week each year. The conference could be held anytime between late March to late May.
 - Wanetta suggested that we look at keeping the conference in one location for more than one year. Chris responded that we should be open to this if there is an MPO that is willing to host more than one year, but also recognize the benefit of getting out around the state and seeing changes.
 - Neil suggested that we look at the past conference locations and see if there is somewhere we haven't been in the past 10+ years.
 - Chris stated that there had been some conversations 10-15 years ago about having a stronger partnership with NCRPO and look to other places – Boone, etc. – and co-host (one MPO and one RPO). This may make things easier for the smaller MPOs. It may be worth relooking at this as an option. Karyl Fuller responded that it would depend on the location and noted that it would be very helpful to have a list of tasks, how many people participate on the conference committee, etc. Most RPOs only have one staff person.
 - Hank Graham volunteered to host a future conference in Fayetteville.
 - NCAMPO will send out an email to solicit additional interest for future conferences.

5. NCAMPO Support

- There was discussion at the last quarterly meeting about the desire to get more staff members from the MPOs involved in the various activities of conference planning, numerous workgroups at NCDOT, participation in short presentations to NC Metro Mayors, etc.
- Chris wanted to report back that there has been an uptick in participation since the last meeting with Board members and staff volunteering for committees and/or workgroups. Chris reemphasized that we need this throughout the year and year after year. Chris encouraged everyone to keep volunteering. We want to have a strong organization that is well represented.

6. Treasurer's Report – Mike Kozlosky gave the following updates:

- There is \$110,000 in the Housman account, however, bills still need to be paid for the conference. Revenue has come in, but a lot of expenses still need to be paid out. There will also be additional revenue that has not yet been included. He will have better update in August.
- There is an additional \$30,000 in the PNC account.

7. MPO Virtual Meetings

- Chris asked the members for an update on how the various MPOs are currently meeting (in person, virtual, or hybrid).
 - CRTPO has recently had a few hybrid meetings. Some Board members want to go back to in person, but a lot of TCC members like the virtual meetings because there is no travel. Neil noted that he recognizes the benefits of having everyone around the

table for collaboration, but doesn't want to have an issue making a quorum if they go back to in person.

- Wilmington MPO adopted a remote participation policy that allows each member to attend two (2) meetings per year remotely.
 - Rocky Mount MPO has entertained a hybrid option for both the TCC and board.
 - Winston-Salem MPO – The TAC doesn't want to go back to in-person meetings.
 - Greenville MPO modified their PPP to allow virtual meetings. They have taken the lead from the LPA. The TAC initially said yes to virtual but now may be rethinking.
 - GCLMPO – The TCC is continuing to meet virtually. The Board will go back to in person in May. They have had really good participation from the general public being virtual.
 - CRMPO will be having hybrid meetings moving forward. NCDOT presentations, etc. will be virtual, but Board members will be in person.
 - CAMPO had looked at going back in person after December 2021, but the spike in cases at that time kept them meeting virtually. The room they had been meeting in is not big enough and did not allow for hybrid meetings, but they are going to a new location. They will most likely come up with some policy to allow for virtual.
 - CRTPO – does not have attendance policy for the Board. Does for TCC. Weighted voting. Is interested in seeing a hybrid meeting policy.
- Chris asked if Wilmington could share the remote participation policy they just adopted and maybe NCAMPO could come up with a “best practices” guide. This could be a really good tool, especially if you are running against making a quorum going back to in-person meetings.
 - As long as you don't disrupt the Open Meetings Law, hybrid, virtual or in-person meetings are okay.

8. Metro Mayors Update - Beau Mills gave the following updates:

- The General Assembly will reconvene on May 18. They are not expected to take on a lot of items, as this will most likely be a very short session.
- The State currently has a generous surplus.
- Medicaid expansion may be on the table in a real way this time around and we will probably see some action.
- Medical Marijuana (SB 711) – this may come up in the short session.
- Sports Wagering (SB 688) – expecting to see some action on this.
- There is discussion in the Senate about a transfer from the general fund to the DOT budget. Senator Sawyer has the green light to introduce this bill. As currently proposed, this would add \$400M/year to the NCDOT budget. It would most likely be phased in over 4 years. Not sure where the funds would go, but it should go towards the Highway Trust Fund with a focus on the backlog in the STIP.
- Chris noted that \$400M put into SPOT would be about \$17m/year into each Region and \$8.6m/year into each Division. About \$160m/year into Statewide Mobility.
- Beau added that as the sale of EV increases, sales tax from fuel decreases. We have to think about how to fund transportation in the future.
- There was some discussion about a sales tax on transportation related items at the state level. It would be good to see the list of items that would be included in this tax. There was support from a number of members for this approach.
- Chris noted that he has not heard about the transportation related items for a sales tax, but the Triangle has talked about the effort being spearheaded out of Charlotte for a 1 cent local option sales tax for transportation. There is growing support for this in the Triangle.
- Neil added that there are major regional studies that recognize the need for additional revenue and asked Beau if he felt the General Assembly had an appetite for this.
- Beau responded that he feels there is little appetite in the General Assembly for this specific proposal. He doesn't think this proposal will make any headway in the short session, as it is too controversial.
- Beau added that for a local sales tax option, this should be a collaborative effort amongst different regions of the state. He encouraged all the MPOs that have interest in this to be

talking to one another. There will be the need to build support in other parts of the state for approval, so MPOs should look for opportunities to collaborate.

- There is also a lot of talk about the idea of commuter rail/inter-city rail. There is growing interest in this around the state. The Metro Mayors Coalition has talked about this in a broader context. With the passage of IIJA, there are historic levels of funding for inter-city rail. We may see some movement on this in the long session. The urban-rural connection has bipartisan appeal.

9. FHWA Update – George Hoops gave the following updates:

- Brandon Oliver has joined the team as a community planner/environmental specialist. They will be making some internal changes with Points of Contacts for MPOs. A new map will be sent out.
- The Non-TMA certification review has been completed for the Burlington-Graham MPO. Other non-TMAs will be going through this review process in the future. There is a desk review in advance and then a one-day in-person meeting with FHWA and FTA. The next review is Rocky Mount MPO this summer.
- The Wilmington MPO will be doing their TMA certification this summer.
- The Census Bureau is working on the final criteria for defining urban areas based on the 2020 Census. Another Federal Register Notice will be sent out in the next few months with the new urban areas.
- There are many discretionary grants coming out of IIJA. George sent out an email with the grant opportunities and a calendar of NOFOs that will be coming out. MPOs need to know what projects you have and what grant they would fit best with.

10. STIP Update – Leigh Wing gave the following updates:

- Leigh went over the slides that Joey Hopkins presented to the BOT in April.
- She reiterated the overall goals of Prioritization Workgroup: develop a trustworthy and dependable STIP, produce a 24-33 STIP using current STIP project list with transparency, have an opportunity to fund new projects in P7, and ensure the process is grounded in state and federal requirements.
- Including funding from IIJA, the current STIP is still \$8B over-programmed.
- For the 2024-2033 STIP, delivery projects will be programmed first (CON in FY 26 or before, ROW underway, or has federal grant), and then the P3-P4-P5 Evaluation method will be used.
- Once the Draft 2024-2033 STIP is developed, there will be an opportunity for swaps. Swaps must be agreed to by NCDOT and MPO/RPO. The cost of the project(s) swapped in must be < 110% of the cost of project(s) being swapped out. Project swaps are due to the STIP managers by early Fall 2022.
- Outreach:
 - There was an educational webinar for technical staff.
 - Another webinar geared toward elected officials will be held next month. This has not been scheduled yet.
 - Public Involvement will follow.
- New STIP format – The STIP format will now be Excel-based where you can sort, filter, etc. It will include additional columns indicating whether or not a project will have to be re-evaluated, is eligible for swaps, etc.
- Next Steps:
 - The Draft STIP will be released in the next week.
 - STIP coordination meetings with MPOs and RPOs as needed.
 - Revised Draft STIP released by December 2022.
 - Anticipated adoption of the Final 2024-2033 STIP by the BOT in Summer 2023.
- Leigh gave an overview of the P7 timeline.
- Neil asked if the MPO staff be invited to the elected officials training? Leigh thinks that the training will go out to everyone, but will need to figure out the maximum capacity of the software.

11. Complete Streets Workgroup Updates

- Cost Estimation Workgroup – Agustin Rodriguez reported that the first meeting will be held in May.
- PDN Workgroup – Tristan Winkler reported that the group met, but there were some coordination issues. Tristan was left off the initial invite, but has been linked back in. The workgroup will be meeting again in the next few months.
- Maintenance Workgroup – Curtis Bridges reported that the group has not yet met.
- Chris emphasized that if there are any issues with the workgroups not meeting, or not involving MPO representatives, please let him know.

12. TPD Update – Jamal Alavi and Alena Cook gave the following updates:

- The FY 23 UPWP is due May 10. Please let Jamal know if you cannot make this deadline.
- For SPR funded initiatives, please plan to start the study in the first quarter. SPR planning studies cannot include more than 10-15% design.
- TPD and the GIS Unit are working to make ArcPro training available to MPOs and RPOs. Jamal will send an email with instructions following the meeting.
- Integration PEL training:
 - There is pilot training for practitioners May 2-13. These trainings are instructor led, but virtual. The Department is hoping for a lot of feedback: content, delivery, format, etc. This would be about a 4-day course if it went straight through. They are trying to figure out the best way to spread out the hours.
 - Chris noted that having it as 3-4 days in a row in one week may be a better option, or have a little over a few months.
 - There will be a companion version of the training – 2 days or less – for the user side. This will hopefully be in-person this summer. The Department will probably want long-range planning representatives at this course. MPO/RPO representatives will be invited to attend to be part of the conversation to help that move forward. This will be more of a workshop format with discussion around how to use the information, etc.
- Interagency Coordination Protocol:
 - This lays out how engagement with other agencies will work with long-range planning. IPD is updating this policy. The draft policy was sent out last fall for comments. The final draft should be ready in May. Alena will send this back out for comments.
- IPD – Representatives from the MPOs are engaged in this work. Work is progressing including planning elements.
- TPD is hiring consultants to initiate an update to a strategic plan. The scope of work has been drafted and they are working through the fee estimate. Kittelson is the primary consultant.
- CMAQ Workgroup – Chris announced that Gretchen Vetter has left CAMPO and has joined NCDOT. He asked that TPD please work with Jennifer Stafford to have an update on this workgroup at the next meeting. Jamal said he will reach out to Jennifer and get her involved.

13. NCRPO Update – Karyl Fuller stated that she is happy to be at the conference and looking forward to seeing everyone in person. She had no significant update.

14. Other Business

- Eliud – NCDOT Statewide Freight Update: The Advisory Committee met today. They will host regional meetings in the coming months where they will ask our input about their overall approach, the freight network designation, commodity flow overview, freight modal profiles, among others. There will be an opportunity to update NCDOT on freight networks in the MPO areas.
- 2024-2033 STIP Rollout:
 - Mike asked if others that participated in the STIP webinar yesterday had the same impression about MPOs being asked to be the face of the new STIP rollout. He has

- major concerns because other than the Prioritization Workgroup, the MPOs have not been at the table when big decisions have been made.
- Neil added his disappointment in this approach, noting that later meetings of the workgroup were canceled. We don't know how each year of the STIP has been built. He is concerned that in the media, the MPOs are going to be the bad guys/gals. He asked if NCAMPO should send a letter to NCDOT expressing concerns.
 - Chris added that there were a lot of questions that the workgroup members had that were never addressed because the workgroup meetings were canceled. There needs to be coordination meetings scheduled so that we can understand how some decisions were made. If DOT wants us to present this information, we need to know all the details. At a minimum, a letter would be good to send over later this week or early next week.
 - The workgroup members thought the scores would come out in the spring, not the draft STIP. In past transitions from one STIP to another, a report came from NCDOT that would outline the changes per project. This is needed.
- Jordan Reedy – Bob League was unable to make it today to be recognized for his time with the NCAMPO. He wanted me to share with the organization that he enjoyed all his time with each of you, and to thank you for everything you helped him with in Rocky Mount along the way. Bob misses you all and plans to stay in touch in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:19 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Randi Gates, GCLMPO
NCAMPO Secretary