



**Minutes of April 25, 2023**  
**12:45 pm**  
 Greenville MPO Host  
 In-Person and Webex Meeting

**Attendees:**

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Abby Lorenzo	WMPO	Jennifer Stafford	CRTPO
Alena Cook	NCDOT	Jerrel Leonard	CRTPO
Alex Rickard	CAMPO	Jordan Reedy	Rocky Mount MPO
Andrew Edmonds	HPMPO	Joseph Geigle	FHWA
Beau Mills	Metro Mayors	Kendall Clanton	CRTPO
Benjamin Johnson	NCDOT-STIP Unit	Kevin Lacy	NCDOT
Bill Marley	FHWA	Leigh Wing	NCDOT-STIP Unit
Bob Cook	CRTPO	Linda Rideout	Rocky Mount MPO
Brandon Oliver	FHWA	Loretta Barren	FHWA
Brian Elgort	CRTPO	Mark Eatman	NCDOT
Brian Wert	NCDOT-SPOT	Mark Hoeweler	GSATS
Caitlin Cook	AMPO	Matthew Burczyk	WSMPO
Chris Lukasina	CAMPO	Mike Kozlosky	WMPO
Curtis Bridges	CRTPO	Neil Burke	CRTPO
Daryl Vreeland	NCDOT-TPD	Phil Conrad	CRMPO
David Wasserman	NCDOT-STIP Unit	Randi Gates	GCLMPO
Deloma Graham	FAMPO	Ryan Brumfield	NCDOT-IMD
Doug Plachcinski	DCHC MPO	Suzette Morales	FHWA
Eliud De Jesus	Greenville MPO	Teresa Robinson	NCDOT-STIP Unit
George Hoops	FHWA	Travis Johnson	CRTPO
Hank Graham	FAMPO	Tristan Winkler	FBRMPO
Jamal Alavi	NCDOT-TPD	Van Argabright	NCDOT-STIP Unit
Jason Schronce	NCDOT-STIP Unit	Wannetta Mallette	BGMPO

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 from February 10, 2023.
  - The minutes from February were reviewed by all. Chris asked if any revisions were needed.
  - Neil Burke made a motion to approve the minutes as presented which was seconded by Andrew Edmonds. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved unanimously.
3. **2023 Conference** - Eliud provided the following updates:
  - The program is available online and will be given at check-in.

- There are a total of 426 registered, with 60+ attending mobile tours.
- There will be shuttles to the evening events on Wednesday and Thursday.

#### 4. **Treasurer's Report** – Abby Lorenzo gave the following amounts for NCAMPO accounts:

- PNC Checking - \$29,067.65
- Will have to wait a few months to know how much is in the Housman account.
- Savings account has more, but she did not have the exact amount.

#### 5. **Future Conferences (2024, 2025, Beyond)**

- Thank you to Eliud and the City of Greenville for putting on the conference this year!
- The 2024 Conference will be in New Bern. A contract has been signed with the Conference Center.
- Hank Graham is interested and excited to host the 2025 Conference in Fayetteville.
- Randi Gates motioned to approve the 2025 Conference location. Neil Burke seconded and all approved.
- Abby noted the demands on the host MPO planning the conference and stated the need to have a standing NCAMPO Conference Committee. This will ensure that milestones are being met. Wilmington MPO has put together a conference planning guide with email templates, scripts, timelines, etc. This could be used by the standing committee to assist host MPOs. Abby can send that out to the group after the meeting.
- Andrew Edmonds noted that it would be helpful to have a list of responsibilities for the host MPO so we know what we are signing up for.
- Eliud added that there needs to be more support from the NCAMPO Board to make sure that everything is covered. It would be good for a Conference Committee to be formed.
- Travis Johnson added that he could create a "Hosting a Conference" page on the website that is password protected to share all of the content each year.
- Chris noted that having tools in place will help additional MPOs to step up and host that haven't hosted before.
- Randi and Neil offered to be on the standing Conference Committee. Doug Plachcinski added that someone from DCHC can support this committee as well.
- Tristan Winkler agreed that this is a good idea and offered to host the 2026 Conference in Asheville.
- Chris noted that the executive committee will get with Wilmington and New Bern to push this out to the board to get something implemented.
- Housman is under contract for the next 2-3 years. At some point we will need to make the decision to renew or shop around. Eliud recommended exploring options for a future contract.
- Chris noted that the consultant helps to get sponsorships. If we shop around, we will need to talk to the new group about this to see experience with contracts within the transportation realm to know if they have contacts with sponsors.

#### 6. **NCAMPO Workgroup Updates**

- SPOT Workgroup:
  - Chris reported that the SPOT Workgroup is continuing to proceed through the to-do list that was established at the first of the cycle. He is hopeful to have one more in person meeting in May. Whatever has workgroup consensus at that point will be taken to the BOT for approval.
  - Normalization – traditionally this has been 90% highway/4% non-highway/6% flex. There has been a lot of discussion about this over multiple meetings. At the last meeting, the Workgroup decided on 90% highway/6% non-highway/4% flex. This raises the floor on non-highway prioritization and programming, while still allowing for flexibility.
  - The Workgroup is continuing to talk about the highway scoring criteria. Accessibility and connectivity discussions also continue.

- Neil added that the Workgroup achieved consensus on transit scoring and are recommending the addition of microtransit and mobility hubs as project types.
  - Chris noted that it doesn't seem like there is going to be a whole lot of opportunity for new projects to get programmed and committed in this round of prioritization.
  - Chris added that the Workgroup is setting up for progress in P8. A lot of good ideas have come up, but have been punted to P8.
  - Neil is also concerned about the available revenue in P7 and has asked for the SPOT Office to provide revenue estimates.
- Website Update:
    - Travis Johnson reported that the website upgrade is about 90% complete. Relevant info for conference is up and old info has been removed and archived. The MPO page has been updated. The NCAMPO logo has also been updated.

**7. Metro Mayors Update** – Beau Mills gave the following updates:

- The Coalition is up to 34 cities, with High Point just joining.
- Beau reviewed the Coalition's value proposition and core shared interests.
- Beau noted that the NCDOT Transportation Summit is being planned for May 2024 in Greensboro.
- Beau provided a session overview: after the election, we now see a Republican supermajority in both houses.
- Big topics include the budget, Medicaid expansion, sports wagering, medical marijuana, social issues/abortion, and redistricting.
- The 2023-2024 long session is moving extremely fast. The House Budget has already passed, but he still expects earmarks and policy negotiations. The Senate Budget is working behind scenes, but could be approved as soon as late May. The State budget may be complete in mid-June. Bills face the May 4 "Crossover Deadline".
- House Budget highlights for cities includes infrastructure funding, etc.
- State Budget – 2022 transportation funding change: sales tax redirected.
- Beau noted various IJJA grant opportunities and upcoming transportation bills.

**8. NCDOT-IMD Update** – Ryan Brumfield gave the following updates:

- FTA Dear Colleague Letter – Some transportation planning activities funded with Section 5303 planning funds may be eligible for 90% or 100% federal share. NCDOT will be releasing guidance soon to help MPOs, transit agencies, and local governments with the process. The Department won't have time to do this for the FY 24 cycle, but will have something for FY 25.
- Ryan covered anticipated Census 2020 UZA Impacts to transit agencies.
- They have finalized the reorganization of IMD and have a new program and project management branch.
- The new statewide contract for transit vehicles has been awarded.
- Transit technology RFP is open for proposals through June 19.
- A one-time 100% state funded rural transit operating application is open through May 11.
- CASSI will be moving to UNCC at the end of June and will stay through early December.
- IMD is starting new programs for microtransit feasibility studies and transit facility feasibility studies.
- Safe Routes to School funding was awarded to 12 agencies.
- Over 22,000 helmets were awarded to over 280 organizations.

**9. STIP Update/Fed Funds Swaps/August Redistribution** – David Wasserman gave the following updates:

- David reviewed some federal funding challenges and ways that NCDOT can lose federal funds.
- August Redistribution -

- Where FHWA redistributes unused obligation authority (OA) from federal programs that won't use their OA for that federal fiscal year to states that can use it.
- Each July, NCDOT sends in a request for additional OA that they can use by September 30.
- By August 30, FHWA notifies each state how much additional OA they'll receive.
- The key to a larger request is to obligate as much federal funding in each of the different federal funding categories as possible.
- Preparing for 2023: larger OA expected to be available for FY 2023. Need to prepare now and obligate as much as possible in each funding category.
- Fund Swap –
  - David reviewed the history of fund swaps and gave some examples.
  - In 2022, NCDOT expanded the swaps to allow State Highway Trust Funds to be provided for STBGDA funds (instead of just STBG-AnyArea Funds).
  - Phil Conrad asked why not move all highway projects to State Highway Trust Funds as a way to buy-down the local match, giving more flexibility. Chris and Doug commented that they would not be in favor of that wholesale approach.
  - Neil added that he does not feel good about things becoming an IOU and asked what is the assurance the funds would stay in the same MPO with changeover in staff, etc.? David responded that the preference would be to assign funding to specific projects.
  - Neil added that CRTPO would want to do some type of formal agreement to ensure the funds are not lost if there is an IOU.
  - Mike noted that it is important to understand where the swapped funds are going.
  - Doug asked will the department charge administration against STI funds granted in a swap? David responded that he would expect they would. Doug added that if FTA funds can be flexed to local recipients, this avoids administrative charges.
  - There was additional conversation about the swap memos, and possible limitations of swapping funds to the State Highway Trust Fund.
- Future August Redistributions Proposal: To help the NCDOT request more funds as part of August Redistribution, minimize future FHWA federal funding rescissions, and minimize potential lapsing of federal funds, NCDOT proposed the following for TMAs that receive DA funding:
  - Each year (or upon request), NCDOT provides each TMA the projected amount of DA funding available over the next 5 years (or longer if desired).
  - Each TMA provides NCDOT a list of projects to fund with desired schedules.
  - NCDOT will review each project for funding eligibility and will use the most appropriate fund source when adding projects and/or modifying projects, using the most restrictive funding first.
  - NCDOT will work collaboratively with the respective MPOs to manage project funding and may switch funding sources as needed for August Redistribution, minimize potential lapses, and or/minimize potential rescissions.
  - NCDOT strongly encourages TMAs to have a single call for all types of projects, as this provides funding flexibility needed.
  - Mike noted that he doesn't like proposal off the cuff.
  - Doug stated that this is very similar to how MassDOT manages MPO funding.
  - Van added that the TMA would still select the projects, NCDOT would just select the funding source. This would not be robbing the MPO of any ability to select projects.
  - Mike noted that he is a huge supporter of swaps. We want to get more funding for the state and everyone benefits from the additional revenue, but noted that this needs to remain a collaborative process.
  - George Hoops added that this would remain a collaborative process with the MPO still having the ability to select projects. FHWA supports the proposal.
  - Chris commented that we need to have continuing conversations about how this looks for the future. The next NCAMPO meeting would be a good time to revisit the long term changes. This may require TMA Board Actions if program processes are changing.

- Phil added that he would like to keep flexibility for individual calls for projects so that communities understand what funding they are going after. David noted that if that is what a particular TMA wants to do, they can make that call.

#### 10. SPOT Office Update – Brian Wert gave the following updates:

- Brian highlighted some upcoming training opportunities and SPOT tools that are being provided.
- Brian reviewed the Workgroup consensus items that are complete, and those that are in progress. One important change to note is the modal allocation recommendation: 90% highway / 6% non-highway – this adjusts non-highway from 4% to 6%. The flex will be any remaining funds after Highway and Non-Highway minimums are met.
- Brian reviewed the P7 schedule.

#### 11. TPD Topics – Jamal Alavi gave the following updates:

- Jamal introduced Kevin Lacy, Director of Strategic Planning and Programming who gave the following updates:
  - Kevin is charged with working on the CMAQ Program and Carbon Reduction Program with a goal to program the money, obligate the funds, and build the projects.
  - CMAQ and CRP – the call for projects is now open ended.
  - The Department is looking at programming multiple years out. The MPOs will continue to manage this if they choose to do so.
  - If you have projects that exceed the amount of your allocation – ask!
  - The state can legally match some projects with state funding if selected through the state's process.
  - Divisions can even deliver projects for you if on the state-maintained system.
  - The state can add funds to cover overages due to cost escalation.
  - Neil asked how can the CMAQ Workgroup assist NCDOT in this work to move this forward? Kevin respond that he will need help to get the word out. If you want more opportunity, that will be available to you. Kevin will let us know what the prioritization process will be. Once they get more projects than they have funding, the Workgroup could help with the scoring criteria.
  - Jordan Reedy noted that local match is an issue for smaller MPOs/communities. Kevin responded that the MPO should know up front if the project is something that the state can provide the match. Where there is difficulty getting matches, the MPO should look into using other alternatives that are out there. Once you move into the competitive process, a 100% funding request will not score as well.
- With the 2020 Census, there are two new UAs above 50,000 – Pinehurst-Southern Pines and Clayton. Jamal is meeting with these areas and trying to answer questions and guide the process. Pinehurst will become an MPO. Clayton has the option to stay with CAMPO. The decision deadline is June 30, 2023. With the designation of new MPOs, smoothing/adjusting boundaries will be due December 29, 2023. Changes will need to be approved by NCDOT and FHWA.
- NCDOT-TBD will review the distribution formula. They have drafted budgets with one additional MPO.
- Neil motioned to continue to use the PL formula we've used in the past. Hank seconded. All approved.
- Performance Measures – please email Daryl Vreeland and Jamal when you have established new targets via resolution for PM 2 and PM 3.
- FY 24 is the first year of using PL set aside funds. Because this is a separate federal program, please have a separate description of work and accounting for these funds.
- FY 24 CMAQ – 26 applications received for this last call. 11 applications in statewide category. TPD will send award letters in May.
- There are 17 regions within the state developing Regional Travel Demand Models. Would like to have a regional model for all areas of the state.

- Alena Cook added that they are converting to ArcPro. If anyone is interested in training, please contact Jacob Turner.
- If you have not sent in the self-certification, please send this in. This is typically sent with UPWP, but if not, please send that in.

**12. FHWA Update** – George Hoops gave the following updates:

- FHWA has picked some non-TMA's to do a certification review: New Bern and Goldsboro.
- NCDOT has been working hard on the state freight plan, which has been approved. The state can now use freight funds to complete projects.
- As of September 30, 2024, COVID relief funds will go away (TMAs).

**13. NCARPO Updates** – no update

**14. Other:** Neil gave some quick updates for NCAMPO sessions starting the following day.

The meeting adjourned at 4:42 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Randi Gates, GCLMPO  
NCAMPO Secretary