



Minutes of December 2, 2022
10:30 am
 CRTPO Host (Virtual)

Attendees:

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Abby Lorenzo	WMPO	Kelly Garvin	WSUMPO
Agustin Rodriguez	CRTPO	Kelvin Raiford	FAMPO
Alex Rickard	CAMPO	Kendall Clanton	CRTPO
Arthur Cashwell	GCLMPO	Kim Maxey	New Bern MPO
Bob Cook	CRTPO	Laura Wisecup	JUMPO
Brian Elgort	CRTPO	Linda Rideout	Rocky Mount MPO
Chris Lukasina	CAMPO	Luther Langley	FAMPO
Curtis Bridges	CRTPO	Mark Hoeweler	GSATS
Daryl Vreeland	NCDOT-TPD	Matthew Burczyk	WSUMPO
Deloma Graham	FAMPO	Mike Kozlosky	WMPO
Doug Plachcinski	DCHC MPO	Neil Burke	CRTPO
Eliud De Jesus	Greenville MPO	Pam Cook	NCDOT
Felicia McRee	New Bern MPO	Phil Conrad	CRMPO
Greg Venable	High Point MPO	Randi Gates	GCLMPO
Hank Graham	FAMPO	Shaun Graham	BGMPO
Heather Hildebrandt	NCDOT TPD	Shelby Powell	CAMPO
Jamal Alavi	NCDOT TPD	Temekia Dae	CRTPO
Jennifer Stafford	CRTPO	Theo Thomson	CRTPO
Jerrel Leonard	CRTPO	Travis Johnson	CRTPO
John Vine-Hodge	NCDOT-IMD	Tristan Winkler	FBRMPO
Jordan Reedy	Rocky Mount MPO	Tyler Meyer	GUAMPO
Judy Dellert-O'Keef	CRTPO	Wannetta Mallette	BGMPO
Julio Paredes	GCLMPO	Wendy Miller	CRMPO
Kelly Fomenko	DCHC MPO	Yolanda Bennett	FAMPO

1. **Welcome/Introductions** – Chris Lukasina called the meeting to order and opened the meeting by welcoming all present.
2. **Minutes** – The minutes from the August 26, 2022 meeting will be held until the February meeting.
3. **Treasurer's Report** – Mike Kozlosky gave the following updates:
 - Account Balances:
 - Housman - \$15,000
 - PNC Money Market - \$ 64,023.89
 - PNC Checking - \$ 29,166.15

- Everything from the 2022 conference has been paid.
- A CPA has been paid to prepare taxes with the year-end being March 30, 2023.
- Per the CPA: As long as the Association doesn't go over \$500,000 in the account, they are good.

4. Committees / Workgroup Updates

- **CMAQ / LAP Workgroup**

- This workgroup was initially focused on developing a mutually agreeable process for CMAQ allocations, but over time began to have discussions about the highest and best use of CMAQ funds overall, including statewide allocation. Procedures, processes, etc. have also been discussed.
- Group met sporadically and for several years did not meet.
- At the August meeting, NCAMPO requested that this group start meeting again with NCDOT responding that this group will start meeting again with a discussion about highest and best use being the priority. There is also interest in discussing project eligibility, especially for state CMAQ funds.
- Tyler Meyer, Jennifer Stafford, and Tristan Winkler are serving as MPO representatives.
- Tyler noted that the department also has a workgroup regarding local project delivery.
- The Department says they will start accepting applications throughout the year in 2024 instead of just one call for applications.
- Tyler added that there is some discussion about centralizing LAP oversight, etc. Members noted that Michigan DOT and Oregon DOT may be good examples to look at for a centralized LAP system.
- A survey is being developed by the subcommittee. Survey questions will probably go to project managers first, and then the MPOs.
- There was discussion around the need for local governments to get their standards recognized by FHWA. There are currently unreasonable requirements for acquisition for sidewalks.
- Tristan noted that DOT's oversight fees are currently capped at 15%, but a report showed that this cap should be reconsidered with Divisions taking a greater role in project management.
- Mike noted that we may need to communicate back to NCDOT how important this workgroup is to the MPOs. The MPO reps on the workgroups should send a note to NCDOT.

- **Complete Streets Working Groups**

- There are three (3) working groups: Maintenance, Cost Estimation, and Project Delivery.
- Maintenance:
 - Tristan and Tyler are the NCAMPO representatives.
 - Tyler noted that for complete streets to be "complete" they have to be maintained. The workgroup has made some headway to get the department to see that maintenance is necessary and the right thing to do.
- Cost Estimation:
 - Agustin Rodriguez is participating in this group, but hasn't heard from the group in a while. He will follow up with Ryan Brumfield.
 - Tyler has noticed that the department is starting to do mini express designs for STI bike/ped projects. DOT is putting an emphasis on getting costs right to begin with.

5. Alternative Funding Opportunities

- Neil wanted to start the discussion with NCAMPO to determine the level of interest for pursuing alternative funding opportunities on a regional level. There is not enough funding

through NCDOT for our projects. CRTPO has been researching this and there is not enough funding to deliver the infrastructure that the growing MPO needs. The CRTPO Strategic Plan specifically calls out working with MPOs across the state on funding issues. The more MPOs we get discussing this, the better. Next steps: convene a meeting with interested parties after the first of the year.

- Mike – New Hanover had referendum on using ¼ cent sales tax for transit. It didn't pass. This language needs to be modified to be inclusive of all modes the next try.
- Chris – Even local transportation bonds with neighboring communities should be coordinated.
- Those interested in participating include Chris Lukasina (CAMPO), Randi Gates (GCLMPO), Tristan Winkler (FBRMPO), Mark Hoeweler (GSATS), Mike Kozlosky (WMPO), and Eliud De Jesus (Greenville MPO) – once he has more staff.
- Chris noted that CAMPO also has a strategic plan and new, additional funding is one of the topic areas included in the plan. It would be great for us to all work together to see if there are partnership opportunities – discretionary funding through IJA. We need support from the General Assembly.
- Neil will try to set up a meeting during the 1st quarter of 2023. He will also include Beau Mills since he has a good pulse on the General Assembly. Neil will send out a Doodle Poll after the first of the year.

6. STIP Reprogramming / SPOT 7.0

- Swap Process
 - Neil noted that the Metrolina MPO's are ahead of everyone else when it comes to the swap process due to an earlier deadline because of the conformity determination process.
 - Tyler stated that the Greensboro MPO has completed the swapping process. They ended up swapping in a project – an interchange on I-40. This was swapped for project to widen a corridor that did not have a lot of public involvement to begin with, and has a lot of public concern.
 - Alex Rickard noted that CAMPO is looking at swapping a few projects.
 - Eliud is in the process of discussing swaps within the City of Greenville and is creating criteria for scoring for swaps in order to compare projects. Eliud offered to share the table/criteria that he has created.
 - Tristan noted that he hasn't seen a lot of guidance on the process of Division Engineers okaying significant cost increases on division and regional projects. This has caused some confusion with swap discussions. This change in process has gone without much discussion.
 - Alex asked if the STICKR Committee/policies are no longer in effect? Tristan was told in a meeting that STICKR Committee was going away. Tyler confirmed that is what he has heard as well.
 - Project costs are blowing up with express designs, but are including bike/ped projects.
- SPOT Workgroup
 - Neil reported that there have been several meetings so far. There has been a recommendation about traffic volumes and safety. COVID has impacted crash data and traffic counts. The Workgroup agreed to use 2018-2019 traffic counts. The meetings have recently been focused on performance-based planning and how this should be integrated into the SPOT process. Equity is an important planning concept that the Workgroup is trying to measure to ensure equitable planning.
 - Tristan added that the Workgroup finalized the calendar for P7. The Workgroup asked that the LIP window be extended to three months, but this is coming at the expense of the submittal window.
 - Tyler noted that NCDOT has formed a SPOT operations committee to look at SPOT Online. If any members have any concerns or anything to share, it would be great to know that.

7. Legislative Items

- Chris stated that this is an opportunity to talk about things that may be important in the future.
- Mike wants to gauge the group on if there is interest in an effort to further define MPOs in the state statute. It is not defined whether or not we have contract authority.
- Discussion ensued and it sounds like there is interest in this, with general support, but members don't want to make a lot of waves in exploration until we can meet again.
- Mike asked if we should form a subcommittee of NCAMPO to further explore? Chris is willing to serve on subcommittee, along with Mike. If anyone else is interested, please get in touch with Mike.

8. NCAMPO Website – Travis Johnson provided the following comments:

- Some small changes have been made to the website: copyright date changed, updated officers, about page has been updated to draw more attention to the mission of the organization, and conference info updated.
- A bigger change is needed on how info is laid out, etc. Travis will be working on this.

9. 2023 Conference Update – Eliud de Jesus gave the following updates:

- The 2023 Conference will be held April 24-28, 2023 at the Greenville Convention Center.
- The Call for Abstracts has been shared by Housman through their email list. Eliud will be contacting Jamal to also share with the NCDOT email lists. Abstracts are due by January 13, 2023.
- The Conference Committee is looking for keynote speaker candidates. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions, please share with Eliud.
- Hotel rates have been shared, and reservations should be made ASAP.
- The evening event will be held at ECU.
- The NCAMPO website has been updated with this info.

10. NCDOT Multimodal Update – John Vine-Hodge provided the following updates:

- Upcoming Grant Programs:
 - Microtransit Feasibility Studies
 - Call for Projects will come out January 2023.
 - Local match is required for LGA-eligible plans, but not for transit agency-eligible plans.
 - SRTS (non-infrastructure) Grants
 - Call for Projects in December 2022. An upcoming webinar will be posted.
 - There were 11 partners from last cycle, but COVID impacted the implementation of these projects/plans.
 - The current program is structured for 80/20, but recently got support to use old SAFETEA-LU funds as the local match.
 - Bicycle Helmet Initiative
 - Call for Projects in January 2023.
 - Paved Trails and Sidewalks Feasibility Study Grant Program
 - This program has been launched and a webinar held.
 - Eligible projects are paved trails and sidewalks.
 - Local governments, counties, MPOs, RPOs, etc. can apply.
 - Feasibility study scale (SCREENSHOT)
 - Study content standards:
 - Cover
 - Acknowledgements
 - Table of contents
 - Executive summary

- Intro
- Study considerations and alternatives development
- Community involvement
- Study development process
- Project Cut Sheets
- Implementation Guidance
 - All information is on the Connect Site.
 - Applications are due Jan. 9, 2023.
 - An MPO/RPO resolution is required. Resolutions can be submitted following the application deadline.
- Statewide and Regional Transit Plan Program - The Department is looking for regional plans to dive in to multimodal elements. Should hear more about this soon.
- Equity map/dashboard updates – There was a webinar a few weeks ago on this tool. GIS shapefiles are available for download. All data has been updated to include 2020 ACS data.

11. Carbon Reduction Funding

- Eliud is working on a selection process for the carbon reduction funding and had questions that were sent out to the NCAMPO email list. He received a lot of responses that MPOs are using LAP selection criteria for this program as well.
- Jamal Alavi added that the state is required to develop a carbon reductions strategies report in consultation with the MPOs by Nov. 15, 2023. This has to be certified by the Secretary and updated every 4 years.
- Once projects have been selected by the MPO, you need to work with NCDOT-TPD so that a STIP # can be assigned.
- TBD has offered to present to TCC and MPO Boards regarding the CRP funds.

12. TPD Topics

- Heather Hildebrandt provided the following updates:
 - Once CRP project selections have been made, please loop in NCDOT-TPD.
 - The Department is expecting to release an update to the Freight Plan next week. Public comment will be in early January with BOT adoption at their January meeting.
 - The Department is planning to update the commodity flow tool. She would like to get input from the MPOs on the needs, use of the data, etc.
 - The next public meeting for the Clean Transportation Plan is December 20. You can sign up to get updates online. There are five (5) primary workgroups with respect to the Clean Transportation Plan and results from these workgroups will be shared at the December 20 meeting.
 - NEVI – funding came out of IIJA. Submitted plan has been approved and they are gearing up for next phase. Additional planning is needed as part of EO 271. The focus is on medium and heavy duty electrification. The first phase is looking at passenger vehicles on alternative fuel corridors. There was not ample opportunity to do extensive stakeholder engagement, so they will be holding more engagement before moving into Phase 2.
- Daryl Vreeland provided the following updates:
 - Reminder of FY 24 allocations for PL – set aside from IIJA. The MPO set-aside is for the purpose of increasing safe and accessible transportation options. 2.5% of PL funds must be used for multimodal planning with the 2.5% being provided by a separate allocation. Allocation letters have been sent to the MPOs spelling this out and lists eligible activities. This will require an invoice since it is a different WBS #. For your FY 24 UPWPs, a new row should be added, with a new set of columns for these new set aside funds. This also needs to be included in the UPWP narrative document.
 - Daryl is working on the PM2 and PM3 two-year targets. Once finalized and accepted by FHWA, this will be emailed to all the MPOs.

- Jamal added that he is in the process of scheduling a CMAQ workgroup meeting and will be discussing having an ongoing CMAQ call vs. once a year.

13. Other Business

- Eliud asked how MPOs are doing TCC and Board Meetings.
 - Wilmington MPO – TCC is virtual. MPO Board adopted a remote participation policy, allowing members to be virtual up to two (2) times a year.
 - CRTPO – TCC and MPO Board are back to in-person with no virtual voting option.
 - CAMPO – both TCC and Board are both still virtual, but more so because CAMPO is physically moving offices. Once they move, they will get back to a hybrid option.
 - New Bern MPO – continuing to offer hybrid for both TCC and Board.
 - Rocky Mount MPO – continuing to be hybrid with both.
 - GCLMPO – TCC is continuing to be virtual. Staff was told that since this is not an elected board, virtual is okay. The Board went back to in person as soon as the Governor lifted the state of emergency.

Next Meeting: Feb. 10, 2023 in Charlotte

14. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Randi Gates, GCLMPO
NCAMPO Secretary