

# CHARLOTTE REGIONAL ALLIANCE FOR TRANSPORTATION

## Executive Committee Meeting Capitol Hill Update

March 31, 2011 – 4:00pm to 6:00pm  
Baxter Hood Center  
Rock Hill, SC

### Meeting Minutes

The March 31, 2011 meeting of the CRAFT Executive Committee was called to order at 4:00 PM.

#### Present

Susan Howard	NCDOT	Joe Wilson	City of Concord
Sarah Macaulay	MUMPO	Al Brown	City of Concord
Bill Coxe	MUMPO	Doug Echols	City of Rock Hill
J. Michael Riemann	Rocky River RPO	Randy Imler	Catawba COG
Dana Stoogenke	Rocky River RPO	David Hooper	RFATS
Kenneth Geathers	City of Kannapolis	Kathy Pender	City of Rock Hill
Pat Ivey	NCDOT	Adrian Cox	Town of Mt Pleasant
Ralph Wamsher	NCDOT	Nancy Anderson	Weddington
Sarah Nuckles	SCDOT	George Sheppard	City of Tega Cay
Hank Graham	Gaston MPO	Danny Funderburk	Town of Fort Mill
Bob Cook	MUMPO	Leigh Welch	RFATS
Stuart Basham	MUMPO	Ann Wallace	City of Rock Hill
David Howard	City of Charlotte	Bill Duston	Lake Norman RPO
Tony Hilton	CRMPO Vice Chair	Frances Thomas	RFATS
Michael Covington	SCDOT	Phil Conrad	CRMPO
Delania Hardy	AMPO		
Carolyn Carpenter	CRMPO		

#### 1. Welcome & Introductions

Mayor Danny Funderburk welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mr. Funderburk introduced himself and asked everyone else to do so as well.

#### 2. Capitol Hill Update

Ms. Delania Hardy with the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO), provided an update recent congressional debate around debt levels and the need to reach agreement on a new transportation bill. In particular, Ms. Hardy noted the differences between the White House / USDOT's Authorization proposal and Congressional priorities such as: (1) doing more with less; (2) 6-year bill versus other durations; (3) Performance planning; (4) Federal interest; (5) Private sector participation; (6) Freight mobility; (7) Improved project delivery; and (8) Consolidation / elimination of programs.

Ms. Hardy then reviewed the working timeline for likely congressional action as well as summarized specific recommendations that AMPO was making on behalf of MPO's such as: (1) increased metropolitan planning funds; (2) increased sub-allocation of funding (i.e., strengthen 62.5% of STP, CMAQ, and other programs as well); and (3) increased project selection flexibility.

### **3. State Role and Perspective**

Ms. Howard with NCDOT's Office of Federal Legislative and Regulatory Affairs provided an update on federal transportation policy. Ms. Howard principally focused in on transportation infrastructure needs and the lack of a comprehensive funding solution to adequately address those needs.

Ms. Howard then provided her assessment of where the Surface Transportation Reauthorization stood and some of the more notable principles that seem to be shaping congressional discussions: (1) Reauthorizing the current program is not a solution; (2) System demands are outpacing current investments; (3) Need for a new vision / reform; (4) Performance-based, outcome-driven program; (5) Fuel tax needs to be supplemented, and eventually replaced with a more sustainable revenue source; and (6) Support for a variety of funding mechanisms, most based on the user pay principle.

Ms. Howard then outlined NCDOT's Reauthorization priorities: (1) Maintain solvency of Highway and Transit Trust Funds; (2) Increase North Carolina's Rate of Return; (3) Reduce the number of federal aid programs to simplify the process; and (4) Streamline and expedite program and project approval. A review of estimated reductions in program spending followed.

### **4. Next Meeting**

The next Technical Committee will be held on Thursday, April 19, 2011, and will be hosted by the Cabarrus-Rowan MPO.

### **5. Adjournment**

The meeting concluded at 6:00pm.