

MULTIMODAL COMMITTEE MEETING

September 2, 2009

1:00 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Nina Szlosberg, called the meeting to order.

Board Members in attendance: John Collett, Robert Collier, Andrew Perkins, Wanda Proffitt, Leigh McNairy, Hugh Overholt, Nina Szlosberg, Chuck Watt and Stan White.

Pat Simmons, Rail Division Director presented the Rail Division update:

Pat distributed a press release from Governor Perdue's office announcing that North Carolina submitted the first High Speed Rail applications for funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding. If funded, the projects will create 1,457 jobs for North Carolinians. The department worked with the community of railroads NCR, Norfolk Southern Railway, CSX Transportation and Amtrak to complete the applications. The second round of applications, in partnership with the state of Virginia are due in early October, and DOT will engage a variety of stakeholders to match project opportunities and funding tracks.

Pat presented Rail Agenda Item I-2-1 which includes four projects with grants received from FRA:

- The Hopson Road Grade separation project to separate rail from highway operations near the Research Triangle Park and eliminate crossings at Hopson Road and Church Street.
- Earmark for the Town of Cary for a new grade separation at Walker Street to provide for an extension of the current Walker Street, and a new grade-separated crossing passing under the railroad to provide an emergency service connection from south to north Cary. Also to include local traffic accessibility to downtown service and retail businesses, and eliminate multiple daily road closures in the town center for freight and passenger trains.
- Also received federal funding to continue construction of the double track between High Point and Greensboro. Because this project is at odds with the federal funding category, FRA will reconcile from among available project work.
- The CRISP will grade separate Norfolk Southern Railway from CSX Transportation, eliminate up to nine public and private at-grade crossings and provide for CATS to cross the freight rail line.

Motion for approval of Rail Agenda Item I-2-1 was made by Lanny Wilson and a second was provided by Andrew Perkins. The motion was voted and unanimously approved.

Miriam Perry, Director, Public Transportation Division did not have any Public Transportation Agenda Items for consideration, but reviewed the Public Transportation Division STIP amendments and modification that was presented as a handout in August for approval.

- An amendment for Winston Salem to program a portion of its formula funds for operations from FTA on an annual basis - \$9,067.00
- Modification that will allow PART to receive CMAQ funds for the Burlington and Greensboro MPOs. There are still limitations of how much can be programmed for Operation.
- The Charlotte project is being deleted due to ongoing air quality conformity issues with the MPO and will be withdrawn at this time from the STIP because of nonattainment.

Item I-1-1A submitted for approval with the correction of deleting Charlotte from the list. Item I-1-B will be presented for consideration and will be brought to next month's meeting.

Motion for approval of Public Transportation Division STIP modifications was made by Lanny Wilson and a second was provided by Stan White. The motion was voted and unanimously approved.

Miriam reviewed status of ARRA funds for North Carolina. North Carolina received \$103 million and \$93 million has been obligated for FTA grants for transit systems across the state. Fifty percent of the ARRA funds had to obligate by September 1, 2009, and we have exceeded that goal.

Jim Westmoreland discussed the start of the pilot Transit Education Campaign in the counties of Madison, Guilford, Cleveland and the City of Greensboro, and shared the powerpoint presentation. The purpose of the campaign is to reform the image of DOT and inform the community on how they can best access our resources, as it relates to transit and multimodal functions. Also ensure that the community understands the scope of work that the Division office performs to support them. Board members, division engineers and Transit Division staff will be involved in the presentations, which ties to the communications strategy of the department. A progress report will be presented at next month's meeting.

Transit Subcommittee has one follow up item: The Multimodal Committee received a recommendation from the Transit Subcommittee in support of an additional \$940,000 in state funds to support the construction of the maintenance/administrative facility for the City of Raleigh. ARRA funds will pay for \$11 million of the \$22 million facility. NCDOT's participation is only 1 percent of the total cost, where we would normally fund up to 10 percent of the cost. The city will submit a formal request for the additional state support.

In Jack Cahoon's absence, Jim Westmoreland presented the Ferry Division update:

- Compared to last year, vehicle and passenger traffic decreased. Vehicle traffic decreased 9.52 percent. Passenger traffic also decreased 9.00 percent.
- Expenditures compared to last year decreased \$2,273,677.50. Due to trip reductions and reduced labor and fuel, major savings were incurred. Expenditures for parts and supplies have increased due to additional vessel repairs. Revenues are up slightly.
- The Ferry Division continues to work with IT to develop an on-line reservation system.
- A package was assembled for a new bid process for the new sound class ferry, estimated to cost between 18 and 20 million dollars. The Division continues to focus on the replacement of the full fleet.
- Jim provided an update on the Ferry Division Optimization Study.
- The Division is looking at tolling revenue to create a capital replacement fund to support cycle vessel replacement.
- Due to Coast Guard requirements, under the new budget, 79 positions were allocated in the ferry division. These positions will allow the Division to hire personnel and perhaps replace some ferry trips next summer.
- Jim provided an update on the status of the paint building in Mann's Harbor. The building is 30 percent complete at a cost of 6.5 million dollars. Once completed, ferry personnel will maintain boats at a higher level, and have the capability of staffing 2 full time crews.

Stan White requested an update on the status of the change of classification and salaries for welders at the shipyard, in order to make North Carolina salaries competitive with salaries in the Virginia area. Jim was not aware of the issue and noted he would check on the status and have staff report back to Stan.

Tom Norman, Director Bicycle and Pedestrian Division provided the following update:

The Board passed the Complete Streets Policy in July, now we are entering into phase two. There is an internal workgroup on complete streets planning. One workstream will be a subgroup on planning and an additional subgroup on design. We met with the complete street taskforce to determine how to get detailed planning within the department.

The taskforce will review plans with Victor Barbour, Terry Gibson and Jim Westmoreland and if they approve, we will involve a group of internal and external transportation professionals to represent stakeholders from MPOs and RPOs, the private sector and consultant community. We are looking forward to the outcome in 12 months of a two-stage product. A stand alone complete streets planning and design notebook to provide to external partners, and revisions to the NCDOT Roadway Design Standards to promote change in how our Roadway Design designs highways.

The Multimodal Committee requested a quarterly update on status of the Complete Streets implementation.

Tom provided the following update on The American Tobacco Trail.

The American Tobacco Trail is a partnership with the Rail Division. The Rail Division purchased the railway corridor from Norfolk Southern and leased it to local governments for non-motorized transportation development. Next month Phase F will be completed. The final phase will include a pedestrian bridge over I-40 to connect downtown Durham to the rest of the American Tobacco Trail, a 22 mile corridor connecting 10,000 residential units in a heavily developed area south of the city of Durham to shopping & work destinations. We anticipate the official opening in November with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

The General assembly created planning funds in 2004 for Bike and Pedestrian Planning Grants. Approximately 90 communities have received funds to develop comprehensive bike and pedestrian plans. The 2010 call for planning grants applications was announced on September 4, 2009 and will remain open until December 4, 2009.

Richard Walls, Aviation Director provided the following update:

The Aviation Subcommittee is recruiting new committee members, and the subcommittee expects to be reengaged next month. Tentatively scheduled to join the committee is Leigh McNairy, Gus Tulloss, and John Collett.

The Aeronautics Council is in transition. New appointments were made for Districts 4 and 12, with one vacancy remaining. Carter Keller will assume the role of Chair of the Aeronautics Council. The Division is finalizing project funding for this year. The funding list will be provided to the Aeronautics Council for approval. The Division is actively seeking a few grants with the Department of Energy, for the Green Program, for new airport LED lighting system. We continue to reach out to Commerce to use our airport's economic engines for the local regions.

The Aviation Division is implementing a post hurricane communication plans with the airports to determine which airports are opened and which airports will become operational and mobilized.

Judge Collier discussed the issue regarding approval to allow counties and cities to authorize use of golf carts on city streets and charge fees, especially in resort communities. Judge Collier thought this matter may be an issue for either the Multimodal Committee or the Emerging Issues Committee to review.

Adjournment

Minutes
RAIL Subcommittee
EIC Room Transportation Building
Meeting Date September 2, 2009

Attendees: Andy Perkins, Chair., Tony Dennis, Stan White, Hugh Overholt, John Collett, Lanny Wilson, Gus Tulloss, Chuck Watts, Bob Collier, Wanda Proffitt, Shirley Williams, Pat Simmons, and Allan Paul.

Chairman Perkins called the meeting to order. The minutes for the June 2009, meeting were approved as presented. Chair Perkins then called on Pat Simmons to give an update of the ARRA applications.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Applications

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) divided rail funding under ARRA into four (4) competitive, discretionary tracks.

- Track 1 - project-ready applications with environmental documentation and preliminary engineering completed, up to 100% federal funds, due 8/24/9
- Track 2 – corridor development plans for federally-designated high speed rail corridors, up to 100% federal funds, due 10/2/9.
- Track 3 – planning funds, 50% federal, due 8/26/9
- Track 4 – construction projects, 50% federal funds due 8/26/9.

NCDOT has prepared a master list of project including all nominated for inclusion. The master list is routinely updated to reflect the latest data and assumptions. NC applications dated August 26, 2009 for ARRA Tracks 1 and 3 funding are posted at www.bytrain.org. These applications requested \$75,950,546 in FRA funds matched by \$16,662,390 in non-FRA funds for a total of \$92,612,936. FRA is slated to announce awards as early as October.

Applications-Track 1

[NCDOT ARRA Rail Project List-August 24, 2009](#)

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|----------------|---|
| NC3.1b | <u>SEHSR-Raleigh to Richmond Corridor</u> |
| NC5.1a | <u>SEHSR-Stations</u> |
| NC6.1a | <u>SEHSR-Congestion Mitigation</u> |
| NC7.3 | <u>Western and Southeastern Intercity Passenger Service Expansions</u> |
| NC8.1a | <u>SEHSR-Other Speed and Safety Improvements</u> |
| NC12.1a | <u>SEHSR-Current Needs and 3rd Frequency</u> |

Staff will continue work to submit the more comprehensive Track 2 application due October 2, 2009.

Respectfully Submitted
Maxine M. Smith, Admin. Asst., NCDOT Rail Division

MINUTES FROM TRANSIT AND BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN
SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
September 2, 2009
11:30 a.m. -12:00 Noon
Emergency Information Center

Nina Szlosberg called the meeting to order. The subcommittee approved the minutes from the July 2009 meeting.

Representatives from the City of Raleigh presented information on the city's new transit operations facility located off of Poole Road. This is the first transit facility to be approved by the State Construction Office as design-build. The 55,000 square foot facility will be constructed on a 23-acre site, allowing for future growth of the city's transit fleet from its current 90 to 125 buses, with sufficient acreage to accommodate up to 200 vehicles. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds will fund \$11.6 million of the estimated \$22.5 million facility.

The facility will be constructed at a minimum Silver Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating certification. However, due to funding limitations the city is unable to achieve a higher level certification and will have to eliminate some of the energy cost saving features. Following discussion of the major energy and environmental design features of the facility, Board member Perkins made a motion that the subcommittee recommend to the Multimodal Committee the use of \$940,000 in state funds to enable the city to implement the features that will decrease the long term operating costs of the facility. The motion was seconded by Stan White.

Jim Westmoreland presented the Transit Education Outreach Campaign slide show and provided an overview of the script that was developed to help ensure a consistent message at all four locations. The presentations in Madison, Cleveland and Guilford Counties and at the City of Greensboro are scheduled for the week of September 14. Staff will report back to the committee at the October committee meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 by Chairperson Szlosberg