

## MULTIMODAL COMMITTEE MEETING

October 7, 2009

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Nina Szlosberg called the meeting to order.

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

Tony Dennis made a motion to accept the minutes of the September 2, 2009 Multimodal Committee meeting and a second provided by Stan White.

Pat Simmons, Rail Division Director presented 5 Agenda Items 1-2-1 and the following Rail Division update:

- Board approval requested for an annual operating agreement between the Department and Amtrak for rail passenger service between Washington DC and Charlotte, NC (Carolinian) and between Raleigh and Charlotte, (Piedmont). The operating cost for the service between October 1, 2009 and September 30, 2010 is estimated to be up to \$4,996,825, against the total operation of \$20 million, which will add midday third frequency service from Raleigh to Charlotte.
- Grant award correction to last month funding allocation for the Railway-Highway Crossing Hazard Elimination in High Speed \$723,800 more than what was presented to the Board last month.
- Further grant on behalf of the Carolinian Coastal Railway \$11,101 authority to administer those funds. National disasters and crossing communications system. Applied and presented \$22,101 in the FRA Assistance funding under the Emergency Disaster Fund to administer those funds.
- Authority is requested to accept up to \$967,375 in FRA grant for a project in Greenville. This project will streamline rail operations and eliminate twice per day blockage at three busy at-grade highway-railroad crossings.
- On behalf of the Aberdeen and Rockfish Railroad FRA grant award of \$2,845,581. Aberdeen and Rockfish Railroad will provide railroad service to the plant. The overall project is estimated to cost \$47,742,581, including \$680,000 in state funds and \$1,217,000 from the railroad.

Rail Program Agenda Item I-2-1 consists of 5 projects, totaling \$4,996,825 in state funds and \$4,562,837 in federal funds.

A motion to approve the Rail Program Agenda Items was made by Andrew Perkins, and second provided by Stan White.

The Rail Division completed Track 2 ARRA applications and Pat shared press releases and letters endorsing the Department's submittal of applications for the high speed rail. Pat thanked the rail staff and the various railroad partners.

Miriam Perry presented the Public Transportation update and three Agenda Items for consideration:

- **Item I-1-1** - Additional funding for TTA on behalf of the transit systems in the Triangle Region. This amendment requests additional state funds to cover cost overruns prompted by changes in NCDOT's limited access roadway sign regulations. Also fund signs on the highway network to direct commuter to park and ride lots, to make transit easier for the passengers.
- Item 1 provides funding for the public transportation Division's share of the allocation for annual operating cost for the maintenance cost for the department's financial management system (SAP). The Division's share of the transit operating cost of \$432,536.

## Items I-1-2 – Urban Bus and Facilities Program:

- The City of Greenville received a grant for engineering and design work for its new transportation center. The grant will fund engineering and design work, project administration, land appraisal, legal and other related tasks for the Greenville Transportation Center. - \$89,385 in state funds.
- The City of Durham received approval for a FTA grant to provide funding for the purchase of a 40 foot hybrid bus. DATA requests a state match of 10 percent of the cost - \$73,417.
- Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation (PART) received a FTA grant to analyze the support system, land use, and develop a region wide development plan for the East-West corridor. PART is requesting a 10 percent state match of \$125,000.
- The City of Charlotte received approval for a FTA Bus Discretionary program grant to be used as a final amendment to reimburse construction costs incurred for the work performed on the Eastland Bus Facility Project. Request 10 percent state match of \$56,430.
- New Starts Program - The City of Charlotte received approval of a FTA Capital Investment Program grant for preliminary engineering work for the Charlotte Northeast Corridor project for the extension of the existing Blue Line LYNX project from uptown Charlotte to northeast Charlotte. The City of Charlotte is requesting a 25 percent state match to the grant of \$10,147,500.

STIP items were submitted for consideration last month, which will be presented to the Board for approval this month. Project modifications include: 1 in Cumberland County, 2 in Wayne County, and 1 in Forsyth County.

Public Transportation agenda Items consist of seven projects, totaling \$10,950,180 in state funds and no federal funds administered by the department.

Andrew Perkins asked for an update to the studies that are taking place in the Cities of Charlotte, and Greenville, and the Piedmont Authority Regional for Regional Transportation (PART). Miriam stated that regional department staff is assigned to oversee the needs of the transit systems. A department staff person is assigned to work with the PART project and will request that PART provide an update to the committee.

A motion to accept Public Transportation agenda items was made by Andy Perkins and second provided by Wanda Proffitt.

Miriam provided a handout item of STIP amendments and modifications for review this month and endorsement next month. STIP modification requests a portion of ARRA capital funds to be used for operating costs for the remainder of the year and through the end of next fiscal year. Winston-Salem, Greenville, High Point and Goldsboro would like to use a portion of their funds for operating funds.

Jim Westmoreland provided an update on the Transit Education Program Campaign and stated that the presentations were overwhelmingly received. Committee members provided feedback and recommendations to improve future presentations.

Richard Walls, Aviation Division Director presented the following Aviation update:

- Completed project prioritization process for project to be funded in FY09/10. The project list will be presented to the Aviation Subcommittee.
- The Aviation Subcommittee will meet next month. Members include Tony Dennis, Chair, Gus Tulloss, Leigh McNairy and John Collett. All other BOT members are invited to attend.
- On November 12, The Aviation Division will participate in a new workshop on a new space commerce initiative. The goal is to educate community leaders and position NC for future space commerce.
- The "*First in Flight... First in Green*" initiative is moving forward. The Aviation Division met with NC state solar power representatives. The goal is to have the first completely solar-driven general aviation airfield lighting system. The Aviation Division is recruiting strategic private sector partners (i.e. Siemens and Progress Energy) for this project. Additional information will be shared in the upcoming months.

- The Aviation Division discussed the dedication ceremony of the Ocracoke Island heliport pad which is an emergency use facility. The project was funded by the Aviation Division and the heliport has been used to evaluate medical emergencies.

Jack Cahoon, Ferry Director presented the following Ferry Division update:

- Vehicle traffic decreased compared to last year by 3.96 percent. Passenger traffic also decreased by 3.76 percent.
- Monthly expenditures were reduced \$752,091 compared to last year, due to reduced fuel cost and reduced personnel and trips. Repair costs continue to increase due to the aging fleet.
- The paint building will be completed in December.
- The Optimization Study will be completed in November.
- The Ferry Division expects to receive bids for the new ferry.

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

- ARRA stimulus package, interaction with Division Engineers and Municipal partners.
- Federal funds to be spent
- ITRE to provide training on Complete Streets in the coming year.
- The General Assembly funded Municipal Planning grants, and later, regional bicycle planning to look at multiple jurisdictions. The first Regional Plan is the Lake Norman 90-mile bicycle route located in Highway Divisions 10 and 12. The goal of this Plan is to identify projects to improve Lake Norman secondary roads as a tourist destination for cyclists and to improve alternative transportation routes in the local area.
- The next regional plan will be the Croatan National Forest area, including New Bern to Jacksonville to Morehead City.

Mr. Galyon asked if the subcommittees should meet prior to the full Multimodal Committee meeting. The Multimodal committee agreed that the subcommittee should meet prior to the Multimodal committee.

Adjournment