

**NC 73 Council of Planning Regular Meeting
September 28, 2006
Cabarrus County Chamber of Commerce**

COP Members Present: Jason Abernethy (Cornelius), Karl Fritchen (Concord), Lindsey Hobbs (Kannapolis), Mike MacIntyre (Mecklenburg County), Suzie Zakraisek (Cabarrus County), Terry Derner (Concord), Margaret Pearson (Concord), Lindsey Hobbs (Kannapolis), Kris Krider (Davidson), Andrew Bryant (Lincoln County).

Others Present: Bjorn Hansen (Centralina), Ryan McDaniels (Cabarrus EDC), Carol Lovin (Cabarrus Regional Chamber), Linda Dosse (NCDOT-TPB) Katherine English (NCDOT-TPB) Phil Conrad (Cabarrus Rowan MPO), Darren Siddons (NCDOT-TPB), Alena Cook (NCDOT-TPB), Kenneth Withrow (CAMPO), Ben Hughes (NCDOT-TPB), Chip Russell (CAMPO), Eric Hodge (City of Raleigh) Ken Bowers (City of Raleigh), Ed Johnson (CAMPO), Fleming A. El-Amin (Triangle Transit Authority).

Introductions: The meeting commenced at 2:05 PM. All present introduced themselves. It was determined that five of the eight COP regular members were present, and so there was a quorum.

Presentation of COP bylaws: Mr. Hansen reviewed the changes made to the bylaws to reflect comments at the last regular COP meeting. No members suggested changes to the bylaws as presented, and were approved on a motion by Lindsey Hobbs and seconded by Andrew Bryant.

Election of officers: The group discussed potential chairman and vice-chairman, both of whom were not present at the time. Kris Krider then arrived at 2:25 PM and Lindsey Hobbs then made a motion to nominate Kris Krider at chairman. Terry Derner seconded the motion and Mr. Krider was approved as chairman. Mr. Krider then suggested that Bill Coxe be nominated as vice-chairman. Linda Dosse made a motion for Bill Coxe as vice-chairman, seconded by Karl Fristch. Mr. Coxe was approved as vice-chairman.

Annual Meeting: Mr. Hansen reviewed the annual meeting, which overall was considered successful. More than 50 persons attended the event. The consistent comment for improvement was moving the keynote speaker to the beginning of the meeting to allow more people to hear the presentation. The location and overall intent of the presentation was appropriate, and the meeting was well-received. No action was taken on the item.

Small Area Plan Reviews: Mr. Hansen presented comparisons of the NC 73 Plan to three small area plans that have been completed along the corridor. The intent of the comparisons is to identify inconsistencies and determine whether the NC 73 plan should be updated to incorporate changes from the small area plans. He asked those present to review the comparisons both for content and organization to develop a template for subsequent comparisons. No action was taken on the item.

Corridor Branding: Mr. Hansen presented information on several different strategies for branding the corridor, including signage, logos, landscaping, colored sidewalks, and gateways. The group decided the gateways and lighting would be too difficult to coordinate, and too few of the areas have sidewalks to create a common image. Lighting could be limited to intersections in the more rural areas, however. The group directed Mr. Hansen to develop some sample logos and to benchmark the landscaping regulations along the corridor to determine if there was potential for developing common landscaping regulations. Ms. Dosse recommended that Mr. Hansen contact NCDOT to identify regulations regarding signage placement in DOT right-of-way.

US 1 Corridor Plan: Kenneth Withrow presented information on the US 1 corridor plan and future COP. US 1 is located on the east side of Raleigh, and will be improved to interstate standards in the future. The COP will focus on right-of-way preservation and maintaining the vision of the plan. The COP will be staffed by CAMPO. CAMPO used the NC 73 COP MOU as a template, but they intend to use the COP for more regular communal comments on plans of regional significance along the corridor. Mr. Withrow asked that those present review the plan online and provide comments by October 27.

NC 73 COP members then provided feedback on their lessons on how to utilize the COP. COP members stated they provide comments individually, which seems to provide weight and value for planning commissions when they have to make decisions along the corridor. One improvement would be for feedback from the agency soliciting comments to provide validation on the comments received.

COP members also stated that their corridor plan is different because it recommends different cross-sections depending on the character of the area. This was well-received by locals.

Roundtable Discussion: Mr. Hansen developed a one-page status update of the projects along NC 73 in the draft 07-13 STIP. There was no real change in project status, which is consistent with other projects in the region, and is due to a lack of funding. He also announced he is developing a travel time report for the corridor that will provide baseline travel times in both peak and off-peak times along different segments of the corridor. Mr. Hansen asked whether this information should also be gathered both when school is in session, and during the summer. The group confirmed that data during both times of the year should be collected.

Kris Krider presented information on an area plan for Davidson East, and asked that COP members take a copy of the plan and provide comments by October 23. Jonathan Parker said he was at a scoping meeting for the widening of I-85, which included the NC 73 interchange. The NC 73 plan recommended a single-point urban diamond interchange, and that the design engineers were having some difficulty with designing it due to the severe angle of intersection of NC 73 and I-85.

Next Meeting Date: January 25 at 1 PM in Lincolnton at the Senior Center.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 3:30 PM.