

Cornelius
Davidson
Huntersville
Kannapolis
Concord



Lincoln County
Mecklenburg County
Cabarrus County

October 2, 2019
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM
Kannapolis City Hall
401 Laureate Way
Executive Conference Room 2201
Kannapolis, NC

Regular Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Susie Morris	Cabarrus County
Phil Conrad	Cabarrus-Rowan MPO (CRMPO)
Andrew Bryant	Lincoln County
Aaron Tucker	Town of Cornelius
Jason Burdette	Town of Davidson
Julio Paredes	Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln MPO (GCLMPO)
Jack Simoneau	Town of Huntersville
Zac Gordon	City of Kannapolis
Carina Soriano	Centralina Council of Governments (CCOG)

Via teleconference:

Andy Bailey	NCDOT
Joyce Figueroa	Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation

Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Gordon opened the meeting at 10:40 am. All present introduced themselves. Technical difficulties with the phone connection delayed participation with the teleconference callers.

Administrative Matters

- a. Meeting Minutes from the January 23, 2019 COP meeting:**
Motion was made by Mr. Gordon to hold off on approving the previous meeting’s minutes until next meeting once edited; was seconded by Mr. Simoneau. All minutes will be provided by Ms. Soriano for next meeting.
- b. Introduction of New CCOG facilitator**

What’s New Along the NC 73 Corridor

Mr. Gordon reported that the update of the 73-corridor plan is moving forward slowly and that he has been in touch with the consultants who have said that the project has been pushed back slightly. Right of way is slated for FY23 with construction happening FY24 for both sides of 73. There is not currently a signed environmental document, but the environmental study will be



wrapped up by Fall 2019. Construction has been happening piecemeal along the corridor that will wrap up by December 2019.

Mr. Bryant expressed that environmental documents are extremely important to have.

Ms. Morris asked if projects are still being put out for the group to review. Mr. Gordon responded that policy and protocol has not changed. Send items to Ms. Soriano or place into Dropbox for her to upload. Mr. Gordon brought up the question of Where do we go from here? We had talked about an update to the 2004 plan, but that morphed into an intersection by intersection tactical plan to address hot button issues, but the group hasn't really gotten into further discussion of the corridor. Those are appropriate discussion points to bring up for the new year. At the January meeting, in the absence of a regional authority to enforce regional planning-land use and transportation, the group's effectiveness is in question. This will be an issue that must be addressed soon considering the widening project for 73 which will dictate what can happen along the corridor for the next few decades and obviously the funding question is important as well.

Lincoln County

At the airport, preliminary corridor work has begun on 73 to 321. Spoken with GCLMPO. Plan is to leave 73 divergent from airport to mitigate traffic on 321. There is some funding available at the end of the STIP. On Ingleside Farm Road at the mini interchange, DR Horton, a developer has mirrored the jug handle in the Southeast quadrant, west of East Lincoln High School. This has been open for a month and is working well. This same developer is working on the Northeast quadrant of 73 also and are focused on medical offices. These efforts match Lincoln County's land use plan. Recent proposal for a charter school along Club Drive. The main access point would be via Rivers Edge Drive. Developers had to go through a special permit process and ran into access and TIA standards for build conditions. Lincoln County rescope and Kimley Horne remodeled, but the design continued to fail so the school was not approved through the zoning process and they continue to look for other properties. Biggest issue was that Club Drive. And 73 could not support the traffic necessary for 600 students (this would only allow 400 cars). The level of service maintenance is what ultimately killed the project. Under 160D, level of service can't be used as a denial for a school. Traffic improvements not allowed on schools. Lincoln County working with Kimley Horne for 73, 16, North Little Egypt for 29 intersections. Projects should wrap up in FY20.

Cornelius

Few updates, due to smallest amount of frontage on NC73. There are 57 townhomes approved off Catawba Ave, to the North across from Kinton place with about 9 acres, construction to start sometime this fall. W. Catawba Phase 2 superstreet has been pushed back to 2023. Now it will be completed at the same time as 73 in that area. For 115/73, Cornelius adopted a UPWP study for 115 up to Davidson, with a recommendation of a new cross section. Mr. Tucker will provide the website with a link to update.

Cabarrus County

No projects along the corridor. The last project was storage units and no word from them lately.

Huntersville

Mr. Simoneau asked that we examine several intersections on maps. No significant projects mentioned.

Davidson

Mr. Burdette updated the group that Davidson just approved a mobility plan. It will be a 2 year process looking at projects and policies. The aim is to try to improve bike ped and transit access. One project was the turn lane on Davidson Concord Road and 73 where there is currently an informal gravel road. Not a fan of the superstreets- a board member wanted to accelerate this project to provide traffic relief. Town will fund a right turn lane, less than \$100K. Davidson east subdivision is under construction-at least 100 homes, single family. There will be a multifamily and commercial component at the front which will be extended over to Ramah Church Rd. This project doesn't have enough support right now for multifamily and commercial component. Summer's Walk Phase 6 will have 30 acres to the right of this, with 50 townhomes extension.

NCDOT

Mr. Bailey mentioned that this group shouldn't get too far behind on the budget schedule for next calendar year for funding.

Kannapolis

On the Concord side, development is happening at Odell Road-single family/mixed use development with townhomes, which will feed more traffic to the intersection. There has also been development in Moss Creek and then in Marshall back to the west. Mr. Gordon mentioned that he had a meeting with CRTPO and LNTC about the North/South parkway. The long range plan has thoroughfare coming up along Prosperity Church Road to Ramah Church Road and the plan is to bifurcate near McAuley Rd and a concern that they had was on the county boundary was a thoroughfare on a certain portion of Shiloh Church Road that traffic would continue to bleed over. Potential to change CTP designation on Shiloh Church or Poplar Tent Road. Traffic is avoiding the 77/115 area and using 73 to Poplar Tent Road and along I-85 to Charlotte. Amazon is up and running and shift changes causes backup on Kannapolis Parkway. In the Southwest quadrant, a developer is interested in single family, mixed-use, in an area that is the only grade separation change access near Kannapolis Parkway. Access issues are being ironed out. The environmental documents were finalized near the end of the year, with a template for the future. In the Northeast quadrant, there was a developer proposal, but they now have cold feet due to grade separation. However, Mr. Gordon is not concerned over long term, has development potential, access from Macedonia Church Road. In the Southeast quadrant, nothing is happening. There is a development being proposed along Orphanage Road, that will need to be posted to the website, south of the road, north of 85, consisting of 180 single family homes, 185 townhomes. There will be an impact on 73 as a feeder road to that site.

Mecklenburg County Parks & Rec

Ms. Figueroa updated us that Saddle Creek Greenway is funded, and they are getting ready to start the design. Additional projects include McDowell Street to Torrance Chapel greenway for a total of 2.5 miles. The ideal scenario for that greenway would be to route under 73. The design process will last a year and they are looking at spring 2021 for construction currently.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the COP is requested to be held in January, location to be determined. Mr. Gordon adjourned the meeting at 11:36 p.m.

Visit NC 73 Council of Planning online at:

nc73.net

