

Cornelius
Davidson
Huntersville
Kannapolis
Concord



Lincoln County
Mecklenburg County
Cabarrus County

September 17, 2021
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Virtual Zoom Meeting

Regular Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Aaron Tucker	Town of Cornelius
Julio Paredes	Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln MPO (GCLMPO)
Jorge Luna	HDR
Dave Hill	Huntersville
Andy Bailey	NCDOT
Dominique Boyd	NCDOT
Jerome Scott Miller	NCDOT
Roger Castillo	NCDOT
Stuart Basham	NCDOT
Carina Soriano	Centralina Regional Council
Jason Wager	Centralina Regional Council
Andrew Bryant	Lincoln County

Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Bryant opened the meeting at 10:03 am. All present introduced themselves.

Administrative Matters

Meeting Minutes from December 2020 COP meeting:

Motion was made by Mr. Bryant to push minutes approval to next meeting.

CONNECT Beyond Presentation

Mr. Wager gave an overview of the CONNECT Beyond project. This regional initiative affects transportation decisions everywhere in our region, including NC 73. Needs and rates vary, but honoring local priorities is important to this project. CONNECT Our Future started the idea of cross-jurisdictional and cross-boundary collaboration on transportation. CATS MTC board is one of the groups spear-heading the project, along with Centralina Regional Council and HDR. Moving mobility forward starts with a vision; who are our competitors? National competition vs. regional competition, and a share and unified vision for mobility will make us more competitive. Recommendations include transit strategies, things that this group are concerned with. Utilizing data to determine recommendations available via the links below:

Project website: <https://www.connect-beyond.com/>

Project recommendations where comments can be submitted: <https://www.connect-beyond.com/plan/all-recommendations/>



Equity portal:

<https://hdr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=d8f3535483114e7680ebed1418d09264>

Project recommendations have been out since July 2021 and the advisory group made up of local folks that made technical updates/best practices and those have ultimately culminated in the CONNECT Beyond recommendations. Top 5 mobility moves recommendations are: Creating mobility friendly places; Expanding mobility choices (transportation demand management to emerging technologies); strengthening rural to urban connections; building a better bus network (strategic mobility corridors) and maintaining momentum-funding, partnerships, what’s needed to keep things moving from plans to implementation.

Mr. Luna went more into depth about 5 key mobility moves (creating mobility friendly places, expanding mobility choices, strengthening rural to urban connections, building a better bus network, and maintaining momentum).

Creating mobility friendly places-supportive of vibrant pedestrian friendly places. Preparing corridors to be mobility ready. Work with local governments to ensure policies and processes are easy to use and that pedestrians are able to access transit. Develop grants for transit and pedestrian-friendly land uses. Involve transit in the land-use process. Concentrate growth along high-capacity transit corridors (Transit-Oriented Development).

Expanding mobility choices-strategies to support how and when visitors travel in our region. Carpool, vanpool, telework strategies. Expand commuter choice program to all 12 counties in this region. Establish fare/service integration program. Be able to pilot new and on-demand mobility services. Implement a regional network of mobility hubs. Future-proofing existing mobility options.

Strengthening rural to urban connections-Diversity of geography and have developed strategies to have mobility moves for all residents. Strategies to strengthen options for rural residents to get to suburban/urban centers. Regional coordination and representation. On-demand services want to have better communication with fixed route providers. Allow on-demand trips for more general public use trips, not just medical. Recommending a common route software, instead of having to call other provider. System streamlining.

Building a better bus network-Integrate existing systems and enhance coordination between providers to make service easier for riders. Lots of players at the table and lots of trips happening, need more coordination. Creating the transit workforce of tomorrow. Transit access to networks and mobility hubs. More service is needed.

Maintaining momentum- must continue collaboration and coordination for these recommendations to be implemented.

Mr. Wager emphasized that these are some of the top ideas to transform our region and remain globally competitive. We continue to be committed to moving this forward at Centralina, we want to maintain momentum, plenty of opportunities to partner and some early actions include what needs to be prioritized to get completed first. How do we continue to support a unified education effort about regional mobility and transportation in this region? In the NC73 counties; the following were heard as priorities: Lincoln-express bus; Mecklenburg-focus growth, connections to other sources of mobility (greenways); Cabarrus-how do employees get to the job site?

What can we do to build off existing plans (CATS 2030 plan, Cabarrus has adopted their own transportation plan, etc.)? Let’s build off existing agreements to move things forward. In parallel, reconvene and expand partnership working group. What are options for partnership longer-term? What does this partnership look like? Regional authority? Local group(s)? We’ve noticed a lot of support to keep these discussions going and appreciate that. Key takeaway: everyone needs to be involved, can’t just be Centralina, CATS, HDR. Making sure that there is flexibility at the local level while still collaborating at the regional level. Action items: please review the draft recommendations

and plan if you haven't already. Some funding sources are already known, so let's capitalize on those opportunities as well as looking for other sources. Centralina and HDR are happy to come out and present to your various groups and virtually as well. Implementation will be handled through MPOs, local governments, etc. and we know that will take additional coordination. After the 29th will be released to the joint advisory committee, we then take the plan and recommendations in October to the MTC and the Centralina Board for their endorsement. Next step after that is visiting with the MPOs, getting them information, they need to take action. Resolution or something else, ultimately, it's getting the ideas that make sense for each MPO into their plans and documents. Mr. Bryant thanked Mr. Wager, for recognizing those fringe mobility needs in the rural areas. He is looking forward to seeing that integrated in implementation.

NCDOT Updates

Mr. Basham began NCDOT updates with mentioning a lot of projects have been on suspension. As things began to improve earlier this year, projects were slowly brought off suspension starting with the smaller projects and then going to the larger projects. Starting with projects West of NC73: 4521A-Beatties Ford to Denver/Lincolnton-off suspension, has not been restarted yet. Will be restarted as soon as 25% plans have been received on the B section. B section was brought off suspension in March/April timeframe, and consultant has been working on it; 25% plans expected soon.

U-5765-W Catawba and I-77-just issued notice to proceed to consultant and to get the 25% plans completed and submitted to NCDOT.

R2632AB-NC 115 to Davidson-Concord Rd-brought off suspension in spring of 2021, restarted and proceeding with design activities.

R5706A-Davidson-Concord Rd to Poplar Tent-meeting yesterday to get this project restarted. Will be restarting within the next few months.

R5706B-Poplar Tent to US29-We've been working on cost-verification memos and cost updates and this section has been an issue-cost and time has increased. Project has been pushed to the back end of timeline because of cost increases. Impossible to afford right now.

NCDOT is looking at rebalancing of TIP and some of the timelines will change and by the next time we meet, we should have an update of timelines.

What's New Along the NC 73 Corridor

Cabarrus County

At this time, there are no updates from Cabarrus County. Cabarrus is not participating financially.

Concord

There has been a proposed 160 townhome development on South of 73 between Winecoff School Rd and Central Dr. Up for rezoning; there are real issues with connectivity and access. This project does not have a great chance of rezoning right now. In the Northeast corner of 85 and 73 right near International Drive. We have a parcel where the McDonalds is, and there's a proposal for limited industrial (they have entitlements) that would be a distribution site. Two buildings, total 5000 sq ft., shifting entitlements from office to industrial. Approved development. Diagonally across 73 on the SW corner of International and 73 and 85 interchange; vacant parcel just came in to be a leasing facility for Penske. No direct access to 73. Several inquiries on convenience type uses but nothing confirmed.

Cornelius

At the intersection of 73 and Hwy21/Statesville Rd-North of intersection, there are 100 acres vacant (West side of 21), North of church (Jim Cooke Rd) Atrium is building a hospital on that parcel, 50% of traffic will go down 73, but will not have direct access. It will be a 38 bed hospital, and phase 2 will have 104 beds. Not sure what else will go on that site.

Davidson

At this time, there are no updates from Davidson.

GCLMPO

At this time, there are no updates from GCLMPO.

Huntersville

The 73 corridor is facing a lot of development pressure. Huntersville is about to begin their first mobility plan and part of it will include a look at transportation infrastructure and land use interface along the 73 corridor. Will be applying for CRPTO planning funds. In the past, it has been an inter-jurisdictional effort and Huntersville will reach out to surrounding communities to see if they're interested in being involved.

Kannapolis

At this time, there are no updates from Kannapolis

Lincoln County

At the intersection of 73 and Pilot Knob Rd. The Northeast Quadrant, there is a proposal for a mixed-use shopping center and Lincoln County are working with the developer to add more of what the community wants for this shopping center. Developers have been receptive to all changes suggested. This project will probably come before the board in winter of 2022. Intense residential development on the south side of 73, near East Lincoln High School. Two major developments there. They are starting building at the one of the two residential sections. Another developer is looking at the North side of Ingleside Farm. Assisted living center planned just adjacent to East Lincoln High School. Working with developers in the preliminary stages. Those plans will be sent out to this group once Lincoln County has them. Parking lot for high school will be moved and the assisted living location wants to put side access for them and the high school, so not direct access onto 73.

On the far side of 73, there is preliminary project development at 73 and 321.

Mecklenburg County

At this time, there are no updates from Mecklenburg County.

Wrap-Up and Adjourn

The next meeting of the COP will be held January 27, 2022. Mr. Bryant made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

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nc73.net

