

INFORMATIONAL ITEM: PROJECT UPDATES

A. Hot Spot Program – Two projects for the FY 2016 hot spot program are currently underway and include: 1) a functional design for the NC 55 Holly Springs Bypass, and 2) an interchange reconstruction alternatives analysis for I-440/U.S. 1/U.S. 401 (Capital Blvd). The Capital Area MPO is currently under contract with Kimley-Horn to carry out the interchange study, with a kickoff meeting having occurred on March 14, 2016. The Capital Area MPO is under contract with Ramey Kemp for the NC 55 Holly Springs Bypass study, with a kickoff meeting having occurred on March 21, 2016. These studies and associated technical memos will be completed by June 30, 2016. (Staff Contact: Bret Martin)

B. 54 & More Study – A feasibility study is underway to investigate the costs and impacts of proposed facility upgrades to the NC 54 Corridor from NC 540 to Northwest Maynard Road, within the Municipalities of Morrisville and Cary, including roadway widening, intersection improvements, improvements for pedestrians, bicyclists, and public transit services, potential railroad grade separations, crossing consolidation, proposed rail transit, and proposed railroad expansion plans for freight, intercity passenger rail and commuter. A DRAFT report has been released for review and comment. (Staff Contact: Alex Rickard)

C. Transit Systems Planning – The Wake Transit Plan Open House was held for the general public at the Raleigh Convention Center on December 8, 2015 from 4:00 until 8:00 pm; and it contained various exhibits of transit technologies that would be servicing the communities throughout Wake County within 10 year period following a successful referendum in November 2016. As addressed in the Wake County Transit Investment Strategy Report, the final Plan envisions connecting “the region across county lines, connecting all Wake County communities to the transit network, providing frequent, reliable urban mobility to the densifying areas of the County, and giving enhanced access to transit across Wake County. This will be accomplished by the tripling of bus service in Wake County, investing in commuter rail and bus rapid transit infrastructure to enhance speed and reliability for transit customers, and focusing on improving the transit customer experience”. Adoption of the Wake Transit Plan will occur between the Wake County Board of Commissioners, the GoTriangle Board of Trustees, and the Capital Area MPO’s Executive Board during the spring of 2016. Wake County staff continues to make presentations to the public regarding the draft plan. It is anticipated that a voter referendum for a transit tax will be scheduled in November 2016. The MPO and GoTriangle anticipate opening a joint public comment period in April 2016 and scheduling a joint public hearing in May

2016. (Staff Contact: Shelby Powell or Kenneth Withrow)

D. Raleigh-Cary Rail Crossings (RCRX) Study – The MPO is partnering with NCRR, Norfolk Southern, Triangle Transit, NCDOT Rail Division, City of Raleigh, and Town of Cary to conduct a corridor safety and mobility study for the rail corridor between Gorman Street in Raleigh and NE Maynard Road in Cary. The study addresses the need for safety and/or access improvements at the existing and proposed at-grade and grade separated rail crossings, as well as some land use and economic analysis elements and station area planning. A team led by Kimley Horn Associates was selected to lead this study. A successful first round of public meetings was held on November 17-18, 2014, with targeted stakeholder interviews conducted those same days. Another round of public meetings was held March 16-18, 2015 at the NC State Fairgrounds, where the public was invited to review several recommendations for the transportation network, including options for grade-separating, closing, or improving existing crossings. The final project report should be posted on the project website the week of March 7, 2016. A presentation was made to the TCC at its March meeting, and the MPO Executive Board will conduct a public hearing at its April 20, 2016 meeting to satisfy the TSS requirements of the study, and to endorse the recommendations in the study. The City of Raleigh City Council and Town of Cary Council will receive the recommendations in April prior to the public hearing. Please see www.rcrxstudy.com for more information. (Staff Contact: Shelby Powell)

F. Southeast Area Study - The Southeast Area Study is the MPO's third area study following the Southwest and Northeast Area Studies. The study area will encompass the southeastern portion of Wake County including the Town of Garner and portions of the City of Raleigh and the western portion of Johnston County including the towns of Clayton, Archer Lodge, Wilson's Mills, Smithfield and Selma. The focus of the consultant currently is on the SEAS Hot Spots, which are particular locations in Archer Lodge, Garner and Smithfield. The next Core Technical Team (CTT) meeting is scheduled for April 28th. More information can be found on the project website at www.southeastareastudy.com (Staff Contact: Alex Rickard)

G. Regional Freight Plan Study - The Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, in cooperation with the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHCMPO), and the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has hired the consultant services of Parsons Brinckerhoff to develop a Regional Freight Plan for the Triangle region. The proposed study is jointly funded by the agencies as mentioned above. The partnership recognizes the importance and need for these agencies to jointly address freight issues in the region. The purpose of the plan is threefold:

- To conduct a comprehensive regional study of freight, goods movement, and services

mobility needs;

- To develop a framework to proactively address freight and goods movement mobility needs and challenges in our region; and
- To examine all modes of a freight transportation system with emphasis on trucks, rail and air cargo and to develop freight recommendations for the 2045 joint Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

It is envisioned that the proposed plan will guide freight investments in a manner that supports the region's goals for safety, social equity, economic productivity, sustainability, and livable communities. The project team will include the staff from the funding partners and will also include the consultant team project manager, other consultant team members, and other regional staff chosen for their subject-matter expertise. Finally, the consultant team will work with key private- and public-sector stakeholders and create a Regional Freight Advisory Committee throughout the study process.

The Steering Committee meeting held on December 17, 2015 addressed several items; which included provisions from the recently passed "Fixing America's Surface Transportation" (FAST) Act. The Steering Committee also discussed how to incorporate freight goals and objectives into the 2045 MTP. The next Steering Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, April 14, 2016. (Staff Contact: Kenneth Withrow)

I. LAPP – The end of March was six months into FFY16 so existing projects should be close to reaching authorization to construct (most were construction projects). Project Managers should contact the MPO with project updates, particularly if behind schedule or experiencing other issues toward implementation. Questions regarding the LAPP Program can be submitted to Danna Widmar at Danna.Widmar@campo-nc.us. (Staff Contact: Danna Widmar)

J. (SRTS) John Rex Endowment Grant Award Update - As of the December 18, 2015 SRTS Subcommittee meeting, UNC Highway Safety Research Center (HSRC) staff reported that they have held steering committee meetings at all five of the schools that are participating in the John Rex Endowment project. Along with the "common threads" found for each of the schools and their respective local government staff members is the need for sidewalks to the schools and greenway access. HSRC staff members also met with local government staff members in October and November, 2015 to conduct a "Policy Audit" to understand existing municipal policies and practices for pedestrian safety. Finally, HSRC staff has launched the project website as <http://saferouteswakecounty.org/>. The website was created to focus first on serving the needs of those involved in the project, but also broad enough that others who visit the site looking for SRTS info in general may find something useful. Activities have been done at all of the five partner schools in the form of steering committee meetings to create school action plans. The first action plan was presented on Wednesday, January 27 at Northwoods

Elementary School in Cary; with additional action plans to be completed at the remaining four schools in the coming months. Finally, HSRC staff are working on a document titled, "Policies, Plans, and Practices for Child Pedestrian Safety: State of Wake County" which was presented before the SRTS Subcommittee at their February 5 meeting. The document is still in draft form and will be finalized this spring. (Staff Contact: Kenneth Withrow)

K. NC Non-Motorized Volume Data Program - Phase II Region Roll-out - The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) in cooperation with ITRE, the MPOs and RPOs in Highway Divisions 4, 5, 8, and 10 is working this year to develop a bicycle and pedestrian volume counting program with consistent methodologies that can be replicated statewide. The aforementioned divisions will serve as Phase II of the statewide project that began in the Triad Region (Division 7 and 9) in 2013. Local government staff and CAMPO staff have filled out identifying proposed locations to count bicyclists and/or pedestrians for the NC Non-Motorized Volume Data Program; and have forwarded the information to ITRE.

Work has begun to determine the best locations for potential installation of Continuous Count Stations (CCS) for collecting non-motorized data. Selected sites are slated for implementation in the spring of 2016 and will receive count validation, ongoing QAQC of data; and be included in reporting and analysis deliverables to NCDOT. Site visits were conducted in the communities of Cary, Morrisville, and Apex on Monday, February 8. Site visits began in Raleigh with an initial assessment occurring at ITRE on the NC State campus in Raleigh on Friday, March 4; as well as in northeast Raleigh and the Town of Wake Forest on Friday, March 11. Visited sites may not ultimately be selected for a CCS but may be considered for a short duration count (1 week of screenline bicycle/pedestrian data). In fact, a short duration count equipment installation consisting of two bike tube counters is currently being done in Raleigh on Hillsborough St, near Forest Rd. A full report will be available to CAMPO to review later this spring. (Staff Contact: Kenneth Withrow)