



Advancing the Plan Committee Meeting Minutes
March 22, 2024

Jurisdictions/Organization	Committee Members Present	Centralina Staff and Guests Present
City of Kannapolis City of Gastonia City of Salisbury NC Public Transportation Assoc. NCDOT Stanly County Town of Cornelius Mecklenburg County Mecklenburg County Mooresville/CRTPO Cabarrus County Anson County	Darrell Hinnant Jennifer Stepp Karen Alexander David Rhew Tony Lathrop Andy Lucas Woody Washam Leigh Altman Dena Diorio Lisa Qualls Mike Downs Jarvis Woodburn	Jason Wager, Centralina Narissa Claiborne, Centralina Sarah Niess, Centralina Geraldine Gardner, Centralina Andy Grzymiski, Centralina Guests Jason Lawrence, CATS Bob Cook, CRTPO Patrick McDonough, HDR

Call to Order:

Mayor Hinnant called the meeting to order and recognized that these Committee meetings are open meetings. Mayor Hinnant welcomed the Committee and recognized the work for the day:

Committee Meeting Objectives:

- **Highlight** early wins for CONNECT Beyond implementation
- **Review** Existing NC Peer Examples
- **Engage** on the details of the potential governance structure of the preferred model and **prioritize** a set of assumptions
- **Discuss and identify** key meetings, participants and content for 2024 engagement strategy

Agenda Items:

1. Approval of February 9, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Motion (Commissioner Altman), Second (Mayor Washum) and the Committee members approved the February 9, 2024, Advancing the Plan Committee meeting minutes.

2. CONNECT Beyond Project Update: Early Wins – CONNECT Beyond Implementation

Jason Wager, Regional Planning Director and Project Manager for CONNECT Beyond, reviewed the latest CONNECT Beyond implementation activities. Projects highlights included: the development of a regional Transportation Demand Management plan and program; the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant; and Regional Infrastructure Accelerator program.

Additionally, Mr. Wager highlighted a recent event of the Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization and Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization. The two organizations held a Joint MPO meeting on February 29, 2024, where the Pennies for Progress funding initiative in York County (South Carolina) was discussed.

3. Review Regional Transit Authority (RTA) Examples from our State

Geraldine Gardner, Executive Director of Centralina, reviewed the work the Committee will try to accomplish at today's meeting, including developing options for each element of a possible RTA authorization legislation. Geraldine introduced Patrick McDonough, consultant from HDR, to begin this work with an overview of peer RTA examples from our state. The two existing RTAs in North Carolina are PART (Triad area) and GoTriangle (Triangle area). Patrick reviewed both RTAs, including their geography, services and Board memberships.

4. Developing Model Assumptions

Patrick McDonough reminded the Committee of the Guiding Principles that they developed last year to help direct their work. Patrick then focused the Committee's attention on each of the key elements of any RTA authorization legislation: (1) Eligible Geography, (2) RTA Purpose and Services, and (3) Board Composition and Membership. For each element the Committee discussed: what the element is; the range of possible options available and engaged in a discussion of the acceptable range of options to review at the next Advancing the Plan Committee meeting in May.

5. Engagement Strategy – Next Steps

Geraldine recapped the communications strategy for getting information out about both CONNECT Beyond implementation and the ATP Committee work. Geraldine recently gave an introductory presentation to Stanly County and offered to do the same for anyone else interested in having Centralina present to their Board.

The Committee then turned to a discussion of engaging with the MPO and RPO Boards in the region, discussing: the timing for engaging with MPOs/RPO on this topic and the types of information that should be shared.

Closing Comments

Mayor Hinnant thanked Committee members for their time and participation and adjourned the meeting.

