



Board of Directors – Operations Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: July 22, 2021 @ 9:30 am

Location: In-Person & Microsoft Teams
NCDOT Board Room rm.150
1 S. Wilmington St. Raleigh NC 27601

Attendance

Members Present

Members Present Via Phone

Charles Travis, Mary Clayton, Sam Hunt,
Perry Safran

Members Absent

Montell Irvin

Welcome, Introductions, Call to Order & Declaration of Quorum – Charles Travis, Chair

Discussion Summary

Mr. Charles Travis called the July 22, 2021, North Carolina Turnpike Authority Operations Committee meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. Mr. Travis called roll and declared a quorum of three members.

Mr. Travis invited those in attendance to introduce themselves to the group, and made a special welcome to Mr. Perry Safran, Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Actions Taken

Information only, no action required.

Call to Order & Approval of April 22, 2021 Meeting Minutes – Charles Travis, Chair

Discussion Summary

Mr. Charles Travis noted everyone received a copy of the meeting minutes prior to the meeting and announced he would accept a motion to approve the April 22, 2021, meeting minutes as written.

Actions Taken

The April 22, 2021, Operations Committee meeting minutes were unanimously approved upon a motion by Ms. Mary Clayton, seconded by Mr. Sam Hunt.

Opening Comments – J. J. Eden, NCTA Executive Director

Discussion Summary

Mr. J.J. Eden started his opening comments by providing updates on the Triangle Expressway. He stated that in May 2021 there were over 4.73 million transactions and revenue was approximately \$3.67 million.

Mr. Eden also provided updates on the Monroe Expressway and stated that the facility had over 3.51 million transactions in May 2021 with revenue around \$1.68 million.

Mr. Eden stated that during May 2021 the NC Quick Pass program did well with around 16,300 transponders distributed.

Actions Taken

Information only, no action required.

I-485 Express Lanes Update & SPOT 6.0 – Andy Lelewski, PE, Director of Program Development

Discussion Summary

Mr. Andy Lelewski provided the committee with updates on the I-485 Express Lanes and SPOT 6.0. Mr. Brian Davis, P.E., Division 10 Resident Engineer, provided an update on the construction of the I-485 Express Lanes project.

Ms. Mary Clayton asked who the contractor was for the Elm Street portion of the project, which is scheduled to open on-time on August 31, 2021. Mr. Davis stated that it was Blythe Construction. Mr. Charles Travis asked how frequently the filming for the video tool was being done. Mr. Davis answered that they try to update it once a month.

Mr. Davis answered a question posed at the April 22, 2021, Operations Committee meeting regarding the design-build team's analysis of the contract and schedule. He stated that everyone seems to be on board with separating some of the operations that could delay the opening of the I-485 Express Lanes.

Mr. Travis noted that good progress is being made and conversations are taking place to address opening the tolling portions.

Ms. Clayton asked how long it would be before they would know the timeframe going forward. Mr. Davis stated that the responsibility lies with the design-build team. He stated that he would like to have an answer by the August board meeting.

Ms. Clayton said that one of the things the committee members were concerned about was the cost of the delay. Mr. Davis said they do expect there have been some costs incurred by the design-build team. He added that some of the costs may be legitimate claims, and some may not be the responsibility of the Department or Turnpike.

Mr. Travis asked for some examples of projects that are being considered for removal from the scope of work. Mr. Davis noted that the main one under consideration for removal is the completion of the Weddington Road Interchange; however, Mr. Davis stated that the bridge must be completed.

Mr. Braedon Hill, an NCTA intern and construction management student at East Carolina University, spoke to committee members about his internship projects and utilizing a GIS Construction Management Tool.

Mr. Travis and Ms. Clayton asked Mr. Lelewski about the scheduling and funding with respect to Spot 6.0. Mr. Lelewski said that he hoped to provide an update at the August Board Meeting. Mr. J. J. Eden stated that the Department of Transportation was currently reviewing any scheduling and funding issues.

Actions Taken

Information only, no action required.

Customer Service Center & Toll Technology Update – Manish Chourey, Chief Technology Officer

Discussion Summary

Mr. Manish Chourey provided the committee an update on customer service & toll technology.

Mr. Sam Hunt asked what the policy is regarding employee Covid-19 vaccinations at the CSC. Ms. Angela Queenland, Manager of Customer Service, stated that currently there is a \$50 per month incentive offered to the employees who have received the vaccine. She explained that about 20% of staff are vaccinated and that social distancing procedures and mask requirements are in effect.

Ms. Mary Clayton asked Mr. Chourey about the toll traffic numbers in consideration of employees going back to work in offices. Mr. Chourey and Mr. Eden both spoke about the current trends in comparison to 2019 and 2020 levels. They stated things are trending upward, especially in the Charlotte area. Mr. Eden stated that a traffic study of the Triangle Expressway area showed that the roads were being used for general purposes, not just for commuting to work. He added that nationwide the trend is positive. Mr. Eden discussed the fact that commercial traffic is up on both roadways. Mr. Travis asked Mr. Chourey to discuss the impact of timing, possible component shortages, and costs for the I-485 proposals. Mr. Chourey explained that they have put in place a two-phase system to help manage the costs and scheduling. Mr. Lelewski and Mr. Eden discussed how the I-485 project staff is using innovation and communication to coordinate the design-build and technology teams going forward.

Mr. Brennan McLaughlin, an NCTA intern and computer science student the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, presented his internship project that focused on NCTA network mapping with the Customer Service Center.

Ms. Areeba Khokar, an NCTA intern and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill dual major in computer science and business administration, shared information about her internship project. She worked on improving and adding to the NCTA dashboards & tools and creating a CSC data dictionary.

Mr. Manish Chourey told the Operations Committee about the Pilot Program for GoToll Mobile Application usage.

Actions Taken

Information only, no action required.

Adjourn – Charles Travis, Chair

Discussion Summary

Mr. Charles Travis opened the floor for questions.

Mr. Travis asked Mr. Rodger Rochelle, Chief Engineer, about bonus allocation dollars for I-77. This was a follow-up question Mr. Travis asked Mr. J.J. Eden previously. Mr. Rochelle said that there is a list of about 20 projects to utilize the bonus allocation funds. Some of the projects have been completed and all the money has been appropriated. The dollar amount represented is just under \$145 million. The projects span along northern I-77 and are located in the towns of Mooresville, Davidson, Cornelius, and Huntersville. A list that shows how the funds will be allocated will be sent to the committee members.

Mr. Travis called for a motion to adjourn the July 22, 2021, North Carolina Turnpike Authority Operations Committee meeting.

Actions Taken

A motion to adjourn the July 22, 2021, Operations Committee meeting was approved upon a call for motion from Mr. Sam Hunt and seconded by Ms. Mary Clayton.