



**Charlotte Region HOV/HOT/Managed Lanes Study
Regional Technical Team
Meeting #2**

July 31, 2007 10:30am – 12:30pm

**Metrolina Regional Transportation Management Center
2327 Tipton Drive, Charlotte, NC**

Meeting Summary

Welcome and Introductions

- The meeting started at 10:45.
- Tim Gibbs (CDOT) welcomed everybody and asked that everybody self-introduce.
- Jack Flaherty (NCDOT) provided a status of what had been done so far, including Meeting #1. Mr. Flaherty was pleased at how everything has stayed on schedule.

Review of Work Progress

Aug. 21 Workshop Review

- Lynn Purnell (PB) gave an overview of what was planned for the August 21 workshop. Discussion ensued regarding the invitees to the meeting. RTT members were to provide Tim Gibbs with names of participants for the workshop ASAP. Tim indicated that he currently has a list of 15 people and needs more names.
- Gail Grimes (NCTA) indicated that two Turnpike board members should be invited (she will provide contact info to Tim for John Culbertson and Bob Spencer).
- Norm Steinman (CDOT) – suggested inviting FedEx and UPS folks for the 21st workshop. Because of their time sensitive operations, they might be interested in managed lanes. Mary Hopper will try to get in touch with them.
- Bob Cook (MUMPO) – indicated that there is a Logistics Roundtable group associated with the Charlotte Chamber that Mary may want to contact. Bill Duston (CCOG) said to call him since it is a group led by Laura Mundell in his office.
- Norm Steinman suggested inviting the new “growth reporter” at the Observer and the Observer’s new Dr. Traffic, Steve Harrison. Tom Cox was also suggested by one of the interviewees. Traffic reporters were invited to the two I-77 HOV enforcement workshops and that was very helpful in educating this group regarding HOV operations.
- Gail Grimes (NCTA) stated that NCTA projections show that tolls would not pay for all the needed capital outlays. She would be interested in exploring funding alternatives and also look at what other cities have done to be creative in funding such projects. She asked that the financial part of the workshop be expanded.
- Norm Steinman (CDOT) also requested further discussion on financing, noting that is an important part of the workshop presentation. He asked for reports on six or seven locations where money has been borrowed. Norm also suggested that the financial



segment include information on funding scenarios for NCDOT, SCDOT and Charlotte. CDOT staff would present this information at the workshop.

- Another suggestion by Norm was that, given the workshop audience, less time should be spent on technical feasibility. Lynn Purnell (PB) will revise the workshop agenda to reflect RTT comments.

Tasks 1.2 and 1.4 Data Compilation and Travel Demand Forecasts

- Sashi Amatyia (PB) indicated that while a high level of data will not be needed for Phase 1, having good data for Phase 2 will be crucial so the consultants are hoping RTT members can help provide the needed information.
- For freeways, hourly traffic counts and vehicle classification information is needed. Traffic information for US-521 is needed.
- New traffic counts should not begin until after school opens, starting after Labor Day through early September.
- Joe McLelland (CDOT) said they have a good 24-hour count data for arterial streets but none on the freeways. They are setting up counts on I-77 at three locations (I-77/85/ LaSalle pedestrian bridge, Cindy Lane, and Lakeview Road). CDOT put new style of traffic counters on I-77 HOV lane, but there were some problems in the results. CDOT is re-installing counters along I-77 in September.
- Based on comments at last month's RTT meeting, NC-24/NC-27 and US-521 have been coded and added to the study area network. CDOT has a 2013 network, which is available as a short-term horizon year.
- Jonathan Parker (NCDOT) will check on the availability of counts from his agency and will attempt to obtain hourly and classification counts on freeways.
- Doug Frate and Diane Janicki (SCDOT) were asked for any traffic data along US-521 and I-77 in South Carolina.
- ECONorthwest, a firm on PB's Team, can use whatever information is available or can be collected for application of the firm's RapidTOM model.

Task 2.8 Study Coordination and Outreach

- Lynn Purnell (PB) briefly indicated the type/ background of people being interviewed by Mary Hopper (Hopper Communications) for the stakeholder interviews, which ranged from Congresswoman Sue Myrick and North Carolina Senator David Hoyle to the Sergeant David Witherspoon of the NCSHP who oversees HOV enforcement. An attempt has been made to reach all participating jurisdictions as well as a broad spectrum of interests.
- Mary hopes to have completed all of the stakeholder interviews by the workshop on the 21st. Although she has only completed one interview, most are scheduled. Mary has already had long conversations with a number of the interviewees in scheduling the sessions.
- Interview questionnaires are ready for use during the one-on-one meetings. PB provided Mary with photos of various types of HOV/ HOT/ managed lanes to serve as examples for her sessions.



Managed Lane Website

- Bob Cook (MUMPO) indicated he had met with City of Charlotte's Corporate Communications Department about help with a website as well as with display boards, a marketing brochure and a logo.
- The domain name can be purchased for \$50. However, the website will likely not be operational before the August 21 workshop.
- Where allowed they will try to have a link to this project from various agencies websites.
- Norm Steinman (CDOT) suggested that the site should include citizen surveying capabilities. He commented that "Survey Monkey" might be useful because it's cheap and analyzes the data.
- Attendees felt it was important to be aware of the possibility of talk radio hosts commenting on this study and shaping public opinion.
- Bill Duston (CCOG) suggested issuance of releases regularly to educate the media on the study and to make sure there were consistent messages.
- The RTT discussed the need for a single contact person for the media to obtain study information. The designation of that individual will be discussed further.

Task 1.1 Research Report

- Chuck Fuhs (PB) reviewed the Task 1.1 draft report. He highlighted the screening process, such as the types of managed lanes to study in each corridor and how corridors could pass into the second phase.
- Chuck indicated he and Heidi Stamm (HS Public Affairs) have developed a "Bombs and Band Aids" approach for managed lanes marketing based on their work around the country but added, "you can't sell a bad product." If there is not enough congestion or demand, it will not work. Attention also must be paid to enforcement and maintenance. An agency cannot do this alone, nor is there one model for all corridors.
- Seven jurisdictions in the United States have implemented HOT lanes with electronic tolling. Contrary to popular belief, equity of HOT lane users has not been a problem. Only one in eight persons use HOT lanes every day, and all socio-economic groups take advantage of the time savings provided by HOT lanes when needed.
- Regarding endorsement, Chuck indicated there was technology available to assist in this area, but state statutes and the judicial system lags behind what could be implemented.
- Dan Mikkelson (City of Salisbury) suggested "FastLanes" as a catchy name for the project. He stated that this name seems more marketable than "managed lanes".

Task 1.3 Evaluation Criteria

- Chuck Fuhs (PB) reviewed a table of suggested screening criteria. He added that a major screening category would be presence of congestion. Also the physical threshold involving the opportunity to build more lanes will be important.
- Chuck asked RTT members to review the criteria and provide comments to PB. The consultants will analyze the criteria in light of what's readily available as travel demand model output and adjust the criteria as needed.



Other Items of Discussion

- Tim Gibbs (CDOT) noted that the multi-party agreement is done and needs to be executed by all study partners.
- Need materials and talking points to get booths at various events to educate the public.
- The next RTT meeting is tentatively scheduled for 10AM on Tuesday, September 25, at a location to be determined.
- Jack Flaherty thanked everybody and concluded the meeting.

Attendees

- Sign-in sheet is attached.



**CHARLOTTE REGION HOV/HOT/MANAGED LANES STUDY
REGIONAL TECHNICAL TEAM MEETING
JULY 31, 2007**

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