

Minutes
of the joint
RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
and
Transportation Advisory Committee
May 8, 2013

TCC: Betty Moore, Dempsey Bond, Gray Hodges, Charlotte Griffin, Judy Lannon, James Rhodes, Joe Penrose, Hood Richardson, Jonas Hill, David Bone

TAC: Tom Coulson, Dempsey Bond, Robert Cayton

DOT: Neal Lassiter, Saeed Mohamed, Barry Hobbs, Ed Eatman

Staff: Bryant Buck, Justin Oakes, Theresa Harris

Guest: Robert Belcher

Vice Chair James Rhodes called the TCC Meeting to order and Dempsey Bond called the TAC meeting to order. Bryant Buck asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Election

The floor was opened for election of the Chairman of the TAC. Robert Cayton nominated Dempsey Bond. Tom Coulson seconded the nomination. Dempsey Bond is the new Chair of the TAC.

The floor was opened for election of Vice-Chair of the TAC. Dempsey Bond, newly elected Chair of the TAC nominated Robert Cayton. Tom Coulson seconded the nomination. Robert Cayton is the new Vice-Chair of the TAC.

Minutes

Jonas Hill made the motion to approve the minutes of February 6, 2013. David Bone seconded the motion, the motion carried.

There were no public comments.

Presentation

Insight on Strategic Mobility Formula

Neal Lassiter with the NCDOT presented updated insight on the governor's newly proposed Strategic Mobility Formula. Under the new funding formula, statewide regional tiers would each receive 40% of the funding with the division tier receiving 20%. This is a revenue split of \$15 billion over 10 years.

If a project doesn't compete well in a statewide category it could conceivably move down and compete in the regional category. Likewise, if it doesn't compete well in the regional category it could compete in the division category, but it cannot go upwards.

Following the presentation, Bryant Buck stated that we need to strategize and position ourselves to make the most of the funding and try reaching out to our other RPOs as well as to our division folks to assist with getting the most for our for our money on projects.

2013-2014 Planning Work Program (PWP)

Each year we are tasked with putting forward a work program of activities that are going to take place within the RPO for the next year. The following are items under the PWP.

Annual list of prioritized CTP meetings – Evaluating our counties and communities and recommending those areas for comprehensive transportation plans or comprehensive transportation plan updates.

Collection of GIS layers for existing proposed bike/PED facilities throughout the mid-east RPO region as well as GIS layers for existing bike/PED facilities under that data collection. We have been working with our transit providers for a more regional approach. Updated parcel and center line data will be collected and forwarded to the DOT for Beaufort County, Pitt County and Martin County within the next upcoming year.

Under Transportation Planning Data Collection assessment for comprehensive transportation plan, we do have Martin County scheduled. We are in the process of working on a land use plan for Martin County. Under the Comprehensive Transportation Plan deficiencies will be identified for Martin County, also identifying alternatives, and review and assist in finalizing road inventory. Presenting and advertising public workshops for Martin County as well as Beaufort County. The process of the Beaufort County Comprehensive Transportation Plan will be wrapping up within the next 4 to 6 months.

We have programmed under the General Transportation Funding, attendance in the RPO in NC Association of RPO, NADO RPO America and other training opportunities. We're currently working on the older adult transportation service delivery and we will be in the upcoming year working with our transit providers. We're working on a local coordinated plan than encompasses a 17 county region for the transit providers.

We are looking at areas throughout the Mid-East RPO and targeting those areas to potentially improve pedestrian safety throughout. Truck traffic is an item we have currently working on in the past year for NC 33 and 306 regarding the Town of Aurora, PCS Phosphate.

The next item is Multi-modal Transportation Development throughout the Mid-East RPO; identifying areas throughout our locale that will benefit from multi-modal transportation bicycle/pedestrian facilities. This needs to be in a planned document in order to have a better chance of receiving funding.

Title VI Training – Attain, review and update Title VI requirements. ADA Facility Accessibility Inventory – Looking throughout the Mid-East RPO area to see where improvements can be made.

General administration of transportation planning and policies - Preparation of the Planning Work Program will be undertaken this year as well as the five year planning calendar. Preparation of the quarterly invoice and progress reports, minutes and agendas from Mid-East, PB RPO. Addressing member requests, making certain our public involvement plan is current and updating the Mid-East RPO website or Mid-East website as needed.

After a discussion, Betty Moore made a motion to recommend the 2013-2014 Planning Work Program for approval to the TAC. David Bone seconded the motion, the motion carried.

Mr. Coulson made the motion for the TAC to approve the plan. It was seconded by Robert Cayton, the motion carried.

Resolution Supporting Regional Interstate Connectivity in Eastern North Carolina

Endorsement of a resolution upgrading to interstate standards US 264 and US 70 to provide direct connection to I-795 along with the NC 11 corridor between US 264 and Harvey Parkway Section C in Kinston. The recommendation is to improve this corridor.

This resolution was drafted by the Greenville MPO, it has been presented to Pitt County and was endorsed by Pitt County. The idea is looking at the interconnectivity between some of our major employers and manufacturing areas.

After a discussion, Hood Richardson made a motion to recommend this resolution to the TAC. Betty Moore seconded, the motion carried.

Mr. Coulson made a motion for the TAC to approve this plan. Seconded Robert Cayton, the motion carried.

Discussion and resolution endorsement to Eastern North Carolina MPO/RPO Coalition, regionally significant candidate projects within the Mid-East RPO

Each member was encouraged, since this is a prioritization year, to come up with or look at candidate projects related to inter-connectivity, regionalization throughout our RPO area. The Mid-East RPO, the Peanut Belt RPO, the MPO/RPO Coalition will all be meeting to look at regional projects that fit the criteria as outlined in the Strategic Mobility Formula that the governor has presented.

Rural Transportation Planning Organization/Rural Transit Providers Update

Justin Oakes with the Mid-East Commission stated that we have been working with the transit providers in a 17 county region; 3 RPOs, the Mid-East, Peanut Belt and the Albemarle RPOs. He also stated that for the past two years we have been working with other transit providers as well as the RPO planners. We are looking at how to develop a more regionalized and efficient approach to transportation in the area.

Workshops have been conducted. In addition to the transit providers, we've invited the Department of Social Services, local planners, and city/town managers. We are looking at needs to be added, corrected and updated within these Locally Coordinated Plans that were adopted 3 or 4 years ago. These LCPs are going to be required for any funding that the local transit

providers apply for. The adoption date for these plans is October. The biggest difference this year is that in order for a project to be eligible for any kind of grant, it must be specifically stated within the LCP.

We have are conducting workshops involving transit providers and other stakeholders to determine what the needs are throughout the region. The first workshop was held in March. Additional workshops will be held this month on May 22 here in Washington and on May 28 in Elizabeth City.

Beaufort Area Transit (BATS) Update

Gray Hodges, Director of the Beaufort County Area Transit, stated BAT traveled close to 100,000 miles and serviced 4000 passengers in Beaufort County in January, February and March. He also stated one of the new services they are providing is Saturday Dialysis runs for individuals needing that. This was started about three months ago.

Bryant Buck shared an email regarding the use of a state broker to help with non-emergency medical transportation services. The email stated that the DMA will be moving forward with delivering a formal response to the General Assembly in the next few weeks confirming that the existing coordinated model is the best for the delivery of non-emergency medical transportation services. This means that the state will not engage a broker.

Eastern NC RPO/MPO Coalition Update

Mr. Buck stated there are several MPOs and RPOs that make up a 14 MPO/RPO region. The most recent update is a strategy is being developed on how to work together and how to look at inter-connectivity and regionalization of projects.

A lot of items and issues will be discussed at the upcoming MPO/RPO Coalition meeting. Mr. Buck added that he will keep everyone informed of any progress over the next month.

Southern Albemarle Association Update

At the Southern Albemarle Association meeting last month, a presentation was given by the folks from the ferry division. At the meeting, Jeb Dixon gave an update on the upcoming ferry tolls. The most recent bills introduced was proposing allowing the ferries to collect money for concessions, internet wi-fi, things of that nature, to generate revenue without the tolling option. There is no update to this bill yet.

Mr. Coulson asked if there would be some type of concession made for folks who use the ferry on a regular basis. Mr. Buck stated that they are looking at different passes. Possibly a year pass or commuter pass that give a discount off of those fares for employees. One of the recommendations was \$250 for a year pass as opposed to \$14 for a vehicle and 3 passengers one way for the Bayview/Aurora ferry. This is all proposed but is the latest fee schedule that has been received.

NC Association of Rural Planning Organizations Conference Updates

The ethics requirement was the biggest update on information discussed at the conference of the North Carolina Association of RPOs. Currently Senate Bill 411 would remove most of us from that requirement. TAC members will still be required to complete the Statement of Economic Interest. Currently we have until June 30 to complete the ethics 2 ½ hour training. Mr. Buck stated that Bill 411 was referred back to the committee of ethics and that he will keep everyone updated. If training is required advance notice will be given in order to make it as convenient as possible

North Carolina Public Transit Association Conference Update

The North Carolina Public Transit Association Conference was held last month. The main topic was trying to work within the scope of Map 21, which is our new federal funding bill. Also stressed was the need for mobility managers within the public transit.

National Association of Development Organizations (NADO)

Basic updates on Map 21, the new federal transportation bill; it's a two year bill and we are 6 or 7 months into this. Mr. Buck stated that they were told at the conference to stay tuned that they are still disseminating the Map 21 information.

Ferry Update

There were no questions.

NCDOT Updates

Barry Hobbs, Ed Eatman and Neal Lassiter presented the NCDOT Division 1 & 2 updates.

Transportation Planning Branch Updates

Bryant Buck stated that the Beaufort County CTP maps and report are in the final stage of internal review and should be approved within a few weeks. Once done, a full public workshop will be held allow comments from local officials and the public. This will take place around July or August once approved by the DOT.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be held August 7, 2013.