

Minutes
Of the Joint
RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
And
Transportation Advisory Committee
November 5, 2014

TCC: David Bone, Betty Moore, Hood Richardson, Gray Hodges, Frank Halsey, Gil Alligood, Robert Belcher, Glen Moore, Mark Nottingham, Seth Laughlin

TAC: Dempsey Bond, Charlotte Griffin, Tom Coulson,

State/NCDOT : Jeff Cabaniss, Gretchen Byrum, Carlos Moya-Astudillo

Staff: Bryant Buck, Justin Oakes

TAC Chair Bond called the TAC meeting to order.

Public Comments: None.

Action Items:

Approval of Past Minutes:

Tom Coulson made a motion for the TAC to approve the minutes of the August 2014 meeting. The motion was seconded by Charlotte Griffin, the motion carried and the minutes were approved by the TAC.

Future Meeting Topic/Location Discussion:

Bryant Buck mentioned to the group that he was looking for suggestions for both meeting topics for upcoming meetings, as well as possible locations to hold the meetings. David Bone said the Martin County Airport would be glad to host in the spring or fall; Mr. Bone also mentioned discussing passenger ferries as well as an earlier start time for meetings. Mr. Buck took a poll and it was decided that the start time moving forward would be 9:30 AM.

Gil Alligood said that the Washington Airport would also be glad to host the meeting and could get Bobby Walston from NCDOT Aviation to come and give a presentation on airports and their affect of business. Mr. Alligood suggested public outreach so that people outside the RPO know what we are doing, perhaps through a press release, as well as meeting at a local restaurant to help garner interest.

David Bone mentioned meeting with a business that is transportation related or has an interest in transportation; Bryant Buck suggested perhaps PCS. Betty Moore suggested a TV interview(s). Mr. Buck recommended an annual summary report. Gray Hodges said that he could provide transportation at no cost to individuals who wanted to attend RPO meetings.

Robert Belcher said that State Representatives Paul Tine, Michael Speciale, and Bill Cook would all be willing to attend a meeting to discuss transportation; Tom Coulson said he has tried to get Representatives Brian Brown and Susan Martin but have not heard back. David Bone suggested a dinner with Legislative Representatives. Hood Richardson agreed with this idea, suggesting that at the dinner the RPO reaffirm a resolution to return to the equity formula and that there be a second press release stating that the RPO recommends legislators from the east form a group with legislators from the west. David Bone recommended looking at the Rural Center to see if there will be a lobbyist to lobby for the rural areas, serving as a middle man between the RPO's and legislators. Mr. Belcher recommended having someone from the Governor's Office or NCDOT to come down and discuss I-495; Mr. Richardson suggested having the Governor's Eastern Representative give a presentation and have a press release from that meeting/presentation. Mr. Bone suggested the RPO also have someone come in to discuss rail.

Information Items/Updates:

Area Transit & Airport Staff Updates

Bryant Buck thanked Gray Hodges from Beaufort Area Transit for providing transit for the October NCARPO Conference, which was held in Washington. Mr. Hodges started by thanking commissioners for ongoing grants and contracts, saying that when ROAP funding was cut, the County stepped up to match. Mr. Hodges said he would like to get more information on the services BATS provides out to the public.

Frank Halsey with Martin County Transit provide the group with an update on the services that are currently provided, with 16 vehicles and routes throughout the day and even outside the County into Pitt County. Mr. Halsey said that dialysis patients are served from 3:30 AM to 3:45 and 4:45 PM each day. Mr. Halsey said that there is continued training for drivers through the year; that there are consistently 3 routes into Washington, and are looking to expand into Bertie County.

Gill Alligood said that the new hanger at the Washington Airport will be completed by March 2015 and that new runway lights will be completed soon. Mr. Alligood said the city is negotiating with businesses to relocate at the airport, but more visibility of the airport is needed, with the support of the Chamber of Commerce, Committee of 100, and local business.

David Bone said that the fuel farm project at the Martin County Airport is complete and that they are seeing more traffic. Mr. Bone said that the county is engaging the Board of Education to set up Wright Flight, like Washington's program, in Martin County.

Southern Albemarle Association:

Bryant Buck said Paul Tine and Paul Spruill gave presentations regarding prioritization and the in equability of projects. Mr. Buck said that the high speed ferry was also discussed. Betty Moore said that Southern Albemarle has gone on record to support I-495 and that NCDOT Secretary Tony Tata will be the guest speaker at the Southern Albemarle 2015 Annual Meeting, on the 3rd Thursday in October.

NCARPO Update:

Bryant Buck updated the group on the October 2014 meeting, which was hosted in Washington by the Mid-East RPO; said the discussion was on the Prioritization 4.0 Schedule as well as local prioritization adjustments.

NCDOT Updates:

Gretchen Byrum, NCDOT Division 1 Planner, provided updates on projects in Martin County as well as the remainder of Division 1. A spreadsheet was provided to members. Jeff Cabaniss updated the group on work in Pitt an Beaufort Counties.

NCDOT TPB Update:

Carlos Moya said that there was a new Director of Transportation Planning Branch in place. His name is Patrick Norman and that he is open to meeting with anyone who wants to meet him.

Next Meeting:

Bryant Buck said the next meeting was scheduled for February 4th 2015. Tom Coulson made a motion for the TAC to adjourn, seconded by Charlotte Griffin. TAC adjourned at 10:49 AM.