

Minutes of the Mid-East RPO
Technical Coordinating Committee
Martin Community College
1161 Kehukee Park Road
Williamston, NC 27892
February 7, 2018

TCC: Hood Richardson, David Bone, Judi Lannon, Frank Halsey, David Jaynes, Rhonda Suggs, Seth Laughlin, Brian Alligood, James Rhodes, Jonas Hill, Ryan Purtle, Allison White, Jerry McCrary, Jeff Cabaniss, Michelle Howes, Gretchen Byrum, Cam Coburn, Brooks Braswell, Robert Cayton, Cameron Braddy

Guest: Bryant Buck, Eliud De Jesus, Roland Wyman, Scott Walston

Staff: Jamie Heath

TCC Chair Cayton called the TCC meeting to order at 9:00 and quorum for the TCC was established.

Public Comment

Chairman Cayton asked if there was anyone from the public that would like to speak; there were no comments.

Approval of Agenda

Judi Lannon made a motion for the TCC to approve the agenda for the February 7, 2018 meeting. James Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion carried and the agenda was approved by the TCC.

Approval of Past Minutes

David Bone noted a correction needed in the November 1, 2017 minutes. His name needs to be added to the attendance list. James Rhodes motioned to approve the minutes from the November 1, 2017 meeting with the correction. David Bone seconded the motion. The motion carried and the minutes were approved by the TCC.

P5.0 Local Input Methodology

Jamie Heath reviewed the P5.0 Local Input Methodology. The methodology itself remains the same as P4.0. New headers and required information from NCDOT were added. There was one grammatical error where “representative” needed changing to “representative(s)”. David Jaynes motioned to adopt the P5.0 Local Input Methodology with the grammatical change. David Bone seconded the motion. The motion carried and the P5.0 Local Input Methodology was approved by the TCC.

Eastern NC Freight Mobility Plan

Ryan Purtle from Greenville MPO did a presentation on the proposed Eastern NC Regional Freight Mobility Plan. The proposed Regional Freight Mobility Plan is a coordinated regional planning effort to identify, develop and support the multimodal freight network within the identified Eastern NC planning area. The planning area includes Divisions 1, 2, and 4. The project is estimated to cost \$250,000. Each MPO is being asked to provide \$50,000 in funding for a consultant, while each RPO is being asked to provide \$5,000 (this amount could be reduced if the project is awarded State Planning Research [SPR] funds). The \$5,000 amount for a consultant is reflected in the draft FY 18-19 PWP.

James Rhodes asked about ports being included in the plan. Ryan Purtle answered that Morehead City is the only port in the planning region, but the ports in Wilmington and Norfolk will be considered as well because of their importance to freight movement.

Hood Richardson made a comment that he did not think this type of plan would be a benefit to the region. He feels that there is not enough freight movement to justify this type of plan. Ryan Purtle replied that this is a 25-year long-range plan. Many others in the group pointed out the potential economic benefits of this type of plan.

David Bone motioned for the Mid-East RPO to participate in the Eastern NC Regional Freight Mobility Plan. Judi Lannon seconded the motion. Hood Richardson had an opposing vote. All others voted in favor and the motion carried.

Planning Work Program (PWP) FY 18-19

Jamie Heath reviewed the draft PWP for FY 18-19. Total funding for the year is \$132,969, which includes \$106,375 in NCDOT funding and \$26,594 in local match. Hood Richardson asked why the amount allotted to postage was zero. Ms. Heath responded that postage costs for the RPO were minimal, and any postage cost would be covered by Mid-East Commission postage funds. David Bone motioned to approve the Planning Work Program (PWP) for FY 18-19. Judi Lannon seconded the motion. The motion carried and the PWP FY 18-19 was approved by the TCC.

Five Year Calendar for FY 18-23

Jamie Heath reviewed the draft Five Year Calendar for FY 18-23, which documents the ongoing and planned future activities of the RPO for the next five fiscal years. Michelle Howes stated that this document was not required for FY 18. Ms. Heath decided to have it adopted anyway since it was already completed. Hood Richardson motioned to adopt the Five Year Calendar for FY 18-23. David Jaynes seconded the motion. The motion carried and the Five Year Calendar for FY 18-23 was approved by the TCC.

Beaufort County Comprehensive Bicycle Planning Grant Update

Ms. Heath informed the group that Beaufort County will be notified by NCDOT in March on whether they received the grant for development of a Comprehensive Bicycle Plan.

15th Street Project Update

Ms. Heath informed the group that NC DOT is reprogramming the money for the 15th Street project in Washington. The money will go to the next highest scoring project(s), which are not in our area. NC DOT is reprogramming this money due to a lack of support from the City of Washington.

Brian Alligood spoke about this on behalf of Beaufort County. Beaufort County feels that the 15th Street project is needed. Mr. Alligood stated that there were three levels of failure involved: 1. The business community in Washington. 2. The City of Washington 3. NC DOT has a responsibility and should have pushed this project through since it is a safety project. Other members agreed that the project was needed due to safety.

MOU / Bylaws Discussion

Hood Richardson motioned to table the MOU / Bylaws Discussion until the next meeting. David Jaynes seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Meeting Dates

Ms. Heath mentioned that our meetings on the first Wednesday conflict with the Board of Transportation meetings in Raleigh, and recommended rescheduling our meetings to give our board members an opportunity to attend. The group was open to moving the meeting. Ms. Heath will send out a Doodle Poll to determine the meetings dates for the rest of the year.

Martin County & Pitt County CTP Updates

The Steering Committee received a draft of the Martin County CTP from TPD staff. RPO staff had several comments and there were also comments from Jamesville with concern about the Jamesville Bypass project. The proposal now is to remove the Bypass project and add a project to improve the existing corridor instead. TPD staff gave an estimate of 2/16 for the revised draft to be online. We will have a final Steering Committee meeting to review changes. Then we will present to municipalities, the Martin County Board of Commissioners, and finally to the RPO, before getting the final stamp of approval from the Board of Transportation.

The Travel Demand Model for the Pitt County CTP is in process. It is estimated to be completed in September. RPO staff has gathered all bicycle/pedestrian data for existing facilities for all municipalities, and we are working on a strategy for the county area. We received data from the existing Pitt County Bike Map from Greenville MPO, and updating this map coincides with the CTP development. RPO staff will begin discussions about forming a Steering Committee with Pitt County in April.

NC DOT Division Updates

Gretchen Byrum introduced Brooks Braswell, who will be the new RPO contact for Division 1. Ms. Byrum reviewed current projects and STIP projects in Martin County. Current projects include: the NC-125 Bypass (estimated completion date April 2019), resurfacing of US-64/13 and US-17, and multiple resurfacing projects on secondary roads. STIP projects include: upgrades to Prison Camp Road, a US-17 access management project, the US-17 widening project from Washington to Williamston, the Flat Swamp Road bridge replacement, and the

Collie Swamp bridge replacement. Ms. Byrum also reviewed information regarding the I-87 Feasibility Study.

Jeff Cabaniss introduced Diane Hampton, Division 2's new Corridor Development Engineer. Mr. Cabaniss reviewed Beaufort and Pitt County projects. For Beaufort County, the safety project at Beaufort Community College's entrance is already under design. Other current projects in Beaufort County include: a bridge replacement on Long Bridge Road, a bridge replacement on Horsepen Swamp Road, a bridge replacement on VOA Road, construction of a retaining wall at a railroad overpass on NC-33, resurfacing of NC-102, NC-32, and NC-33, and multiple resurfacing projects on secondary roads.

Current projects in Pitt County include: the Greenville Southwest Bypass (estimated completion date November 2019), the 10th Street Connector, upgrades to Laurie Ellis Road, grading, drainage and paving for Boyd's Street, a bridge replacement on Big Oak Road, a bridge replacement on Sheppard Mill Road, resurfacing of US-264-Alt, NC-33, and NC-102, and multiple resurfacing projects on secondary roads.

NC DOT Transportation Planning Division Updates

Michelle Howes went over updates for the Transportation Planning Division. She discussed the NC DOT 2040 Statewide Plan, Transportation Corridor Studies, the draft Statewide Freight Plan, using HERE data (which includes speed data), the Vision Zero goal, and Traffic Forecasts. Ms. Howes mentioned that the Pitt County CTP would be completed in the new CTP 2.0 format. Ryan Purtle asked for more detail on the Strategic Transportation Corridors. Ms. Howes stated that this project is being consulted out to Kimley Horn. Mr. Purtle said that more information on Corridor X would be helpful for the next meeting.

Updates from Transportation Association Meetings and RPO Workshops

Jamie Heath reported on attendance at RPO workshops and Transportation Association meetings, including the January's RPO Quarterly Meeting, the Southern Albemarle meeting, the Highway 17/64 Association meeting, a Triangle RPO meeting, and the Bike/Walk NC Summit. Ms. Heath stated that if anyone wanted more details on these meetings they could contact her.

Public Input

Chairman Cayton asked if there was anyone from the public that would like to speak. Roland Wyman (Washington City Council member) stated that he agreed with Brian Alligood's statement on the 15th Street project. Mr. Wyman stated that he has just recently joined the City Council and he is very concerned about the safety issues on 15th Street.

Mr. Wyman asked if DOT would be willing to present to the Washington City Council one more time. Jeff Cabaniss stated that the project would need to go through prioritization again, and if it scores well again and the RPO wants to put points on it, that would be the time for a new presentation. Hood Richardson stated that there has not been enough press about the benefits of the project. Mr. Richardson said we need to do public relations work in advance when we go through this process again.

Member Discussion/Comments

Chairman Cayton asked if there were any final comments from the TCC. There were none.

Next Meeting

Ms. Heath said the next meeting is scheduled for May, with a future meeting date in August. Ms. Heath will send out a Doodle Poll to schedule the meetings.

Adjournment

Hood Richardson made a motion for the TCC to adjourn. James Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion carried and the TCC adjourned at 10:45 am.