

Minutes of the Mid-East RPO  
Technical Coordinating Committee  
Washington-Warren Airport  
200 Airport Rd.  
Washington, NC 27889  
August 30, 2017

TCC: Hood Richardson, David Bone, Judi Lannon, Frank Halsey, David Jaynes, Seth Laughlin, Brian Alligood, James Rhodes, Betty Moore, Ryan Purtle, Robert Cayton, Allison Stalls, Jerry McCrary, Suzette Morales, Gretchen Byrum, Jeff Cabaniss

Guest: Bryant Buck, Jerry Jennings

Staff: Jamie Heath

TCC Chair Cayton called the TCC meeting to order at 9:05 and quorum for the TCC was established.

Approval of Agenda

James Rhodes made a motion for the TCC to approve the agenda for the August 30<sup>th</sup> 2017 meeting. Betty Moore seconded the motion. The motion carried and the agenda was approved by the TCC.

Approval of Past Minutes

James Rhodes made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017 Mid-East RPO TCC meeting. Betty Moore seconded the motion. The motion carried and the minutes were approved by the TCC.

Election of Vice Chair

The Vice Chair position for the Mid-East RPO TCC was vacant. Jamie Heath asked for nominations. Hood Richardson nominated Betty Moore to be the TCC Vice Chair. Jamie Rhodes motioned for Betty Moore to be TCC Vice Chair. Judi Lannon seconded the motion. The motion carried and Betty Moore accepted the position as Vice Chair.

Division Planning Engineers Presentation

Jeff Cabaniss and Gretchen Byrum did a presentation on the P5.0 Prioritization process. They reviewed the P5.0 schedule and key dates. They also reviewed the three funding buckets (Statewide, Regional, Division) how local input points work.

Mr. Cabaniss and Ms. Byrum reviewed the default criteria that projects are scored at, and explained the process for adopting an alternate scoring criteria. They also reviewed committed projects, carryover projects, and holding tank projects.

Brian Alligood commented that it would make more sense to combine Divisions that are similar to each other into funding regions, rather than putting rural Divisions up against urban Divisions for the Regional bucket of funding. In our case Division 1 is paired with Division 4 to make up funding Region A, and Division 2 is paired with Division 3 to make up funding Region B. It would make more sense to combine Division 1 with 2 and Division 3 with 4.

#### Approval of New Projects to be Submitted by MERPO for Prioritization 5.0

Jamie Heath reviewed three additional highway projects and six transit projects to be submitted to the NCDOT SPOT Office to be evaluated for P5.0. The first highway project was a widening project on NC 43 from NC 102 in Pitt County to SR 1477 in Craven County. The next highway project was a bridge replacement on NC 92, southeast of Bath, crossing Back Creek. The final new highway project was a modernization and strengthening project on SR 1159 (Robersonville Products Rd. /3<sup>rd</sup> St. Ext.) from the three-laned section east of Robersonville to NC 903.

The transit projects for Beaufort Area Transit System (BATS) include three expansion vehicles (one per fiscal year), a new administrative building, and site improvements including a covered maintenance shelter, paving, fencing, and handicap access improvements. Martin County Transit's (MCT) project is a bundled bus stop submission (six stops in Williamston and two stops in Robersonville).

David Bone asked about qualification for expansion vehicles. Ms. Heath explained that the Public Transit Division of NCDOT did a study and released a list of transit providers that are in need of expansion. The RPO can only submit expansion vehicle projects for providers on the list.

Brian Alligood asked about replacement vehicles for transit providers. The amount of time required for transit vehicles to be in service before replacement is too long and the vehicles have serious maintenance issues before they can be replaced. Ms. Heath explained that replacement vehicles are covered by the transit provider's 5311 grant, which is managed by the Public Transit Division. Ms. Heath will check to see if the RPO can adopt a resolution advocating for the timeframe to be reduced, or if the resolution would need to come from the transit providers.

Ms. Heath asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, Chairman Cayton asked for a motion for TCC approval of the New Projects to be submitted by the Mid-East RPO for P 5.0. Ryan Purtle made a motion to approve the proposed project list. Brian Alligood seconded the motion. The motion carried and the Mid-East RPO New Project List was approved.

#### Approval of Alternate Criteria Resolution for Region A / Division 1

Ms. Heath explained that for Alternate Criteria to be established, all the RPOs and MPOs in that region or division have to agree on the Alternate Criteria. For the division funding bucket, alternate criteria was agreed upon for Division 1, but was not agreed upon for Division 2. The alternate criteria for Division 1 is 5% Benefit-Cost, 5% Congestion, 20% Accessibility/Connectivity, and 20% Safety. This Alternate Criteria will only affect Division projects in Martin County.

For the regional funding bucket, alternate criteria was agreed upon for Region A, but was not agreed upon for Region B. The alternate criteria for Region A is 20% Benefit-Cost, 15%

Congestion, 10% Accessibility/Connectivity, 10% Safety and 15% Freight. The Alternate Criteria is a 5% reduction in congestion and a 5% increase in freight from the Default Criteria. This Alternate Criteria will only affect Regional projects in Martin County.

Ms. Heath asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, Chairman Cayton asked for a motion for TCC approval of the Alternate Criteria Resolution for Region A / Division 1. David Bone made a motion to approve the resolution. Betty Moore seconded the motion. The motion carried and the Mid-East RPO Alternate Criteria Resolution for Region A / Division 1 was approved.

#### 15<sup>th</sup> St. Project in Washington

The City of Washington is concerned with the 15<sup>th</sup> St. project that has been funded in the STIP. Right of way is scheduled to begin. DOT has held off on the project because of lack of support from the City of Washington. There have been complaints from some of the business owners that will be affected by the right of way acquisition. DOT has attended public input meetings to attempt to find a resolution, but those efforts have been unsuccessful.

Because of the lack of support from the City of Washington, DOT Division 2 has requested that the RPO vote to remove the project from the STIP. The RPO did not vote at this time. Hood Richardson stated that most people in Washington are in favor of the project, but the only people showing up to the public meetings were the one's against the project. He also stated that there is a safety concern because 15<sup>th</sup> Street is a high accident corridor.

David Bone motioned to table the vote to remove the 15<sup>th</sup> St. project from the STIP until February's meeting. Betty Moore seconded the motion. All in favor. The TCC vote to remove the 15<sup>th</sup> St. project from the STIP will be tabled until February.

Ms. Heath will reach out to the City of Washington to let them know we are delaying at their request. Ms. Heath will request the presence of either the Town Manager, Planning Director, or Mayor at the February meetings so that the issue can be discussed further. The City of Washington needs to come up with a safety solution or the RPO is likely to support the current project moving forward.

#### CTP Update

The Travel Demand Modeling for the Pitt County CTP will begin in October. The bike/ped section of the Pitt County CTP will also begin in October, since it is not dependent on the modeling being completed. The draft of the Martin County CTP should be released in the near future. If all the towns and Martin County adopt the CTP before our next meeting, it will be up for adoption by the RPO.

#### NCDOT Division Updates

Gretchen Byrum provided handouts with updates from Division 1. The draft Feasibility Study for Future I-87 was completed and local official's meetings will be held in September. Division 1 has a contract for resurfacing US 64 in Martin County from the Edgecombe County line to NC 903. The NC 125 project was awarded to Barnhill contracting. Work began in February. Ms. Byrum also provided information on active TIP projects, small construction projects, pavement

treatment projects, small bridge projects, TIP projects in the current draft STIP, and TIP projects subject to prioritization.

Jeff Cabaniss provided handouts with updates from Division 2. Major resurfacing projects in Beaufort County include NC 102 from US 17 to the Beaufort County line and US 32 from Washington Park to US 264. There are also five secondary roads to be resurfaced in Beaufort County, as well as five bridge replacements. The major project in Pitt County is the Greenville Southwest Bypass, which is due to be completed in November 2019. Other projects in Pitt County include a new intersection design at NC 11 and Hanrahan Rd., safety improvements to Hwy 43 in the Ivy Rd./Bess Farm Rd. area, nine major resurfacing projects, and four secondary resurfacing projects.

#### NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch Update

Suzette Morales discussed the need to update Mid-East RPOs Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). It currently states that every municipality must have a representative on the TCC, which has not been feasible. She is also looking through to clarify who is a voting member and who is an alternate. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

#### Updates from Transportation Association Meetings and RPO Workshops

Ms. Heath reported updates from the Hwy 17/64 Association and the Southern Albemarle Association. Representatives from the Southern Albemarle Association recently visited the General Assembly in Raleigh to advocate for transportation improvements in Eastern NC. Ms. Heath also provided information about the RPO quarterly meeting, TEAAS training, prioritization training, and SPOT Online training.

#### Public Input

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

#### 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 Wed. Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> in Pitt County, with a future meeting date in February.

#### Adjournment

Betty Moore made a motion for the TCC to adjourn. David Bone seconded the motion. The motion carried and the TCC adjourned at 10:30 am.