

Minutes of the Mid-East RPO
Technical Advisory Committee
Washington-Warren Airport
Airport Road
Washington, NC 27889
August 30, 2017

TAC: Dempsey Bond, Charlotte Griffin, Tom Coulson, Jerry Evans, Tom Richter

State/NCDOT: Suzette Morales, Gretchen Byrum, Jeff Cabaniss

Staff: Jamie Heath

TAC Chair Bond called the TAC meeting to order at 10:30. Quorum for the TAC was established and the State Ethics Policy Statement was read. There were no conflicts.

Approval of Agenda

Charlotte Griffin made a motion for the TAC to approve the agenda for the August 30, 2017 meeting. The motion was seconded by Tom Richter, the motion carried and the agenda was approved by the TAC.

Approval of Past Minutes

Charlotte Griffin made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 12, 2017 Mid-East RPO TAC Meeting. The motion was seconded by Tom Richter, the motion carried, and the minutes were approved by the TAC.

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. /3rd 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).

Ms. Heath asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, Chairman Bond asked for a motion for TAC approval of the New Projects to be submitted by the Mid-East RPO for P5.0. Tom Richter made a motion to approve the proposed project list. Charlotte Griffin 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 TAC approval of the Alternate Criteria Resolution for Region A / Division 1. Tom Richter made a motion to approve the resolution. Charlotte Griffin seconded the motion. The motion carried and the Mid-East RPO Alternate Criteria Resolution for Region A / Division 1 was approved.

15th St. Project in Washington

The City of Washington is concerned with the 15th 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 by 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. There is a safety concern because 15th Street is a high accident corridor.

Tom Richter motioned to table the vote to remove the 15th St. project from the STIP until February's meeting. Charlotte Griffin seconded the motion. All in favor. The TAC vote to remove the 15th 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 meeting 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.

Public Input

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

Member Discussion/Comments

Chairman Bond asked if there were any final comments from the TAC. There were none.

Next Meeting

Ms. Heath said the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday November 1st, with a future meeting date in February.

Adjournment

Tom Richter made a motion for the TAC to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Charlotte Griffin, the motion carried. TAC adjourned at 10:45.