

Minutes  
of the joint  
RPO Technical Coordinating Committee  
And  
Transportation Advisory Committee  
November 13, 2013

TCC: Gray Hodges, Betty Moore, Jonas Hill, James Rhodes, Judi Lannon, Randell Woodruff, David Bone, Hood Richardson, Robert Belcher, Gene Powell, Joe Albright, Gil Alligood, David Daniel, Daryl Vreeland,

TAC: Dempsey Bond

State/NCDOT : Hemang Surti, Carlos Moya, Woody Jarvis, Gretchen Byrum, Jed Dixon, Jerry Jennings, Harold Thomas, Roger Whitehurst, Jeff Cabaniss

Staff: Bryant Buck, Justin Oakes

TAC Chair Bond called the meeting to order. No other TAC members were present therefore TAC did not meet quorum. TAC Chair Bond handed the meeting over to TCC Chair Albright, the meeting was led by TCC Chair Albright.

The minutes of the August 7, 2013, meeting were considered and upon motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the minutes were approved by the TCC.

Public Comments: None.

Ferry Division Presentation

An overview of the Capital Improvements and Maintenance Plan for the Ferry Division was presented by Jed Dixon, Assistant Director of NC Ferry Division. Mr. Dixon explained that funding for replacement vessels will now come out of the division pot of money. Mr. Dixon further explained that if an RPO/MPO voted to toll the respective route, the tolls would be set aside to fund replacement vessels for that particular route. Mr. Dixon explained that the division pot of funding would be impacted if no tolls were implemented. DOT is looking to generate approximately 2 million on 3 currently untolled routes. Mr. Dixon also explained that tolls would no longer be used for operation and maintenance, but will be used for capital expenditures. Mr. Dixon further explained that ferry replacement cost range from 12-16 million dollars depending on class. Division 1 has four routes, Division 2 has two routes, and Division 3 has one route. Mr. Dixon also discussed that 1.2 million dollars in Federal funding annually goes to the Ferry Division. Question was raised about cable guided ferries in NC and Mr. Dixon explained that these routes are operated through highway funding. Mr. Dixon concluded by stating that any tolling would be route specific, and go toward replacement vessels.

### SPOT 3.0 Update

An update was provided to the group on spot 3.0 by Gretchen Byrum (NCDOT), Jerry Jennings (NCDOT), and Bryant Buck (RPO Staff). The RPO/ Division Staff will be focusing on existing projects for low hanging fruit, or projects that did not score well last round, and projects not let by the 2015 cutoff. Currently MPO's and RPO's were directed by legislation to come up with a methodology for scoring of our projects. Each MPO/RPO must adopt a methodology and have that methodology approved by DOT staff prior to April 2014. Mr. Buck solicited a subcommittee to begin looking at scoring methodology, and informed the group that the methodology will most likely mirror the MPO/RPO Coalition criteria as it relates to education, military, agriculture, economic development etc. Volunteers for the subcommittee included Dempsey Bond, David Bone from Martin County, Betty Moore, Tom Richter, and Judy Lannon from Beaufort County, and James Rhodes and Jonas Hill, representing Pitt County. Also included was Jeff Cabaniss Division Planner NCDOT.

Staff also noted that RPO's will receive scoring on Statewide Projects prior to having to score regional and division projects since Statewide is 100% data driven with no input from locals. Eligible Statewide Projects include US Hwy 17, 158, 13, 11, 264 etc.

It was further explained that all modes will be funded out of the same pot including rail, bike/ped, aviation, ferry, and transit.

### Beaufort County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) update

Mang Surti of the DOT Planning Office presented an overview of the Beaufort County Comprehensive Transportation Plan which has been distributed for public comment. It was noted that public workshops have been held and that the maps have been approved by DOT. Mr. Surti/Staff were seeking endorsement by TCC members, and explained that Staff will be seeking endorsement from the Municipalities within Beaufort County over the next two months, and Beaufort County in February/March timeframe. The final report is expected by mid-2014. Question was raised by the City of Washington Airport about inclusion in the plan. It was explained that usually general aviation airports were not included in the plan. After discussion amongst the group, it was decided to make mention of endorsement of the airports ongoing priorities in the final CTP document.

### Beaufort Area Transit

Gary Hodges, Director of the Beaufort Area Transit, gave an update of the services. Also mentioned was the completion of the Locally Coordinated Plan for the 17 County Region which involved coordination and collaboration with 3 RPO's in the surrounding region, Mid-East RPO, Peanut Belt RPO, and Albemarle RPO.

### Ferry Tolling additional update

Staff directed the group to be thinking about the ferry tolling issue. Public input meetings will be held in the upcoming months to receive comments from the effected populations in the geographical areas of the ferry routes.

### Eastern NC RPO/MPO Coalition

It was noted that coordination is ongoing regarding scoring criteria and ranking of projects.

### Southern Albemarle Association

At its October Annual meeting, Mr. Malcolm Fearing Division 1 Board of Transportation Member made a presentation regarding past and future of Roads/Bridges in Eastern NC, and thanked the Southern Albemarle for all their efforts and continued support for better roads and bridges in Eastern NC.

### NC Association of Rural Planning Organizations Conference

Mr. Buck stated that the RPO received additional funding for the increased responsibilities being placed on Staff. Mr. Buck noted that approximately \$500.00 – \$600.00 in additional County match would be required. Also mentioned was the fact that the Planning Work Program (PWP) must be amended and approved by the RPO in order to receive the additional funding. TCC recommended endorsement contingent upon DOT Approval.

### NCDOT Updates

Division Staff provided handouts regarding project status in Division 1 & 2.

### Transportation Planning Branch Updates

Mr. Carlos Moya-Astudillo stated that the Martin County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) was scheduled to get underway in Spring of 2014. RPO staff will coordinate meetings based on DOT timeframe. Pitt County noted that their Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) should be considered next for update.

### Next Meeting:

Upcoming meetings are scheduled for February 5, 2014, and May 7, 2014. Based on DOT schedules and deadlines, meeting dates are subject to change. I will notify the group as early as possible about such changes.