

Minutes  
of the  
Mid-East Rural Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC)  
and  
Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)  
held  
Wednesday, August 10, 2011

The Mid-East Rural Technical Coordinating Committee and Technical Advisory Committee held its meeting on Wednesday, August 10, 2011 at 10:00 am in the Beaufort County Commissioners Room in Washington.

Those in attendance:

**TCC:** Judi Lannon, Dempsey Bond, Betty Moore, Glen Moore, Don Wilkinson, John Rodman, Dean Burbage, Hood Richardson, Brent Kanipe, Eric Pearson, Glenda Jackson, Mamie Cobb

**TAC:** Robert Cayton, Derek Price

**DOT Staff:** Saeed Mohamed, Hermang Surti, Wayne Davis,

**MEC Staff:** Bryant Buck, Linda Roberts, Tim Ware

**Guest:** Daryl Vreeland

Chair Moore of the TCC called the meeting to order; welcomed everyone to the meeting and each person introduced themselves.

Agenda

Mr. Price made the motion to approve the agenda, and Mr. Bond seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Minutes

Mr. Price made the motion to approve the May 4 (TCC) and May 11 (TAC) minutes as submitted, and Mr. Bond seconded the motion. The motion carried.

There were no public comments.

Beaufort County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP)

Mr. Buck commented that he wanted a good representation at the meeting today, especially from Beaufort County, and he thanked each one present for their attendance. He noted that Beaufort County has started their Comprehensive Transportation Plan and it should be completed between two and two half years.

Mr. Surti presented a slide presentation outlining the plan. He stated that a county must have a Land Use Plan approved before the CTP can be started. The last approved Beaufort County Land Use Plan was in 2006 and the CTP was in 2000 and now there is a new format.

After the presentation, there was a time for questions.

NC DOT 2040 Comprehensive Transportation Plan

Saeed Mohamed, DOT Planning Branch, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the NC Statewide Transportation Plan Update for MPO/RPO Briefings, which he explained along the way.

### Transportation Improvement Priorities

Mr. Buck stated that the deadline for receiving TIP projects was July; request forms were sent out and one project request was received. A two to two and one-half stretch of road on Aurora 33 up to 306 was requested to be included in the TIP projects. Traffic flow has increased 50% on this stretch of road because of Potash trucks, workers and tourists.

He stated that some of the priorities under the Highway Program are: bicycle-pedestrian for Washington, Chocowinity, and Greenville Greenway; Farmville sidewalk for pedestrian passing at school; Bath – a better crosswalk from the Lawson Walk Trail throughout the town.

DOT is already reviewing projects slated. From October 3 to November 30 is a window open for RPO to score our projects.

### Southern Albemarle Association Update

At the last Southern Albemarle Association meeting, the Beaufort County Comprehensive Transportation Plan was discussed, as well as, safety issue on NC 33 turn lane at the Potter Oil Depot. Other issues discussed were a resolution urging Governor Perdue to expedite the appointment to the Transportation Board of a representative for Division 1, 2040 Plan, Old Ford area of Highway 17 and parachute jumping and skydiving opportunities at the Washington airport..

### NC Association of Rural Planning Organizations Conference held in Boone

Mr. Buck gave the following legislative update budget bill:

- The gas tax represents 70% of all transportation revenues and the Governor, State and House build their budgets on the gas tax comminuting to rise.
- No cuts to the transportation budget were necessary. In fact, the total 2011-13 transportation budget is bigger than the previous biennial budget.
- Federal high Speed Rail budget bill requires approval of federal passenger rail grants that require state dollars (match, maintenance, or operations) in excess of \$20 million (originally \$5 m) and gives General Assembly 90 days to consider (was 150 days).
- Powell Bill broken into two payments: October 1 and January 1. The Powell Bill will carry forward amended to five years with NCDOT to develop small city exception process. No Powell Bill dollars for cities with any roads.
- There will be a 6% cut across the board for public transportation.
- Ferries – additional two previously untolled routes now tolled.
- Transfer additional fund to the General Fund for school buses.

### Federal Reauthorization:

- The current authorization expires September 30. Congressional Republican's unveiled a framework for their six year reauthorized bill which will reduce spending by 1/3<sup>rd</sup>.
- War of words between the US Chamber and the Congressional Republicans over spending levels.
- Programmatic reforms include consolidating or eliminating 70 programs that do not serve a federal purpose, streamlining project delivery, performance measurements, ending federal mandates for enhancements, expanding TIFIA, carrots for State's to create infrastructure banks, etc.
- Bill maintains the 80/20 split between highways and transit.
- Bill allows tolling of new lanes on the Interstate System.

Mr. Richardson made a motion for the RPO to go on record that it does not endorse the VMT tax or any legislation promoting tax increase. Mr. Bond seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

#### East Coast Greenway Update

Mr. Buck stated that the East Coast Greenway committee is looking at areas to incorporate.

#### Update

Mr. Buck informed the RPO that the Mid-East Commission is administering the Peanut Belt RPO which includes Bertie, Hertford, Northampton and Halifax counties. With the Commission administering the Mid-East RPO and the Peanut Belt RPO, we can look at strategic planning for the area.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 2, 2011.