

Minutes of the Mid-East RPO
Technical Coordinating Committee
Pitt County Schools & Recreation Building
4561 County Home Road
Greenville, NC 27858
November 1, 2017

TCC: Hood Richardson, Judi Lannon, David Jaynes, Rhonda Suggs, Brian Alligood, James Rhodes, Jonas Hill, Betty Moore, Ryan Purtle, Glen Moore, Jerry McCrary, Jeff Cabaniss, David Hodgkins, Michelle Howes, David Bone

Guest: Bryant Buck, Dominique Boyd

Staff: Jamie Heath

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

Approval of Agenda

David Bone made a motion for the TCC to approve the agenda for the November 1st 2017 meeting. James Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion carried and the agenda was approved by the TCC.

Approval of Past Minutes

James Rhodes noted a correction needed in the August 30th 2017 minutes. There were two motions for Ms. Betty Moore's nomination as Vice Chair listed and one needs to be removed. James Rhodes made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 30th 2017 Mid-East RPO TCC meeting with the noted correction being made. David Bone seconded the motion. The motion carried and the minutes were approved by the TCC.

Review of P5.0 Project Submissions and P4.0 Carryover Projects

Jamie Heath reviewed Highway, Aviation, Transit, and Bike/Pedestrian projects submitted for scoring in P5.0. Ms. Heath also reviewed Carryover projects that are subject to rescoring from P4.0. Ms. Heath asked if there were any questions. Brian Alligood asked if the US 17 project from CC Road to Possum Track Road was moved up because of being a sibling project. Jeff Cabaniss confirmed that the project was moved up, therefore it is no longer a carryover project and is not subject to rescoring. There were no further questions.

Revised Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), TAC Bylaws and TCC Bylaws

Jamie Heath reviewed drafts of the MOU, TAC Bylaws and TCC Bylaws. The MOU must be adopted by each County Board of Commissioners and the Mid-East Commission Board of Directors. The TAC Bylaws are adopted by the TAC and the TCC Bylaws are adopted by the TCC.

Draft changes to the MOU included the following:

- Addition of transportation planning studies and surveys and other transportation planning activities to the list of RPO purposes and responsibilities.
- Details on the process of selecting a municipal representative for the TAC were added.
 - Municipalities caucus and representative is selected based on majority vote of the mayors, or the decision is delegated to the county by vote or inaction.
- The TCC membership previously required a representative from every municipality in the RPO jurisdiction. The draft changes presented required one municipal representative from each county as a minimum and left TCC membership open to any municipality.
- Airport Administrators from Washington-Warren Airport, Martin County Airport, and Pitt-Greenville Airport were added to the draft TCC membership list.
- The MPO Planner for Greenville MPO was added to the draft TCC membership list.
- The President of the Southern Albemarle Association was added to the draft TCC membership list.

These changes were also incorporated into the draft TAC Bylaws and draft TCC Bylaws. There were some concerns regarding the TCC membership list. Some TCC members feel that membership should be open to all municipalities in order to be inclusive. Others felt that one municipal representative per county should be the standard so there is equal representation and there is not the issue of representatives showing up only when there is a project affecting their area. In addition, some TCC members felt that airports should be on the membership list, but others felt that they should not be (Pitt-Greenville Airport will be removed either way since we found out the Greenville MPO submits their projects).

Finally, some TCC members felt that the Southern Albemarle Association should be on the TCC membership list, while others felt they should not. Amongst members who agree that the Southern Albemarle Association should have a TCC representative, there was concern about which officer from the Southern Albemarle Association should be the TCC member. Ms. Heath moved the meeting forward in the interest of time. We will revisit the MOU at the next meeting. There is not a deadline to adopt the revised MOU, but we will have to operate under the current MOU guidelines until a new MOU is adopted.

Resolution to Endorse Bicycle Planning Grant for Beaufort County

Beaufort County is applying for a planning grant from NCDOT for development of a Comprehensive Bicycle Plan. A resolution of endorsement from the RPO is required for the grant application to move forward. Brian Alligood made a motion to adopt the “Resolution Endorsing the Application for Bicycle Planning Grant Funds by Beaufort County, NC”. David Bone seconded the motion. Michelle Howes from the Transportation Planning Division abstained from voting. The motion carried and the TCC will recommend adoption of the resolution to the TAC.

CTP Update

Jamie Heath reported that the consultant has begun transportation demand modeling for the Pitt County CTP. RPO staff has started on the bicycle and pedestrian section of the document. Data

on existing facilities is currently being gathered and we will be contacting the county about forming a bicycle and pedestrian steering committee early next year.

Ms. Heath reported that the draft of the Martin County CTP should be online for the steering committee, county and municipalities to review this week. The next step is municipal and county adoption followed by RPO adoption.

I-87 Feasibility Study Discussion

TAC member Charlotte Griffin presented maps on a proposed alternate route for the I-87 Feasibility Study. The alternate route would follow the funded NC-125 Bypass and connect with either Segment 2 or Segment 3A of the Feasibility Study in Bertie County. Ms. Griffin stated that the alternate route would provide more opportunities for economic development in the future and that it would eliminate many service roads being constructed in Bertie County. Ms. Griffin said that she requested for the alternate route to be considered during a public meeting on the I-87 Feasibility Study at Moratoc Park in Williamston. She was told by a consultant from AECOM that she would be contacted for a meeting. Then the Transportation Planning Division representative for the Martin County CTP Steering Committee requested a meeting by email and never heard back from AECOM. Ms. Griffin stated that adding the alternate route to the study would not necessarily mean that design would be chosen, but it is important to have all feasible options included in a Feasibility Study.

David Jaynes made comments that he disagreed with this alternate route being added to the Feasibility Study. Mr. Jaynes was concerned about impacts to wetlands and crossing US Fish & Wildlife property. Mr. Jaynes also expressed concern over economic development benefits going to Bertie County as opposed to Martin County under the proposed alternate route. Hood Richardson made the comment that we are not going to choose the design during an RPO meeting and that the consultant should have included this route in the Feasibility Study if it was requested. Dominique Boyd from the Transportation Planning Division recommended that Ms. Griffin go through the Division 1 Engineer, Gretchen Byrum, to make the request that the alternate route be added to the I-87 Feasibility Study. Ms. Griffin will get the request to Gretchen Byrum and will follow-up with Ms. Heath to let her know if this needs to be an agenda item for February's meeting.

NCDOT Division Updates

Gretchen Byrum with Division 1 was not present, but she provided handouts for the group which give details on current Division 1 projects in Martin County, Division 1 STIP projects in Martin County, and high impact/low cost project funding. Projects currently underway in Martin County include the NC 125 Bypass and thirteen resurfacing projects. Ms. Byrum highlighted the Future I-87 corridor project. The portion of I-87 that is north of Elizabeth City to the Virginia state line is included in the 2017 STIP and right of way is scheduled to begin in 2025, with construction scheduled to begin in 2027.

Jeff Cabaniss provided updates from Division 2. Major projects in Pitt County include the Greenville Southwest Bypass, an intersection project at NC 11 and Hanrahan Rd., a bridge replacement on Spain Bridge Rd., and replacement of a crossline on NC 33 and a pipe on Robert Little Rd. due to damage from Hurricane Matthew. There are also seven resurfacing projects

currently underway in Pitt County. Major projects in Beaufort County include bridge replacements on Corsica Rd., Slatestone Rd., Long Bridge Rd., Horsepen Swamp Rd., and VOA Rd. There are also seven resurfacing projects currently underway in Beaufort County.

NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch Update

The Transportation Planning Branch has been renamed as the Transportation Planning Division. Michelle Howes introduced herself as the new RPO Coordinator. Ms. Howes provided information on the NC Strategic Transportation Corridors Network and upcoming corridor studies, the Statewide Freight Plan, the Traffic Survey Group, performance measures, and the status of CTPs in the Mid-East RPO region.

Updates from Transportation Association Meetings and RPO Workshops

Jamie Heath reported on attendance at RPO workshops and Transportation Association meetings, including the Future I-87 Local Officials meeting, NCDOT Site Development and Highway Access training, the Move More Walk Now workshop, the Hwy 17/64 Association meeting, the SE Greenways and Trails Summit, the Southern Albemarle Association annual meeting, and the Quarterly RPO meeting.

Public Input

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

Member Discussion/Comments

Vice Chairman Moore 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. Feb. 7th in Martin County, with a future meeting date in May.

Adjournment

Hood Richardson made a motion for the TCC to adjourn. James Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion carried and the TCC adjourned at 11:00 am.