

Minutes
Of the Joint
RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
And
Transportation Advisory Committee
May 29, 2014

TCC: Jonas Hill, James Rhodes, David Bone, Hood Richardson, Gene Powell,
Joe Albright, Glen Moore, Judi Lannon

TAC: Dempsey Bond, Robert Cayton, Charlotte Griffin, Tom Coulson,
Tom Richter

State/NCDOT : Carlos Moya, Woody Jarvis, Gretchen Byrum, Jeff Cabaniss, John Rouse,
Jerry Jennings

Staff: Bryant Buck, Justin Oakes

TAC Chair Bond called the TAC meeting to order. TAC Chair Bond handed the meeting over to TCC Chair Albright, who called the TCC meeting to order.

The minutes of the March, 2014, meeting were considered and upon motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the minutes were approved by the TCC.

Public Comments: None.

FY 14-15 Planning Work Program and 5-Year Calendar

An overview of the Mid-East RPO proposed FY 14-15 Planning Work Program (PWP) and 5-Year Calendar was provided by Bryant Buck. Bryant noted that the budget was very much similar to the previous years, noting that the biggest changes were a reduction in budgeted amount for Project Prioritization, the addition of the Martin County CTP under Comprehensive Transportation Planning, GIS Training replacing Complete Streets Training, and the addition of a line item to cover request made by the State Ethics Commission, which was recommended by Transportation Planning Branch at NCDOT. On the 5-Year Calendar, there were no notable changes, and the only new item added in FY 18-19 was an update to the recently adopted LCP. Bryant noted that NCDOT TPB had reviewed and given their approval to take to the RPO for adoption.

After discussion on the proposed PWP, James Rhodes made a motion for the TCC to endorse, and was seconded by David Bone. David Bone then made a motion to endorse the 5-Year Calendar, and was seconded by James Rhodes. All on the TCC were in favor therefore the motion passed. After the TCC's endorsement of the proposed PWP and 5-Year Calendar, Tom Coulson made a motion for the TAC to endorse the PWP, and was seconded by Charlotte

Griffin. Tom Coulson then made a motion to endorse the 5-Year Calendar, and was seconded by Charlotte Griffin. All on the TAC were in favor therefore the motion passed.

Project Prioritization Discussion

Bryant Buck handed out a project list for the Mid-East RPO for Highway and Aviation, the only modes in which the RPO had projects. Bryant told the group he would like to set a game plan to prioritize projects, proposing the whole group meet the 2nd or 3rd week of June to assign points. Bryant said that following the meeting, there would be a 30 Day Public comment Period in which the assigned points would be posted online on the Mid-East Commission website. Following the comment period, the TCC and TAC would then have to finalize endorsement of the point's assignment at the August meeting. Points must be assigned in P 3.0 Online by August 29th. After discussion of proposed meeting dates, June 24th at 8:30 AM was selected. James Rhodes asked that the Southwest Bypass be included as it is Pitt County's Highway Priority. Tom Richter asked if railroads crossing roadways were included under rail; Jerry Jennings said it many times is covered under maintenance, safety, or discretionary funds. Dempsey Bond asked if there would be Future Interstate Designation signs put up on US 64 once that designation is made; Jerry said that once the designation is made, upgrades would have to be completed within 25 years or the designations is lost. Jerry added that Division 1 is currently talking to make plans on how to approach this.

Beaufort Area Transit

Bryant Buck proposed to have Transit providers from throughout the area to be present to provide updates so that the RPO can better understand their needs by the time the next prioritization takes place. James Rhodes suggested having David Bender provide an update on the regionalization of transit.

Ferry Tolling

Bryant Buck reported to the group that other RPO's, like the Mid-East, took no action regarding the tolling of ferries. Two bills have been proposed that would create receipts other than tolls. Jerry Jennings said that the problem will still be the \$5 Million in funds needed; John Rouse said that projections from the ad's and naming rights will not come close to the \$5 Million needed.

Eastern NC RPO/MPO Coalition

Bryant Buck told the group that he was unable to attend the meeting in Jacksonville on the May 23rd. Gretchen Byrum was in attendance and provided the group with an update. She said there was little representation from the northeast area of the state, most likely due to the location of the meeting. Gretchen said most there supported Prioritization, but acknowledged that we need to look forward to Prioritization 4.0 to correct the issues our area faces by talking with Prioritization 4.0 Committee representatives. Jerry Jennings mentioned that Susan Pullium provided an update and that the ENC Coalition needs to be active in the Prioritization 4.0 process

over the next 2 years. Charlotte Griffin asked if is STN Network meeting maps would have any affect moving forward; Jerry said at this point there was no affect, but his gut is that in the future it will be. Dempsey asked Jerry if he could provide comments from the STN Meeting in Edenton to the DOT; Jerry said he could pass those along and also gave the contact at NCDOT in charge of the project. Tom Coulson asked if there was a way for the Divisions to come together to discuss possible additional funding sources such as miles traveled tax; Bryant said the MPO/RPO Coalition is the best platform for that discussion.

Southern Albemarle Association

Bryant Buck updated the group that he was the guest speaker at the April meeting, speaking on Prioritization 3.0, Ferry Tolling, and transportation issues.

NC Association of Rural Planning Organizations Conference

Bryant Buck stated that at the last meeting in Wilmington, Justin Oakes was appointed to the STN Sub-Committee to discuss the corridors that had been left off. Other than that, SPOT 3.0 scoring was the continued topic of discussion.

NCDOT Updates

Division Staff provided handouts regarding project status in Division 1 & 2. Staff also mentioned they would like to meet with RPO's to discuss preliminary scores sometime in the next few weeks. Bryant Buck informed the group that the Beaufort County CTP had been adopted by the NCDOT Board of Transportation.

Transportation Planning Branch Updates

Mr. Carlos Moya-Astudillo thanked Bryant for his work on getting the PWP completed; Carlos mentioned that the RPO did a great job working with the Beaufort County CTP, and he hoped to have an official start letter for the Martin County CTP in July, with a model of Williamston likely to accompany that plan. James Rhodes asked Carlos about the status of a Pitt County CTP update, on which Carlos said he would check on.

Next Meeting:

Next meeting was scheduled for June 24th at 8:30 AM. Upcoming meetings are scheduled for August 2014, and November 2014. Based on DOT schedules and deadlines, meeting dates are subject to change. Mr. Buck will notify the group as early as possible about such changes.