



March 26, 2015

10:00 AM

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, O'Marks Building  
233 Middle Street, New Bern, NC 28560

**Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Minutes**

**TAC Members in Attendance:**

Chad Braxton	Robin Comer	Christine Mele
Trace Cooper (by phone)	Johnnie Sampson	Hugh Overholt
Jeff Cabaniss	Patrick Riddle	John Rouse

**Staff in Attendance:**

Patrick Flanagan	Nan Holton
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**Guests in Attendance:**

Larry Summers

**1. Call to Order**

Patrick Flanagan called the meeting to order and read aloud the Code of Ethics. He thanked all those present who had completed their Ethics paperwork already.

**2. Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments.

**3. ACTION: Election of Officers**

Patrick Flanagan reported that currently Trace Cooper is the Chair and Johnnie Sampson is the Vice Chair. Both have served two consecutive years in this position. He opened the floor for nominations. Christine Mele volunteered to Chair the committee. Robin Comer nominated Mark Mansfield to be the Vice-Chair. There was no discussion.

*Trace Cooper motioned that Christine Mele serve as Chair and Mark Mansfield serve as Vice-Chair; seconded by Robin Comer; and unanimously approved.*

**4. ACTION: December 2, 2014 Minutes**

Minutes of the December 2, 2014 meetings were presented for approval.

*Motion was made by Christine Mele to approve the minutes as submitted for December 2, 2014 DERPO TAC meeting; seconded by Chad Braxton; and unanimously approved.*

## 5. Staff Report

The group was reminded of the upcoming meeting dates and informed the November date would either be canceled or changed, since that is Thanksgiving Day.

- a. 2015 Meeting Schedule: 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Conference Rm., O. Marks Bldg., New Bern 10-11:30am.
  - i. May 28, 2015
  - ii. July 30, 2015
  - iii. September 24, 2015
  - iv. November 26, 2015

## 6. Standing Committee, Commission, and Association Reports

### Highway 17 Association Update

Marc Finlayson was not present to give a report, but John Rouse commented that the Hwy. 17 project in Jones County is close to a LET date. Christine Mele inquired as to how the historical district was handled in this process. He remarked that was why it had taken so long, but that they have satisfied all of those requirements as well as the environmental needs, and that there would be no adverse effect on historical properties.

### Highway 70 Commission Update

Patrick Flanagan reported that there was a Highway 70 Commission meeting last week with presentations given by Paul Worley on the rail service and General Jim Trogdon. General Jim Trogdon talked about the DOT revenue challenges. There is a rating for level of service or LOS, ranked from A to F. Currently the NC system is rated at a C minus and General Trogdon reported that just to maintain that rating another \$86 billion is needed over the next 10 years. To get that rating to a level B, \$144 billion would be need.

Hugh Overholt commented that our legislature recognizes this issue and is working to address it through gas tax proposals and revenue from local taxes. He indicated that this is a problem throughout the country, not just NC and that there is no easy solution.

Patrick Flanagan went on to say that the funding stream is dwindling due to more gas efficient cars and that NC is behind several other states in utilizing highway usage taxes, higher registration fees and interstate tolling. He and John Rouse agreed that the overall tone of General Trogdon's presentation was somber and the situation was dire.

### Eastern NC MPO/RPO Coalition Update

Patrick Flanagan reported that the Coalition would be getting together in mid-April once the SPOT recommendations were submitted. The Coalition would review those and determine if they want or need to make adjustments prior to then being submitted to the Board of Transportation in July.

### Logistics Update

Stephanie Ayers was not present to give a report.

### Transit Update

No one from Transit was present to give a report, but Patrick Flanagan relayed that at the March 24<sup>th</sup> TCC meeting, both OUTS and CCATS reported significant ridership growth. He reflected that the issue brought to his attention from their reports is the way measurements are taken. Typically measurements are calculated using the number of vans, but that over the years, the number of seats per van have diminished, such that the formulas may need to be changed to substantiate more accurate data.

Christine Mele inquired whether or not their ridership was full? Patrick stated he was not sure that they were full, but that they had seen significant growth.

Hugh Overholt referring back to the van versus seat issue, asked what could be done to help with this? Patrick said that is what he hopes to find out at the next Transit meeting.

## 7. NCDOT Division Reports

### Division 2:

Jeff Cabaniss provided handouts for each of the counties and highlighted the various projects and resurfacing jobs that are ongoing. He brought special attention to the 3 Safe Routes projects and the new rest area.

### Division 3:

Patrick Riddle provided a handout and reviewed the various projects and resurfacing jobs. Regarding the B-4929 project (bridge@ Surf City 50/210), he referred everyone to an online video illustrating the inclusion of different lanes for different modes (bicycle and pedestrian) of traffic with a protective barrier.

John Rouse indicated that they would be using a similar simulation video for the James City project to provide a clear perspective on the final proposed project.

### Planning Branch:

Nazia Sarder was not able to be present, but Patrick Flanagan expressed gratitude for her continuing to serve the RPO having changed jobs. He relayed that the Carteret County CTP closed out in January. The Jones County CTP held their fifth steering committee meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup>. The engineer received map comments from DERPO, and each town provided bicycle and pedestrian recommendations. The next step is to update all the maps for internal review. For Onslow County, the Jacksonville model documentation was completed earlier this month. The Onslow County CTP should start by early May. The Craven County CTP has a new NBAMPO Coordinator. Their basic calibrations are complete and the engineers have met with the consultants to complete the future year application of the model. It will start up in the fall or winter. He informed the group that the DERPO and the Albemarle RPO T3 position has not being filled or posted yet due to some internal issues.

## 8. ACTION: DERPO PWP Amendment

Patrick Flanagan reported that with the increased activity necessary to complete all of the tasks for SPOT this year, DERPO has a need to allocate more money and time to that line item. He provided a handout and reviewed where DERPO is requesting to move money from to support SPOT activities and indicated that the overall budget would not change. Data Collection and Assessment will be reduced by \$6,100 as that money is being reallocated to Prioritization and Program Development. Project Development will be reduced by \$5,000 with \$400 going to Prioritization and Program Development and the other \$4600 going to General Transportation Planning.

*Motion was made by Robin Comer to approve the DERPO PWP Amendment as presented; seconded by Christine Mele; and unanimously approved.*

## 9. DRAFT FY '15-'16 Planning Work Program Planning Calendar

This is the budget for our RPO in the upcoming year. This document outlines the projects DERPO will work on and the products to be produced for NCDOT. The majority of this year's budget is focused on SPOT and the multiple CTPs in 2015 and 2016.

Patrick further highlighted how the project funding was distributed and indicated that it will be voted on in May and to please let him know if there are any concerns or changes.



Christine Mele expressed concern that J.T. Wooten has taken on most of the jobs and wondered if that would hinder the work getting done in Pamlico County. Patrick Riddle assured her that they have a signed contract and they get penalized if time frames are not met. She also requested that Patrick Flanagan schedule to make a presentation on this to the Pamlico County Commissioners.

Robin Comer inquired about changes to SPOT. Patrick Flanagan replied that there had been substantial changes but that anything slated between now and 2020 is safe. Mr. Comer then asked about the Havelock Bypass funding. Patrick stated that it was funded but they were still challenged with the environmental issues.

#### **10. DRAFT FY '15-'16 Five Year Calendar**

Patrick Flanagan provided a handout that outlines the future work the RPO hopes to accomplish in the next couple of years. The idea is that projects funnel from the Five Year Calendar into the PWP. The only things recently added were the Craven CTP, SPOT 4.0 and the Hwy. 58 Corridor Study. He indicated that no real new projects are anticipated. He requested feedback prior to May when it would be presented to be adopted.

#### **11. NC Eastern Infrastructure Improvement Study**

NCDOT Rail Division has completed the study requested of them by SB 402 Section 34.23 in the 2013 General Assembly. Paul Worley, the Rail Director, gave a presentation on this topic at the recent Hwy. 70 Commission meeting mentioned earlier. The Executive Summary was available for everyone, and Patrick Flanagan highlighted a number of items crucial to the Down East RPO area. One being the GTP and the horizontal and vertical barriers between it and the Morehead City Port. And another being the rail and road conflicts through Morehead City forcing a slow velocity. He indicated a study would be conducted in this area to review this conflict and the clearance issues.

#### **12. DRAFT STIP '16-'25 Review**

The Draft results of SPOT 3 and the prioritization process were provided as handouts. Patrick Flanagan reviewed how the Down East RPO fared and what projects got funding. He indicated that these projects would not be moved around, with the exception of a small project at the Beaufort airport being moved to 2016 because it already had the permits in hand. In regards to our area, Division 2 received the most money in transition due to the Hwy 17 and 70 projects as well as Gallant's Bridge project. Region B as a whole placed fifth in overall funding. As transition money declines through 2018, DERPO will be competing for more money.

He stated that the money programmed for 2015-2020 is solid. Christine Mele questioned that statement in regards to pending environmental issues on the Havelock Bypass. John Rouse clarified that the project could be delayed because of that, but it would stay in the queue.

#### **13. Other Business**

Christine Mele suggested that Patrick Flanagan provide a tutorial to the other new members and to include her for a refresher.

#### **14. Adjournment**

Patrick Flanagan adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Christine Mele, DERPO TAC Chair

  
Patrick Flanagan, DERPO Secretary

