



**July 8, 2014**

**10:00 AM**

Onslow County Government Multi-Purpose Building  
4024 Richlands Highway, Jacksonville, NC 28540

**Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) Minutes**

**TCC Members in Attendance:**

Don Baumgardner	Maurizia Chapman	Scott Finlayson	Tim Richards
Shirley Powell	Scott Sherrill	Jessica Fiester	Jeff Cabaniss
Kyle Garner	Katrina Marshall	Patrick Riddle	Chris Seaburg
Gene Foxworth	Linda Staab	Nazia Sarder	Tim Buck

**Staff in Attendance:**

Patrick Flanagan	Lauren Tuttle	Nan Holton
------------------	---------------	------------

**Guests in Attendance:**

Christine Mele

**1. Call to Order**

Don Baumgardner, Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. It was determined there was a quorum.

**2. Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments.

**3 Action: April 22, 2014 Minutes**

*Motion was made by Linda Staab to approve the minutes as submitted for the April 22, 2014 Down East Rural Planning Transportation Organization (DERPO) TCC meeting, seconded by Katrina Marshall, and unanimously approved.*

**4 Staff Report-Patrick Flanagan**

**The 2014 Meeting Schedule**

- August 19, 2014
- September 23, 2014
- November 18, 2014

Patrick indicated the August meeting date was scheduled to allow them to have time to finalize Local Input for SPOT 3.0 Projects prior to the August 29<sup>th</sup> deadline.

## **5 Standing Committee, Commission, and Association Reports**

### ➤ **Croatan Regional Bike Plan-*Rob Will***

Rob Will was not present, but Patrick Flanagan reported that this project had been submitted to NADO and had recently received confirmation from NADO that this project had received an Excellence in Regional Transportation Award which will be awarded in December. This is a great example of a regional project that required several communities to work together to complete and provided an accent to natural resources in the area.

### ➤ **Highway 17 Association Update-*Marc Finlayson***

Marc Finlayson provided a Status Report for US 17 Corridor handout that was current through April, 2014. He indicated that at their next meeting in October this document would be updated. A question was posed and addressed regarding a utility substation relocation issue which will cause a delay in a Jones County project.

### ➤ **Highway 70 Commission Update-*Patrick Flanagan***

Highway 70 Commission had a meeting in Carteret County at which their Economic Development Study was released. He informed the group that Super70Corridor.com is the website if anyone wanted more information about this economic development study. The basic conclusion was that if you improve Hwy. 70 you will see economic impact. Patrick reported that he gave them a list of the projects along Hwy. 70 and how they scored with the DOT SPOT process for them to review. Don Baumgardner wanted to know what the current status of the Federal Highway funding situation. Marc Finlayson indicated that Congress was still trying to figure out what to do about it as the trust fund goes bankrupt in August. He remarked that the impact on every state would be a 28% reduction unless Congress provides for some type of continuation.

### ➤ **Eastern NC MPO/RPO Coalition Update-*Patrick Flanagan***

The MPO/RPO Coalition met recently in Jacksonville and Susan Pulliam with NCDOT was present as well as a few NC Legislators. The topics included the STI's process and SPOT and looking forward as to what we need from this Coalition moving forward. The Coalition has been beneficial but we are waiting to see the full results before any recommendations will be made as to future steps. Patrick informed the group that if there were any other topics they would like to see this Coalition reflect on to please contact one of the participants.

### ➤ **Logistics Update-**

Stephanie Ayers was not present, so no update was provided.

### ➤ **Transit Update-**

No one from Transit was present to provide any updates.

## **6 NCDOT Division Report**

### ➤ **Division 2-*Jeff Cabaniss***

Handouts were provided for Carteret County, Craven County, Jones County, and Pamlico County. Jeff highlighted projects in each county, providing further information regarding

delays and completions. Patrick Flanagan inquired regarding his recent public hearings and comments received. There was some extended discussion regarding Southern Environmental Law Firm as they make phone calls and write letters regarding a selection of the bigger projects and inquiring regarding the points given if they don't follow the methodology.

➤ **Division 3-Patrick Riddle**

A handout outlining the various projects was provided and Patrick further commented on them regarding changes and specifically mentioned a road closing associated with the widening of Piney Green Road.

➤ **Planning Branch-Nazia Sarder**

Nazia reported that the Carteret County CTP is ongoing right now, and they have experienced a change in upper management, so that the CTP has been streamlined and the study is expected to close out in the next few months. Regarding the Jones County CTP, they are still finalizing their committee members and once that is final they will then begin the process. Onslow County is utilizing a Jacksonville model that has been developed and extends through the entire county. The model should be completed by the end of August, but the engineer in charge is leaving the Branch, so there may be a delay in this process. It is hopeful it will be implemented in February or March. For Craven County CTP, there has also been a slight delay in their process for several reasons, but it is expected to close out in Feb. 2015. Kyle Garner posed an inquiry as to how long until Carteret County will get their CTP? There was lengthy discussion regarding the complications and delays that this particular CTP process has experienced since December 2009. Patrick Flanagan made a recommendation that Carteret County send a letter documenting the dates of actions taken and the passing deadlines and requesting a response as to where they are in the process. The recipients of the letters would be the new hire and Susan Pulliam with the NCDOT, and to copy the Board members. Nazia indicated she would report back on all of the comments expressed today. It was also requested that she get a response as to where they are in the process at this time. Kyle Garner made a request to be sure that the Carteret County CTP was on the request list the RPO submits to NCDOT annually in September. Linda Staab suggested that in addition, the RPO should write a letter too. Gene Foxworth made a specific request that Patrick write/send a letter on behalf of Carteret County and the RPO. *Chris Seaburg made a motion that a letter be written on behalf of Carteret County and the RPO; it was seconded by Jessica Fiester.* Comments: Tim Richards asked if Onslow County could be included, so it was decided that Carteret County would write a letter specific to them and have the RPO send a letter that is more regional. *The motion was unanimously approved.*

**7 DRAFT DERPO Local Input Point for SPOT 3.0 Projects**

Patrick Flanagan referred everyone to the handout he had provided and briefly explained the point methodology and how the SPOT committee came up with the points assigned. He indicated that these point assignments need to be discussed, then published for a 30 day public comment period prior to finalizing the points for the August 29<sup>th</sup> deadline. He further informed the group of the

1300 points available to assign at a Regional level and additional 1300 points to be assigned to the Division level and that points can be shared with/by other RPO's and MPO's. He indicated that we had used 1069 of our points, so there are still some existing that can be used to assign or share. He reminded everyone that if a project is only partially in our area, we are only required to give them the same number of points as the percentage of the project in our area. Patrick then proceeded to lead them through the document remarking on the points that had been assigned and notations regarding certain projects.

Project H129124, US-70 Havelock Bypass received 100 points from the NBMPO to give it top ranking. Only 85% of this project is in our area, while 15% is in New Bern.

Project H141009, the Newport River bridge replacement-Radio Island project is a priority for Carteret County. There was discussion as to whether keep as an individual project or to split into projects as based on a feasibility study. It was decided to give the combined project zero points and to then give those points to the individual projects.

Project H090778, NC 304 is Pamlico County's top priority and they passed a resolution at their recent board meeting to express this. It was determined that the Coast Guard facility at the end of NC 304 had been accounted for in point distribution. In regards to H141635, NC 306 which has only 32% in our area but was given 89 points, Patrick will check with the Mid-East RPO to determine whether or not we give it more points.

H142230, US-17 project is only 4% in our region, but we are giving 90 points to Jacksonville because they ran out of points, in order to raise it to a 94. There was some discussion regarding whether this was what we wanted to do and it was decided that it would be left at this point in time, but if points were more favorable for another project after getting through the list that the group would revisit this one.

H140022, NC-58 Emerald Drive merited quite a bit of discussion because there is not a lot of local support, yet there is a problem that needs addressing. The determination was to leave the points as they are, but to conduct a corridor study of the entire island.

H090292, NC-24 was also discussed in association with the NC-58 project as being tied into the traffic issues. Kyle Garner indicated it would be beneficial to get input from the military regarding their usage of NC-24. After comments and input, it was decided to make both projects the same points, 93.

H141644, NC-101 was one of the Transportation Committees priorities and was given 94 points.

Patrick proceeded through several more projects with explanations regarding the points assigned, but few comments until getting to the various US-17 Projects. H090103-B received 98 points to upgrade the last 2 lane section. H090081-B, US-17 New Bern By-Pass with 26 points received a 66 point share from NBMPO as it is a priority for the area. NBMPO also gave 97 points to the H090223-B section of the US-17 project. There was discussion regarding the 3 sections of Hwy.

17 and how those points were distributed. Marc Finlayson expressed an interest in seeing the scoring similar for all three sections. Patrick suggested that we give Section C points to Section A, and then see what MERPO would give as it is a priority for them also and take whatever that total ends up being and divide equally among the three.

Patrick continued through the rest of the projects and explained why those had not received Regional Local Input Points, with little discussion. Upon completion of the Regional projects 1261 points had been utilized, leaving 39 left for assignment. Scott Sherrill inquired if our Regional discretionary points would align with where we are applying our points? Patrick responded that we provide justification in our notes section as to why we apply discretionary points to a project as a way to back it up. Patrick assured everyone that none of this is final yet and he encouraged them to review these and provide further feedback as needed.

Moving into the Divisional projects, Patrick only went through the 19 which had been assigned Local Input Points. These projects reflect a solid multi-modal distribution and some desperately need modernization projects. Linda Staab inquired as to why the ferry was receiving top priority and expressed reconsidering how those points were assigned. Patrick responded that there were 3 reasons: the ferry system scored very well on the local methodology; there is now legislation being sought to eliminate the ferry tolls and transfer \$5 million from the Highway Fund off of the top for them to program out; and finally we want to show support since as a region we don't support ferry tolling. He reminded them that all of this can be tweaked.

After the TAC meeting we will put out for the 30 day public comment period, changes will be made and a revision will be sent out.

## **8 Adjournment**

Don Baumgardner asked for a motion to adjourn.

*A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jessica Fiester, seconded by Maurizia Chapman, and unanimously approved.*

Don Baumgardner adjourned the meeting at 12:09 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Don Baumgardner, DERPO TCC Chair



---

Patrick Flanagan, DERPO Secretary