



**July 10, 2014**

**10:00 AM**

2<sup>nd</sup> floor Conference Room, O'Marks Building  
New Bern, NC 28560

### Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Minutes

#### TCC Members in Attendance:

Johnnie Sampson	Robin Comer
Joshua Potter	Christine Mele
Chad Braxton	Jeff Cabaniss
Nazia Sarder	Trace Cooper (via phone)

#### Staff in Attendance:

Patrick Flanagan, Nan Holton

#### **1. Call to Order**

Johnnie Sampson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. It was determined there was a quorum. He then offered an invocation.

#### **2. Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments.

#### **3 Ethics Awareness and Conflict of Interest**

Patrick Flanagan read the Ethics Awareness & Conflict of Interest statement and determined that all in attendance were in good standing.

#### **4 Action: April 24 and April 29, 2014 Minutes**

*Motion was made by Joshua Potter to approve the minutes as submitted for the April 24 and April 29, 2014 Down East Rural Planning Transportation Organization (DERPO) TAC meeting, seconded by Chad Braxton, and unanimously approved.*

#### **5 Staff Report-Patrick Flanagan**

##### **The 2014 Meeting Schedule**

- August 21, 2014
- September 25, 2014
- November 20, 2014

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

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

### ➤ **Croatan Regional Bike Plan-**

Patrick Flanagan reported that this project had been submitted to NADO and had recently received confirmation from NADO that this project 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 their quarterly meetings had been made bi-annual, so they will meet again in October, which is when this document would be updated/

### ➤ **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. 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. Robin Comer, Chair of the Hwy. 70 Commission, encouraged everyone to read this Economic Development Study as it offered many good talking points.

### ➤ **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. The Coalition will meet again once all of the SPOT process is completed.

### ➤ **Logistics Update-**

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

### ➤ **Transit Update-**

No one from Transit was present to provide any updates.

## **7 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. There was some discussion regarding lead seal treatments, and about the Carolina Pines turn lane. From this discussion, Christine Mele recommended that presentations be made to local Boards to educate them regarding their authority on these type matters.

➤ **Division 3-**

Patrick Flanagan explained he had the handout that Patrick Riddle had provided on Tuesday for anyone wishing to have one.

➤ **Planning Branch-Nazia Sardia**

Nazia reported that the Carteret County CTP has experienced a change in upper management which creates a delay in the review process. The CT 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 that 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.

**8 ACTION: Carteret County CTP Status Letter to NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch**

Patrick Flanagan explained the request for a letter to be sent regarding the fact that the Carteret County CTP has been an on-going project since late 2008. On Tuesday, the TCC expressed concern over the length of this project and slight delays to the Craven County and Onslow County CTPs that have not yet begun. They requested that a letter be sent to the NCDOT TPB Management, outlining the timeline of the Carteret CTP in hopes to expedite our future CTPs. Carteret County Transportation Committee will be sending a letter specific to their CTP and DERPO would send a letter regarding the region.

*Motion was made by Robin Comer to send a letter to the NCDOT TPB Management and the Division 2 NCDOT Board of Transportation member; seconded by Chad Braxton, and unanimously approved.*

**9 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 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 is 85 % in our area, while 15% is in New Bern area. Typically we would put 85 point on this project but the NBMPO is giving it their 15 points and giving us 85 more points to apply to the project so we are not having to use any of our points for

this project. He reported that John Rouse feels it can be built out of this regional money as it is already pretty far along in the planning and permit process.

H140022, NC-58 Emerald Drive merited quite a bit of discussion from the TCC. This is the short section of NC 58 and then there is a bigger project that is to 4-lane the island. There is not a lot of local support, yet there is a problem that needs addressing. There is also a project at NC 58 and NC 24 to build an interchange there. The expressed concern at the TCC meeting was that the interchange project would just move the problem onto the island. So the TCC would like to see a corridor study from the NC 24/NC 58 interchange all the way along the island to the NC 58/US 70 interchange. Carteret Co. Transportation Committee will discuss this at their upcoming meeting. The TCC's idea was that the NC 58 project and the 24/58 interchange project should still be given points since the corridor study could be done quickly in a timely matter and then these projects would be well situated. However, Patrick spoke to John Rouse yesterday and he comprehends and supports that thought process but revealed that the NC 24 interchange already has all the environmental documents and that DOT already owns the ROW. He believes that if it is given high points, it is a project that is very likely to get funded in the near term and moved forward. So this indicates we may want to back off of the interchange until we get further along in the process. Some discussion followed regarding the issues and how to optimize the situation. Based upon discussion at the TCC meeting, both of those projects were given 93 points. Patrick suggested we leave the NC 58 project at 93 points but drop the NC24/NC58 interchange project to around 50 points. This is a rather fluid process right now, but once finalized the end of August it would be 2 years before they are reviewed. Patrick explained that what is becoming evident as we go through this scoring process is that we want to focus on smaller scale projects with more immediate fixes. What the RPO is going to be looking at in the next 2 years, before these are reviewed again, will be how we can section some of the projects to optimize them, which will also reduce the costs yet solve the problem and delay a really high dollar project from being needed.

Project H090780, the Newport River bridge replacement-Radio Island project and Project H090779, the bridge interchange are individual projects, and then there is a project that combines these into 1 project. The Carteret Transportation Committee recommended we submit these as independent projects. So the bridge individually, and the interchange individually, were given 100 points and 99 points respectively to rank them highest. We did not give points to the combined project based upon their recommendation. This is a high priority for the Carteret Transportation Committee.

Project H090778, NC 304 is Pamlico County's top priority and they passed a resolution at their recent board meeting to express this. The next 3 projects (NC55, NC306 and NC307) are also Pamlico projects and are shown prioritized according to their rankings. The NC 306 project is only 32% in our area and we are giving it 32 points. Patrick has checked with MERPO and they are giving it 68 points based on their percentage.

H142230, US-17 project is an interchange improvement and it is only 4% in our region, but we are giving 91 points to Jacksonville because it just recently came into their area and they had run out of points, in order to raise it to a 95. Brief discussion regarding what a trumpet interchange is.

The next Project 141009, is the combined Newport River and interchange project that we spoke of earlier. We are giving it zero points even though it ranked high with the justification being that we have already covered it with the other 2 points.

Project H111205, NC210, is only 7% in our area so we have given it 7 points. This is a big growth area in Onslow Co. and they are giving it 93 points.

Project H090280, N. Carteret bypass, which comes in at \$318 million dollars and we are giving it zero points because it is too expensive to fund at the regional level. It is a statewide project and several years away.

Project H141778, NC 24 Freeway, is a project not really needed right now, so will be reviewed in the next 2 years to optimize it by possibly sectioning for the next round. No points given.

Project H1140016, Hwy. 70 in Beaufort, is a retrofitting project. Ranked as Carteret's #2 project so a local priority that we are giving points too.

Project H141644, NC 101, is their #1 project and would completed the widening and resurfacing so we have given this 94 points.

Project H090300, Hwy 70 and NC 12 in Carteret Co. is a very long project and expensive, which needs to be sectioned and optimized, and it has environmental issues. Some discussion regarding this stretch of road was engaged. No points given.

Project H090773, NC 306, south of Hwy. 55 was mentioned early and will receive no points as it was recently resurfaced.

Project H090787, NC 58, was discussed in the earlier NC 58 projects. This one is upgrading the entire island, but it has no local support, therefore the corridor study will be conducted to include all of the communities affected prior to moving forward. This will probably end up being a sectioned project in the future.

There are multiple US17 projects. Project H090081-B, the northern section, is 68% in our area. NBMPO has given 66 points to the this one, and we are giving it 26 points, which means we are only taking enough points from the NBMPO to rank it with 68 points. This is a project with the potential development going there that will be looked at strongly. Some remarks regarding the type of development that is planned for that area.

There are four other Hwy. 17 projects (TIP R2513) sections in our area, which he highlighted. He covered the points that we have given in the past in comparison to what division gave each

one in the SPOT 2 rounds. These scored very low in the next round; however, Marc Finlayson with the Hwy. 17 Commission has requested support of these. He has done a great job at advocating for these and moving these forward. Patrick spoke with MERPO regarding points, but they have none left to give. There is the potential to get NBMPO to give their Havelock By-Pass points to these Hwy. 17 projects if the Goldsboro MPO gives points to the Havelock By-Pass. Points given to us do not count against our 1300 points, but points we give away do count. We are currently slightly over our points at 1382, but since we have dropped points from the 24/58 interchange we are closer to 1340. The conclusion was to drop the points on these Hwy. 17 projects to get our total points down to 1300; and then add points back to them upon the plan involving the Goldsboro MPO coming to fruition. Our justification for giving points to these lower scoring projects is to show local and regional support. They are not high cost projects and they are the remaining 2 lane updates to Hwy. 17. Also, NBMPO is giving 97 points to the southernmost project of Hwy. 17.

Patrick continued through the rest of the regional projects and explained why those had not received Regional Local Input Points, with justifications being: lack of support, need for more study, the length of the project or the cost of the project.

Moving into the Divisional projects, Patrick only went through the 19 which had been assigned Local Input Points. He explained that there was some discussion at the TCC meeting regarding points given to the ferry projects, so he provided supportive information regarding the points being given to the ferry projects. There was some discussion regarding H141635, NC 306 N which is 32% in our area, as to whether it should be considered a regional or division level project. IT was decided to give it 32 points.

DERPO is slightly under their 1300 points with roughly 60 points left to assign. At this point we would go to the next highest scoring project under division. Patrick presented H090405, Miller Blvd. as being a good candidate as it is one of the exits off of the Hwy. By-Pass, so this would be an improvement that would be needed. It was decided to give the remaining points to this project.

Patrick inquired as to whether anyone had any further comments or projects that were not mentioned. Christine Mele asked about available funding for greenways and bicycle paths. Joshua Potter inquired about State Road 1005 from Arapahoe to Reelsboro was anywhere in the mix for future repairs. Jeff Cabaniss was requested to see if it is on the resurfacing list.

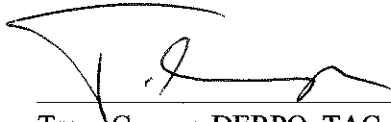
After the TAC meeting, Patrick will make the necessary changes, we will put out for the 30 day public comment period, and a revision will be sent out. A link will be set up on the DERPO website and a 30 day public notice will be put out in area papers. Patrick will consolidate any public comments by August 18<sup>th</sup> and present those at the TCC Meeting on August 19<sup>th</sup>.

## 10 Adjournment

*A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Robin Comer, seconded by Joshua Potter, and unanimously approved.*

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Trace Cooper, DERPO TAC Chair

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Patrick Flanagan, DERPO Secretary