



December 2, 2014

10:00 AM

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

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Minutes

TCC Members in Attendance:

Trace Cooper	Johnnie Sampson
Josh Potter	Christine Mele
Nazia Sarder	Jeff Cabaniss

Staff in Attendance:

Patrick Flanagan	Nan Holton
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Guests in Attendance:

Reed Smith	David Sawyer
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1. Call to Order

Trace Cooper, Chairman TAC, called the meeting to order and then read the Ethics Awareness & Conflict of Interest Reminder. It was determined there were no conflicts among attendees.

2. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

3. ACTION: August 21, 2014 Minutes

Minutes of the August 21, 2014 meetings were presented for approval.

Motion was made by Christine Mele to approve the minutes as submitted for the August 21, 2014 DERPO TAC meeting; seconded by Johnnie Sampson; and unanimously approved.

4. Staff Report-Patrick Flanagan

2015 Meeting Schedule 10:00–11:30 a.m.

- January 29, 2015
- March 26, 2015
- May 28, 2015
- July 30, 2015
- September 24, 2015
- November 26, 2015

Trace Cooper remarked that they would probably not meet all those dates, but to reserve them at this time.

Because of time constraints of some of the TAC Board members, Trace deviated from the agenda to focus on the action items first.

ACTION Items

5. ACTION: DERPO CTP Study Needs List

Patrick Flanagan explained that this is our annual priority list of CTP studies we want done in our area. The purpose today is to determine the order we would like our plans to be completed in and submit that list to NCDOT TPB for consideration. He referred them to the study included in their packet and explained that Onslow and Craven counties have been left on, even though they are close to finishing. He had ranked the City of Havelock third and stated that by the time they get through those three items, it would be time to update Carteret again.

Motion was made by Johnnie Sampson to approve the rank order of the CTP studies as presented; seconded by Christine Mele; and unanimously approved.

6. ACTIONS: Town of Newport Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant Application Resolution Town of Oriental Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant Application Resolution

Patrick explained that the Towns of Newport and Oriental are applying for a grant from NCDOT Bike/Ped to do a bicycle and pedestrian plan for their respective areas. They are requesting a resolution of support from the Down East RPO to include in their application.

Josh Potter inquired as to where the funds for these projects originate? Patrick responded that they are derived from the DOT programs that collect fees/taxes such as gas and DMV, as well as from federal pass through monies.

There was some discussion regarding how it presented a conflict of needs, as they are cutting other programs and looking to tax ferries, but have money for this. While there was little support for it, the discussion realized that if they did not support it for our local communities, that the money will just go somewhere else.

Jeff Cabaniss explained that when they are ready to implement, there has to be a 20% community match, and a representative from the DOT is involved in the process. He also remarked that each community has to put up 10% toward this planning phase they are entering.

Motion was made by Johnnie Sampson to approve the resolution to support Newport's planning grant application; seconded by Christine Mele; and unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Johnnie Sampson to approve the resolution to support Oriental's planning grant application; seconded by Christine Mele; and unanimously approved.

7. Project Litigation Discussion

Patrick reported that he had met with Scott Slusser, Special Deputy Attorney General, to discuss the SELC and DOT's relation with them. He indicated that the SELC will litigate, but they themselves do not sue. They seek other agencies associated with wildlife, conservation, and the environment to collaborate.

Christine stated that the SELC is involved in a peripheral way by being present at various projects. Patrick confirmed that they attend a lot of the DOT committee meetings to glean information and are currently gathering documents on the Havelock By-Pass and the Cape Fear Skyway. They had sued a project near

Asheville about 10 years ago. In regards to the Bonner Bridge case, they were defeated in District Court, but it will be appealed. In regards to the Monroe By-Pass, the NCDOT won in District Court, but the SELC won the appeal. DOT is still moving forward with this project while the litigation continues. The Garden Parkway is currently pending.

Patrick remarked that the DOT has gotten better through their past experiences and have become more thorough in their documentation, as well as seeking out the SELC when public hearing are being held.

Christine informed the TAC that the SELC had attended the Pamlico County Commissioner's last meeting trying to get them to align with the SELC on the Atlas Tract; which they did not. Trace stated that there are many environmental groups affecting policy along the way, as this group sues and settles along the way.

Reed Smith inquired as to how they are funding. Christine indicated she had done some research regarding that, and they are funding by wealthy benefactors

8. Driveway Permitting Discussion

Reed Smith, the District Engineer in New Bern, and David Sawyer, the Assistant District Engineer, distributed a Policy Manual about the driveway permitting process and what NCDOT reviews when considering a driveway permit. It was from July 2003 and they indicated that no updates are foreseen. The informed the group that this document is also available online. They oversee Craven, Carteret, and Pamlico counties.

David referred everyone to page 70, the actual application required for every commercial business, and for a residential that require more than one access. There is a \$50 fee and they must submit a completed application and a site plan which then gets reviewed. If there are more than 15,000 trips a day associated with a permit location, than that requires from agencies and study. The main things DOT looks at with each application is the location, the volume, whether it is public or private and if it is going to require road improvements, such as a turning lane. If road improvements are required, those are billed to the business. They do try to look at interconnectivity when multiple businesses are located together or they foresee a future development as traffic and population changes. Encroachments are granted for utility and construction needs as necessary. Sidewalks are paid by the developer and then turned over to the municipality for maintenance.

Josh Potter inquired as to how often communities seek consultations with them. David responded that they have frequent interaction and communications with the local planners and they confer quite often.

Whether a resident or a business, if the pipe under the access fails, it is the property owners responsibility to maintain and correct that. The DOT only get involved after the installation phase if there becomes a public safety issue.

9. Ethics Liaison Webinar

Patrick provided a handout outlining the main themes from the RPO TAC Members and Ethics Liaisons Webinar which was held on December 2, 2014. He indicated they had instituted some new fines and it was important to have the SEI and RED forms submitted by April 15, 2015. He stated he would send out an email with a link to the webinar so others could watch it themselves.

DERPO Staff Report

10. Standing Committee, Commission, and Association Reports

Trace indicated that there were handouts available for the Highway 17 Association and the Highway 70 Commission. Patrick stated that there was no update on the Highway 70 Commission, but informed the group that there was a meeting scheduled for December 4, 2014 in Smithfield and it was open to anyone who wanted to attend. He reminded the group that Robin Comer is the Chairperson of this group.

NCDOT Staff Reports

Division 2: Jeff Cabaniss

Jeff provided the group with a handout outlining the ongoing projects in Craven, Carteret, Pamlico and Jones Counties.

- In Craven County, he highlighted that the safe routes to school project got started today.
- In Carteret County, the work continues on Gallant's Channel. They did have some problems driving the piles, so they had to stop and are in the process of redrawing the template. They are about 14% along in the project. The work bridge itself took a lot of work to get started. There will be a sound wall erected near a subdivision in association with this project.
- In Pamlico County, there is a bridge replacement project right outside of Bayboro that will LET in June 2015. This requires some resurfacing, so there will be a detour while that is going on. Also Hwy. 304 will be widened.
- In Jones County, the two Hwy. 17 projects will be Let in June, 2015. He stated there was a meeting scheduled tomorrow, December 3, 2014.

Josh Potter inquired as to whether or not the "washboard effect" on Hwy. 304 would be addressed during this project? Jeff indicated that he would think so, but much of that is dependent on the subsoil structure.

Transportation Planning Branch: Nazia Sarder

Carteret County CTP Update:

- They are in the close out phase and making the third iterations of corrections. It is hopeful the final document will be sent out for reproduction once these changes are completed.

Jones County CTP Update

- They had their 3rd steering committee meeting on October 29th where they approved the CTP vision, survey, road network, and population/employment projection. These were approved on November 17th. The 4th meeting of this group is slated for January 28, 2015. The Engineers will be collecting data for the draft maps.

Onslow County CTP Update

- The model calibration is completed. The LRPT is hopeful to be completed the end of December, but definitely by the end of January, 2015.

Craven County CTP Update

- The Coordinator left a few weeks ago and that job has been posted and accepting applications. The position closes out this week and interviews will begin after reviewing the candidates. The model is being done by the CTP model we have now. The MPO will hire a private consultant once the basic calibrations are complete. They are hopeful the model will be completed by mid 2015.

Nazia also reported that the DERPO Engineer 3 position will be posted Monday. Patrick and Trace expressed appreciation for Nazia continuing to fill in.

11. NCDOT Strategic Transportation Corridors Update

Patrick provided a presentation of the NCDOT Strategic Highway Corridors plan which includes alternate modes of transportation and reevaluates the included corridors. He emphasized that this will be used for planning purposes only and is not related to STI or SPOT. He indicated that this developed from the 2040 plan. He highlighted the criteria used and reviewed the three maps: the connectivity map illustrating the economic zones outside of the state, the mobility map, and the economic prosperity map.. He indicated that the maps were based on the tonnage of freight, not the volume. He stated this was all wrapped in with the Governor's 25 year Visions for NC book, which was available as a handout.

12. NCDOT Comprehensive State Rail Plan Update

Patrick provided a presentation of the NCDOT Rail Division Plan which has not been released yet. He indicated that up until recently there had not been a lot of coordination between this group and the road corridors, but that they are starting to communicate as this is being completed. He highlighted the stakeholders involved and the emerging trends, and the rankings. He reported that NC is an inbound state in that we receive more than we ship out. These maps were also generated using freight weight, not volume and the reason for this is because weight is the biggest factor in maintenance. It was stated that it would be beneficial to make note of this and referenced the study that is going to come out specifically about the Morehead City Port, so that volume is also reflected in that study.

13. Other Business

Patrick informed the group that Lionel Midgette, long time DERPO member from Onslow County, had recently passed away.

14. Adjournment

Trace Cooper adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,



Christine Mele, DERPO TAC Chair



Patrick Flanagan, DERPO Secretary

