

William Taylor
TAC Chair

Don Baumgardner
TCC Chair



Brandi Robertson
TAC Vice-Chair

Beth Bucksot
TCC Vice-Chair

DERPO TAC Regular Meeting, May 31, 2022; 10:00am

Attendance:

Bill Taylor, Chair – Morehead City

Brandi Robertson, Vice Chair - Arapahoe

James Harper – Jones County

Theron McCabe – Craven County

B.J. Eversole – Eastern Carolina Council

Don Baumgardner – Craven County

Kelly Jones – NCDOT TPD

David Bone – ECC Executive Director

Len White – NCDOT Division 2

Leighann Morgan - ECC

Kim Maxey – New Bern MPO

Mickey Anderson - ECC

Minutes for TAC

1. **Call to Order** – *Chair Bill Taylor opened the meeting at 10:05am.*
2. **Ethics Awareness & Conflict of Interest Statement** – *no conflicts of interest.*
3. **Public Comment Period** – *no public comments.*
4. **ACTION: Approval of Agenda**
The agenda for today’s meeting was presented for approval.
A motion to approve the agenda was made by Theron McCabe, seconded by James Harper, and approved unanimously.
5. **ACTION: Approval of Minutes**
Minutes of the February 1 and March 29, 2022 meetings were presented for approval.
A motion to approve minutes from the previous meetings was made by Theron McCabe, seconded by James Harper, and approved unanimously.
6. **DERPO Staff Report** – *B.J. Eversole*
 - a. *Carteret County CTP Update – Ms. Eversole spoke on progress made on the Carteret County CTP, including the completion of the Traffic Demand Model by NCDOT Planning, with the help of DERPO and the Carteret County Economic Development office. A steering committee has been selected and the first meeting is tentatively scheduled for the end of June (note: the meeting took place in early August). DERPO will*

help NCDOT complete the Community Understanding Report, which identifies key features in the county such as low-income areas, public amenities, major employers, etc.

b. *Morehead City Comprehensive Plan Update – Ms. Eversole also updated the committee on the work of the Morehead City Comprehensive Plan steering committee, of which she and TAC Chair Bill Taylor are members (as is NCDOT’s Len White). Focus group meetings and a public workshop took place on the week of May 2nd to discuss specific elements of the plan, including transportation. The future Land Use Strategy chapter will be completed first to meet state 160D requirements. As DERPO is involved in both the Morehead City Comp Plan and Carteret CTP development, a key role is to coordinate identified transportation needs and strategies between the two committees.*

c. *Other DERPO Updates – Ms. Eversole spoke of the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Federal grant program and encouraged local communities to consider applying for planning, infrastructure, behavioral or operational projects in their area. The deadline is September 15. She updated the TCC on preliminary design work done on the US 17 New Bern Bypass Extension, which would create a new highway between US 70 and existing US 17 west of New Bern. This project is not on the STIP but has been submitted by both the New Bern Area MPO (NBAMPO) and DERPO to SPOT in the past and will continue to be a priority future project for both organizations. She encouraged participation in the Mileage-Based User Fee pilot program being conducted by NCDOT to track mileage and simulate what a monthly bill for such a tax would look like. Elected officials are specifically encouraged to participate. She also encouraged participation in the N.C. Clean Transportation Survey and updated the TCC on future meetings.*

7. NCDOT/Transportation Agency Reports

a. *Division 2 – Len White of NCDOT Division 2 spoke about current projects underway in the DERPO region. The Havelock Bypass is currently 40% complete, and the James City improvement project is 17% complete with demolition and utility work ongoing. Bridge 1420 is 65% complete and is expected to be finished in the winter of 2024. Broadband fiberoptic cable will begin being laid along US 70 in the fall of this year. Mowing is also in progress. Theron McCabe asked about the timetable for resurfacing Adams Creek Rd, Len White said he would get back to him about that. James Harper asked whether any resurfacing in Jones County would be pushed back, and Len White replied that it’s not likely, or if so, it would only be to 2023.*

b. *Transportation Planning Division – Kelly Jones of NCDOT Planning stated that work on the Craven County CTP and that a presentation would be held in Dover on June 3. She reminded the local communities to apply for Powell Bill money to help pay for maintenance of streets and sidewalks, the window for applying is July 1-21. Revised PWP’s must be approved by NCDOT by June 29.*

- 8. ACTION: APPROVE DERPO’S FY 2023 PLANNING WORK PROGRAM**
The Planning Work Program (PWP) serves as DERPO’s yearly budget and highlights the goals and expected duties of the RPO and its Director over the next fiscal year. B.J. Eversole gave a brief presentation on the draft PWP, explaining briefly what work would be prioritized in the coming fiscal year, including SPOT 7.0, the Carteret CTP, and wrapping up work on the 2024-33 STIP. Theron McCabe made a motion to approve FY 2023 PWP, James Harper seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
- 9. PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION: CREATION OF NEW 2024-33 STIP**
A brief presentation was made by B.J. Eversole on development of the current draft STIP. Due to the lack of funding to program new projects, the N.C. Board of Transportation, on the recommendation of the SPOT 6.0 Workgroup, decided to bring all further work on SPOT 6.0 to a halt, and therefore an alternative means of creating the next STIP has been crafted to keep the plan . A draft 2024-33 STIP has been released, with some projects that are currently committed being de-committed and subject to reprioritization in SPOT 7.0. There is also the opportunity to swap, on a \$ to \$ basis, projects that are on the draft STIP for formerly committed projects that were removed from the draft STIP. She discussed potential projects that could be swapped, including the widening of US 17 between NC 43 and Vanceboro. The goal is to approve any swaps at our July meeting, as they are due to NCDOT by September (note: the deadline is now March 2023). Kim Maxey of the New Bern Area MPO discussed the US 17 project and the benefit of swapping for it to keep it in the STIP (note: this project was added back to the STIP with the new sales tax revenues set aside for transportation).
- 10. Other Business/Discussion – New Eastern Carolina Council Executive Director David Bone introduced himself to the committee.**
- 11. Adjournment – Chair Bill Taylor adjourned the meeting at 11:09am.**