



November 19, 2013

TCC Meeting

Jones County Civic Center
832 Highway 58 South
Trenton, NC

TCC Members in Attendance:

Don Baumgardner	Terry Jordan	Jim Jennings	Jeff Cabaniss
Shirley Powell	Scott Sherrill	Linda Staab	Patrick Riddle
Kyle Garner	Franky Howard	John Rouse	Nazia Sarder
Stephanie Ayers	Tim Buck	Dee Sage	

Staff in Attendance:

Patrick Flanagan Jodi Laird

1. Call to Order

Linda Staab, Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m. It was determined there was a quorum.

2. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

3. Action: September 25, 2013 Minutes

Motion was made by Scott Sherrill to approve the minutes as submitted for the September 25, 2013 Down East Rural Planning Transportation Organization (DERPO) TCC meeting, seconded by Jim Jennings, and unanimously approved.

4. Staff Report

- Patrick Flanagan welcomed and introduced Nazi Sarder, the new Transportation Planning Branch Coordinator of DERPO.
- Beginning in January, the 2014 TCC meetings will be held at the Onslow County Government Multi-Purpose building, 4024 Richlands Hwy, Jacksonville, NC. The May 27, 2014 meeting falls on Memorial weekend, therefore a new date will be announced at the next meeting.
- DOT has recently recognized all of the work the RPOs have been doing and so they have increased the funding for this fiscal year from \$109,000 to \$121,000. This means we will

need to collect that increase in the match from the five counties. This will be presented at the TAC meeting, and then after that point Patrick will be in contact with the county managers.

5. Standing Committee, Commission, and Association Reports

- **Croatan Regional Bike Plan – Rob Will**

Rob Will was not able to make it today, but Patrick Flanagan relayed his message. We are moving into scheduling adoptions for all of the counties and municipalities involved in the regional bike plan. Everything is moving right ahead as planned. For questions or concerns please email rwill@eccog.org.

- **Highway 17 Association Update – Marc Finlayson**

The biggest news on US 17 Corridor is the acceleration of the Jones County project (R-2514). The Board of Transportation adopted a resolution to accelerate the Maysville bypass construction date so it goes along with the Pollocksville bypass together in June 2015, which means it will be ahead of the July 1st deadline for reconsideration projects under the new Strategic Mobility Formula. (See report for further updates.)

- **Highway 70 Commission Update – Patrick Flanagan**

There is no new updates other than they have finalized their bylaws and new dues structure.

- **Eastern NC MPO/RPO Coalition Update – Patrick Flanagan**

The staff has met twice since the last full coalition meeting. We are working on taking that list of six projects that the initial coalition identified as projects that would most affect eastern North Carolina and expanding those to include all new members to the north and the south. We are working to use the SPOT online tool to help identify projects. This process will be over February 17th and the staff will meet again to review the significant projects that will affect the whole coalition. The next full coalition will meet sometime in February/March time frame, so we can adopt those projects and get them to Raleigh in a timely manner.

- **Logistics Update – Stephanie Ayers**

Since the last meeting, our board has signed a contract for wood pellets. There is a wood pellet facility near Sims, NC. The lumber will be harvested out of the Piedmont area and moved by rail to our facility and then from our port will be exported to Europe to be used for bio-fuel. We anticipate construction will start on port in 2014 and we anticipate the first vessel to start moving in 2015. Everything will be moving via rail and there will not be any new trains in Morehead City; instead extra carts will be added to existing trains. The Seafood Festival parked almost 4,000 cars this year. The gate is still not complete; however it should be finished before the end of the calendar year. The building is complete; however we are waiting on final system integrations to go in before we can open the gate so we can use that building for more public meetings.

- **Transit Update** –*Terry Jordan*
There was nothing new to report. The Public Transit Conference was rescheduled to January 6, 2014.

6. NCDOT Division Reports

- **Division 2:** *Jeff Cabaniss*
Handouts were submitted for Carteret, Craven, Jones, and Pamlico County
 - Received an email from Charles Cox and he confirmed that the Coast Guard has everything they need to approve the permit. Things look favorable and hoping to have an answer within the next two weeks. Deadline was compromised by the government shutdown.
 - Campen Road was completed.
 - (Please see handouts for all updates).
- **Division 3:** *Patrick Riddle*
Handouts were submitted for Onslow County.
 - Biggest change: Rhodestown Rd is the main connector between Gum Branch Rd and US-258 and NC-24 (between Richlands and Jacksonville). We will be replacing the bridge over the New River, which will require us to close down Rhodestown Rd. See page 2 for alternate routes.
- **Planning Branch:** *Nazia Sarder*
 - The Board of Transportation is looking to adopt a Carteret County CTP in January. We will need RPO endorsements before then so we can adopt this CTP.

Kyle Garner made a motion to that the TCC recommends endorsement of the Carteret CTP contingent upon on Carteret County adopting it in their December meeting, seconded by Jim Jennings, and unanimously approved.

- Hemang Surti is the new engineer that has been assigned for Jones County. A letter will be sent out to the county in December. The Jones County CTP is looking to start early next year (January/February).
- Onslow County CTP is also looking to start early next year and a letter will be sent out to the county in January or February. Saeed will be working on this CTP.
- Craven County still does not have a local coordinator and we don't have a TPB coordinator for New Bern MPO. We are looking to hire someone in early December and we are hoping to have the Craven County start in the spring of 2014. The CTP will coordinate with New Bern.

7. US-17 Economic Impact Study Presentation

Marc Finlayson passed out hard copies of the study. Please go to www.hwy17nc.org to download a copy.

- This study analyzed economic impacts of Hwy 17 improvements. Conclusions of this study is more economic boom, construction job creation, increased economic activity, improved safety, and reduced travel times.
- Plan A is to complete partially funded STIP projects along 54 miles of corridor. This assumes that the remaining funding, totaling \$454 million, is obtained and spent during the years 2018-2022. (Projects included: 2514, 2301, and 2511).
- Plan B is to finance unfunded STIP projects, which will improve an additional 31 miles along the Hwy 17 corridor. Total projected cost is \$380 million for projects undertaken during the years 2023-2026. (Projects included: 4007, 4307, 2513, and 2633).
- Plan C is to add improvements to upgrade US 17 to interstate standards along entire 282 miles. The upgrade would not be completed within the 2035 study timeframe.

8. Strategic Mobility Formula Update

Patrick Flanagan reviewed updates.

- The Strategic Transportation Investment (STI) went to the NCDOT Board of Transportation for final approval two weeks ago. As recommended by the legislature to accept the Accessibility Connectivity criteria for the Regional Level projects. There was also another change made to the percentage of local points. Both Regional and Divisional is a 50/50 split. At the Regional Level it will be 15% local and 15% Division of Engineers. At the Divisional Level it will be 25% local and 25% Division of Engineers.
- The final STI bill is as follows: 90% of Regional/Divisional money will be spent on highway projects, 4% of money must be spent on non-highway, and there is a 6% window left open. These numbers were based on historical budgets and expenditures.

9. PWP Amendment

Patrick Flanagan discussed the PWP Amendment.

- Due to the increase in the RPO budget, the additional \$12,500 was put into the Prioritization & Program Development (SPOT) in our budget.

Motion was made by Stephanie Ayers to accept the PWP Amendment, seconded by Don Baumgardner, and unanimously approved.

10. CTP Priority Needs List

Patrick Flanagan discussed the CTP order (same as last year).

- Onslow County
- Craven County
- City of Havelock
- Jones County

Motion was made by Don Baumgardner to approve the CTP list, seconded by Scott Sherrill, and unanimously approved.

11. Other Business

Linda Staab pointed out that her term as chair is ending after this meeting.

Motion was made by Linda Staab to nominate Don Baumgardner as the chair and elect Scott Sherrill to the vice chair, seconded by Jim Jennings, and unanimously approved.

12. Adjournment

It was established that there was no further business, Don Baumgardner adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Staab, DERPO TCC Chair

Patrick Flanagan, DERPO Secretary