

William Taylor
TAC Chair



Brandi Robertson
TAC Vice-Chair

Don Baumgardner
TCC Chair

Beth Bucksot
TCC Vice-Chair

DERPO TCC Regular Meeting, August 23rd, 2022; 10:00am

Attendance:

Don Baumgardner, Chair – Craven County	Diane Hampton – NCDOT Division 2
Shumata Brown – Town of Maysville	Kelly Jones – NCDOT TPD
Frank Rush – Town of Cape Carteret	Beth Bucksot – Vice-Chair, Pamlico County
Lydia Monette – Town of Cove City	David Rief – Town of Cedar Point
Randy Cantor - CCATS	Karyn Reid – Town of Morehead City
Kelly Walker - CARTS	Sandi Watkins – Town of Morehead City
Felicia McRee – NBAMPO	Shawne Southard – Town of Bogue
Kim Maxey – New Bern MPO	Becca Eversole – Eastern Carolina Council
Jeff Cabaniss – NCDOT Division 2	Behshad Norowzi – NCDOT TPD
David Bone – ECC Executive Director	Tom Kies – Craven County Manager
Len White – NCDOT Division 2	Greg Hartman – Carteret County Planner
Katrina Marshall – City of Havelock	Haywood Daughtry - NCDOT
Stephanie Ayers – N.C. State Ports Authority	Ethan Brogden

Minutes for TCC

Call to Order – Don Baumgardner, *Chair TCC opened the meeting at 10:06am.*

- 1. Public Comment Period – no public comments.**
- 2. ACTION: Approval of Agenda**
The agenda for today’s meeting was presented for approval.
A motion to approve the agenda was made by Beth Bucksot, seconded by Greg Hartman, and approved unanimously.
- 3. ACTION: Approval of Minutes**
Minutes of the May 24, 2022 meeting was presented for approval.
A motion to approve minutes from previous meeting was made by Greg Hartman, seconded by Tom Kies, and approved unanimously.
- 4. DERPO Staff Report – Becca Eversole**
 - a. Carteret County CTP Update – Ms. Eversole spoke on progress made on the Carteret County CTP, the first meeting being held on August 10th, where the basics of a**

CTP were discussed, as well as next steps, steering committee responsibilities, and membership adjustments. Further meetings will discuss vision, goals, and objectives, as well as a public survey. 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 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. The most recent meeting discussed vision, principles, and planning areas. Two workshops were being held that evening to discuss the draft use map.*

c. *Mileage-Based User Fee Pilot Program – Ms. Eversole encouraged local officials to sign up for the NC pilot program, which tracks your mileage via GPS and presents a mock bill to show the difference between gas tax costs and that of the user fee. Ms. Eversole is participating in the program. Ms. Bucksot expressed her concern with the effects of a mileage-based user fee on rural drivers.*

d. *Other DERPO Updates – Ms. Eversole is conducting pedestrian counts in downtown Morehead City at the request of the town. The first local transportation needs meetings were held in Dover and Vanceboro, and Ms. Eversole asked local officials who wanted to schedule a similar meeting to contact her for a date and time. She also discussed an update to the DERPO website, and was able to show one of the new webpages. She also discussed the final TCC and TAC meeting dates of the year (which were subsequently cancelled do to lack of business).*

5. NCDOT/Transportation Agency Reports

a. *Division 2 – Len White of NCDOT Division 2 gave updates on current projects underway in the DERPO region, including the Havelock Bypass, the James City upgrades to US 70/Future I-42 (with a completion date of late '23 or early '24 for that project), and that the Jones County Board of Commissioners had approved a letter of support for the alternatives for the Kinston Bypass interchange at Wyse Fork.*

b. *Transportation Planning Division – Kelly Jones of NCDOT Planning spoke about the Craven CTP, which would soon begin the adoption process with the Craven County Board of Commissioners. The Carteret County CTP steering committee would next meet in October. Ms. Jones also announced that she would be leaving her position for the private sector and Behshad Norowzi would fill in for her until her position can be filled.*

c. **Public Transit**

i. *CARTS (Craven, Jones, Pamlico) Update – Kelly Walker announced that her agency was now fully staffed and they had resumed service to Greenville. Any medical trips that would take more than 60mi would cost \$10 roundtrip, including from the more rural communities such as Dover.*

ii. *CCATS (Carteret) Update – Randy Cantor
CCATS has resumed five day a week service out of the county, including two trips to Raleigh a week. They*

continue to advertise for more staff, and their budget for the year has been approved. Later in the meeting he mentioned that the new natural gas tanks have begun construction.

6. ACTION: RECOMMEND APPROVAL of PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (PWP) AMENDMENT

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. Becca Eversole presented an amendment recommendation to the TAC that would transfer \$2000 to the direct cost section of the PWP to purchase a new laptop. A motion was made by Beth Bucksot, seconded by Kelly Walker, and approved unanimously.

7. ACTION: RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF FERRY LETTER OF SUPPORT

The NC Ferry Division requested a letter of support from DERPO for a federal grant to make improvements to the Manns Harbor maintenance facility. Ms. Eversole spoke of the improvements and submitted a draft letter with the agenda for review. A motion to recommend to the TAC was made by Stephanie Ayers, seconded by Beth Bucksot, and approved unanimously.

7. PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION: CREATION OF NEW 2024-33 STIP

A brief presentation was made by Ms. Eversole on development of the current draft STIP. The new state budget allowed for a portion of sales tax revenue (from 2% in FY 23 up to 6% in FY 25 and beyond) to go to transportation, which has helped plug the gap in STIP funding and allow for some projects slated to be removed to be restored. The biggest win for the DERPO region was the restoration of funding for R-3403B, the widening of NC 17 between Bridgetown and NC 43 and will now be let with R-2513A, which will widen US 17 between NC 43 and Vanceboro. There are also two intersection improvements in Beaufort that were restored. Unfortunately, some projects still remain off the STIP, and Ms. Eversole went over them, and potential swaps that could be made to restore them.

8. Other Business/Discussion – Stephanie Ayers announced that there would be a new North Gate for the Port of Morehead City, and that design work was underway. Don Baumgartner asked Diane Hampton of NCDOT if the cost of the Coast Guard Rd. roundabout in Emerald Isle could be shaved down to make it work with the swaps, and Ms. Hampton said that would be unlikely considering rising costs.

9. Adjournment – A motion was made by Len White to adjourn the meeting, seconded by David Rief, and passed unanimously. Chair Don Baumgartner adjourned the meeting at 11:13am.