

William Taylor
TAC Chair



Brandi Robertson
TAC Vice-Chair

Don Baumgardner
TCC Chair

Beth Bucksot
TCC Vice-Chair

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

Attendance:

Councilman Bill Taylor, Chair – Town of Morehead City	Becca Eversole – ECC/DERPO
Commissioner Brandi Robertson – Town of Arapahoe	Mickey Anderson – ECC/ECRPO
Commissioner Theron McCabe – Craven County	Len White – NCDOT Division 2
Mayor Dred Mitchell – Town of Cove City	Kelly Jones – NCDOT TPD
Commissioner Candy Bohmert – Pamlico County	Behshad Norowzi – NCDOT TPD
	Anthony Sumter – NCDOT IMD
	Cat Peele – NCDOT Ferry Division
	Don Baumgardner – Craven County

Minutes for TCC

Call to Order – Bill Taylor, *Chair TAC opened the meeting at 10:02am.*

- 1. Ethics Awareness & Conflict of Interest Statement** – *no conflicts of interest.*
- 2. Public Comment Period** – **no public comments.**
- 3. ACTION: Approval of Agenda**
The agenda for today’s meeting was presented for approval.
A motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Theron McCabe, seconded by Commissioner Candy Bohmert, and approved unanimously.
- 4. ACTION: Approval of Minutes**
Minutes of the May 31, 2022, meeting was presented for approval.
A motion to approve minutes from previous meeting was made by Commissioner Bohmert, seconded by Commissioner McCabe, and approved unanimously.

5. 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 due to lack of business).*

6. 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 (completion date of late '23), the James City upgrades to US 70/Future I-42 (with a completion date of late '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. Coordination with Duke Energy to relocate power lines for the Newport River Bridge is ongoing, and the Maple Cypress Rd bridge replacement over the Neuse River is 83% complete, with a completion date of winter '24. Commissioner McCabe requested that there be discussion of a sidewalk/multi-use path in the Cherry Branch neighborhood on behalf of the neighborhood association, as well as a reduction in the speed limit from 55mph to 45 mph and asked how the local match would work with a bike ped/project, which is an 80/20 split state/local. Ms. Eversole told Commissioner McCabe that she would contact NCDOT TPD and let them know that an update to the bike and ped maps to show the proposed route as an identified need, which was subsequently made.*

- 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. Allocation letters for DERPO funding would arrive the first half of November, and the Q1 Report would be due at that same time. The 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. *Integrated Mobility Division – Anthony Sumter of NCDOT IMD spoke about upcoming Transit Visioning Workshops throughout the state, and that IMD would be collaborating with DERPO, NCDOT TPD, and Carteret County on the Carteret County CTP.*

7. ACTION: 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 that would transfer \$2000 to the direct cost section of the PWP to purchase a new laptop. A motion to approve the amendment was made by Commissioner McCabe, seconded by Commissioner Bohmert, and approved unanimously.

8. ACTION: 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. Cat Peele of the NC Ferry Division spoke of the improvements, including the need for a repainting facility for ferry vessels, and replacement of burned-out lights with LEDs. The total amount sought in the grant would be \$1.4m. Ms. Eversole submitted a draft letter with the agenda for review. A motion to approve the draft letter was made by Commissioner Bohmert, seconded by Commissioner McCabe, and approved unanimously.

9. ACTION: APPROVAL OF CCATS LETTER OF SUPPORT

On behalf of Carteret County Area Transportation System (CCATS) Director Randy Cantor, Ms. Eversole presented the TAC with a draft letter of support for their grant application for 5310 Federal funds, which provides funding for transportation of seniors and those with disabilities. This is crucial funding for the transit agency. A motion to approve the draft letter of support was made by Commissioner McCabe, seconded by Commissioner Bohmert, and approved unanimously.

10. **PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION: CREATION OF NEW 2024-33 STIPA** *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 remain off the STIP, and Ms. Eversole went over them, and potential swaps that could be made to restore them.*

11. **Other Business/Discussion** – *Commissioner McCabe asked about resurfacing on Adams Creek Rd., and also asked about the possibility of raising the bridge to improve resilience for flooding events. Don Baumgardner added that 2,000 people live in the area, and that the project was supposed to get started this month but had not, but a steel plate was in place. Mr. White replied that there was a resurfacing plan in place and that he would get back to them on specifics. Mayor Dred Mitchell asked about the proposed four-way stop in Cove City and stated that the main holdup on the project was Norfolk Southern/NCRR; Mr. White also said he would get back to him with an update. Commissioner McCabe voiced concerns about needed safety improvements at two gates for Cherry Point, and Mr. White said he would pass those concerns onto the Division 2 Safety Engineer.*

12. **Adjournment** –*Chair Bill Taylor adjourned the meeting at 11:09am.*