

**Brandi Robertson**  
TAC Chair

**Don Baumgardner**  
TCC Chair



**Chadwick Howard**  
TAC Vice-Chair

**Beth Bucksot**  
TCC Vice-Chair

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## DERPO TCC Regular Meeting, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023; 10:00am

### Attendance:

**Bill Taylor, Chair – Town of Morehead City**

**Brandi Robertson, Vice Chair – Town of Araphoe**

**James Harper – Jones County**

**Dred Mitchell – Town of Cove City**

**Chadwick Howard – Craven County**

**Merrie Alcoke – NC Board of Transportation**

Becca Eversole – Eastern Carolina Council

Hemal Shah – NCDOT TPD

Kim Maxey – New Bern MPO

Felicia McRee – New Bern MPO

Mark Eatman – NCDOT IMD

Heather Hildebrandt – NCDOT IMD

Len White – NCDOT Division 2

Diane Hampton – NCDOT Division 2

Behshad Norowzi – NCDOT TPD

### Minutes for TAC

**Call to Order** – Bill Taylor, *Chair TAC opened the meeting at 10:05am.*

- 1. Ethics Awareness & Conflict of Interest Statement** – *no conflicts; the board was reminded of the April to finish their Ethics paperwork.*
- 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 James Harper, seconded by Merrie Alcoke, 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 James Harper, seconded by Dred Mitchell, and approved unanimously.*

**4. ACTION: Election of Officers**

As this was the first TAC meeting of the year, a vote for Chair and Vice Chair is required. Both Chair Bill Taylor and Vice-Chair Brandi Robertson were ineligible for re-election.

*A motion to nominate Brandi Robertson for Chair was made by James Harper and seconded by Bill Taylor. No other nominations were made, and Ms. Robertson was elected unanimously. A motion was then made to nominate Chadwick Howard as Vice-Chair by himself and seconded by James Harper. No other nominations were made, and Mr. Howard was elected unanimously. Mr. Howard briefly took over running the meeting until Ms. Robertson joined the meeting.*

**5. DERPO Staff Report – Becca Eversole**

a. *Carteret County CTP Update – Ms. Eversole spoke on progress made on the Carteret County CTP, with the first public meeting being held later that day in Cedar Point. Additional public meetings would be held in February and March, which would coincide with the release of the online Carteret County Transportation Survey.*

b. *2024-33 STIP/SPOT 7.0 Update – Ms. Eversole briefly discussed progress on the next STIP, which has a deadline for swaps of March 17. There are no swaps being considered by the TCC or TAC as all potential swaps are in Carteret County and there was no interest in swaps by the county transportation committee. She also stated that the SPOT Workgroup were continuing to work on details for SPOT 7.0, and that further updates would be made available.*

c. *Census Urban Area Update – Ms. Eversole informed the committee of the recent release of Census numbers for urban areas. These are important to transportation planning organizations as they determine whether a new metropolitan planning organization (MPO) should be created, and how MPO boundaries should be redrawn. There was a small chance that the Morehead City-Atlantic Beach-Emerald Isle urban area would hit 50,000, which would require the creation of an MPO in Carteret County, but the total population was 44,300. The New Bern urban area’s population dipped below 50,000, but the New Bern MPO would continue operating as before. There will be one new MPO in North Carolina: the Pinehurst-Southern Pines urban area in Moore County.*

d. *Other DERPO Updates – Ms. Eversole is continuing to conduct transportation needs meetings with communities throughout the DERPO region, and requested that towns in Pamlico County that had not yet met with her contact her with availability. She briefly discussed attending the N.C. Transportation Summit in Raleigh the previous week, and that she would be attending the quarterly meeting of the N.C. Association of RPO Directors later that week in Albemarle. She also shared tentative dates for TCC and TAC meeting dates in 2023.*

**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, the James City upgrades to US 70/Future I-42 (with a completion date of late '23 or early '24 for that project).*

b. Transportation Planning Division – *Hemal Shah of NCDOT Planning spoke about the Craven CTP, which was wrapping up local adoption with votes by the New Bern MPO’s TAC later that week, as well as an endorsement from DERPO’s TAC.*

**7. ACTION: RECOMMEND APPROVAL of DRAFT PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (PWP)**

*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 the draft PWP. There are a few alterations in budget lines from the previous fiscal due to anticipated work on the Carteret CTP and SPOT 7.0. A motion to approve the draft PWP was made by Merrie Alcock, seconded by Bill Taylor, and approved unanimously.*

**8. PRESENTATION: CARBON REDUCTION PROGRAM – Heather Hildebrandt**

*As a result of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, significant funding has been made available from the federal government for transportation projects that are designed to reduce overall carbon emissions. A total of \$19 million is available to the rural areas of North Carolina, and we have been asked to submit up to 12 projects to NCDOT for funding consideration. Heather Hildebrandt of NCDOT gave a presentation into the details of the program to the committee.*

**9. ACTION: RECOMMEND ENDORSEMENT OF CRAVEN COUNTY CTP**

*The Craven County CTP is currently in the adoption phase, and DERPO is required to give a formal endorsement of the plan. The CTP is the document that identifies the long-range transportation needs for all Craven County. Hemal Shah of NCDOT gave a presentation over specifics of the plan, including maps of the identified needs. A motion was made to endorse the CTP was made by Bill Taylor, seconded by James Harper, and approved unanimously.*

**10. Other Business/Discussion – There was no further business or discussion.**

**11. Adjournment –Chair Brandi Robertson adjourned the meeting at 10:35.**