



Agenda

Executive Committee Meeting
6:30 p.m. - Thursday, November 9, 2023
Third Floor Conference Room
233 Middle Street, New Bern, NC

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

[Constant Contact Meeting Registration](#)

1. Welcome, Invocation, and Call to Order – Ed Riggs, Jr., President

2. Adopt Agenda – Ed Riggs, Jr., President

Recommended motion: *Approve agenda, as presented.*

3. Director

4. Consent Agenda – Ed Riggs, Jr., President

- a. Minutes – Executive Committee Meeting – September 14, 2023**
- b. Contribution Based Benefit Cap Report**
- c. C.E.D.S. Update**
- d. EDA Partnership Planning (CEDS) Grant Semi-Annual Project Update Report**
- e. EDA Capacity Building Grant Semi-Annual Project Update Report**
- f. Area Agency on Aging Update**
- g. Community Planning/Technical Assistance Update**
- h. Transportation Update**

Recommended motion: *Approve consent agenda.*

5. Presentation – 2023 Transportation Summit – Larry Faison, Regional Planning Director

6. Budget & Audit Committee Report – Bill Taylor, Treasurer

- a. Check Register**
- b. Financial Statements**
- c. Committee Information & Recommendations**

- i. Presentation of Vision for ECC** – *Executive Director David Bone, Finance Director Melinda McGuire, and AAA Director Heather O'Connor*
- ii. Request for Placement of New Classifications (Assistant Executive Director and Human Services Manager) in Classification Plan** – *David Bone, Executive Director*
- iii. Review of ECC Dues Structure** – *Executive Director David Bone, Finance Director Melinda McGuire*
- iv. Request for Executive Director to have Ability to Move Forward with Certain Actions between Board Meetings when Time-Sensitive** – *David Bone, Executive Director*

Recommended motion: *Approve committee report and recommendation(s), as applicable.*

7. Executive Director's Report – *David Bone, Executive Director*

8. Member Comments

9. Adjournment

Recommended motion: *Adjourn meeting.*



Minutes

Executive Committee Meeting

6:30 p.m. - Thursday, September 14, 2023

Third Floor Conference Room

233 Middle Street, New Bern, NC

And by Zoom

Minutes

ECC Executive Committee in Attendance:

Bill Taylor, Treasurer

Chadwick Howard, Craven County

Jessie Dowe, Duplin County

Shane Turney, Town of Trent Woods

Bennie Heath, Greene County

Jay Bender, Town of Pollocksville

Roland Best, Lenoir County

Danny Wooten, Town of Vandemere

Kyle DeHaven, Greene County Manager (Via Zoom)

ECC General Membership Board in Attendance:

Billy Ward, Town of Faison

Lorraine Washington, Town of Snow Hill

Shawn Condon, Town of La Grange

Guests in Attendance:

Knox Proctor, Attorney, Ward & Smith (Ex-Officio)

Twig Rollins, Magnolia

Beatrice Smith, Craven County (Via Zoom)

ECC Staff in Attendance:

David Bone, Executive Director

Melinda McGuire, Finance Director

Heather O'Connor, AAA Director

January Brown, AAA Deputy Director

Kim Baker, Lead Aging Programs Consultant

1. Welcome, Invocation, and Call to Order

President Ed Riggs, Jr. called the meeting to order at 6:40pm. Bennie Heath, Greene County, gave the invocation.

2. Adopt Agenda – Ed Riggs, Jr., President

Ed Riggs, Jr. presented three changes to the agenda:

- *Item 4 – add line-item e, Create a Planning Director position.*
- *Item 5 – add Town of La Grange, as they have agreed to join.*
- *Item 9a – add closed sessions to discuss pending lawsuits and consult with the attorney.*

Commissioner Heath motioned to adopt the agenda as presented and amended, seconded by Commissioner Chadwick Howard, and the motion was passed unanimously.

3. Consent Agenda – Ed Riggs, Jr., President

- a. **Minutes – Executive Committee Meeting – July 13, 2023**
- b. **Contribution Based Benefit Cap Report**
- c. **C.E.D.S. Update**
- d. **Community Planning/Technical Assistance update**
- e. **Area Agency on Aging Update**
- f. **Transportation Update**

Jay Bender, Caucus Rep. for Jones County, motioned to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Roland Best, and motion was passed unanimously.

4. Budget & Audit Committee Report – Bill Taylor, Treasurer

- a. **Check Register**
- b. **Financial Statements**
- c. **Update on FY 2021-22 Audit – Melinda McGuire**
- d. **Committee Information & Recommendations – David Bone**
 - i **Civilian Conservation Corps MOU (AmeriCorps)**
 - ii **Other possible Partnerships**
 - a. **Digital Inclusion Plan – NCSU institute for Emerging Issues**
 - b. **Flood Mitigation Assistance – NC Department of Public Safety**
 - c. **Southeastern Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC) Local Development District (LDD)**

Melinda McGuire, Finance Director, went over the audit for FY 2021-22. She stated things are going well but slow due to being short-staffed and the fact that it's a learning experience. David Bone, ECC Executive Director, gave an update on the Civilian Conservation Corp (AmeriCorps) MOU. He said ECC would have a person dedicated to

oversight of natural disasters and climate issues. This person would not cost ECC any money because they would be an employee of AmeriCorps. We would get \$6500 to cover administrative, travel, and other such costs.

Director Bone explained that the Digital Inclusion Plan project would benefit counties accessing broadband funds, and we would be receiving grant funds to cover the cost of hiring a consultant and ECC staff time.

Regarding the Committee recommendation to hire a Planning Director, Director Bone spoke about the capacity to move forward. We have added new members and therefore we have the opportunities now to support this. He said for us to grow, we need a planning director. He said ECC has the funds, and this person would be a part-time employee.

Motion was made by Benny Heath, Greene County to approve the Committee Report and recommendations, Roland Best, Lenoir County second. Approval was unanimous.

5. Acceptance of Craven County, Onslow County, City of Jacksonville, City of New Bern, and Town of Magnolia as New Members – Ed Riggs, Jr., President

As was mentioned during agenda adoption, the Town of La Grange voted to join ECC after the agenda for this meeting was distributed, so La Grange needs to be added to the list. Shawn Condon (La Grange Interim Manager) would serve as the town's General Membership Board representative. Jay Bender, Caucus Rep. Jones County, made a motion to approve Craven County, Onslow County, City of Jacksonville, City of New Bern, Town of Magnolia, and Town of La Grange as new/returning members. A second by Jesse Dowe. Motion carried unanimously.

6. 2024 Meeting Schedule – Executive Director David Bone – A motion was made by Bill Taylor, Treasurer and a second by Chadwick Howard, Craven County, to approve the 2024 meeting scheduled. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Presentation – Disaster Recovery Program Initiatives – Executive Director David Bone – Executive Director David Bone provided an update on the Disaster Recovery Program. The North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management ("OSBM") entered into a subaward agreement with NC Association of Regional Councils of Government (NCRCOG) regarding these funds. One of the purposes of this grant funding / program is to provide training and support to local governments for disaster recovery / hazard mitigation plan training and development. The NCARCOG selected High Street Consulting and Tidal Basin Consulting to assist with the development of a training module on Disaster Recovery. All

the COGs will be assisting the consultant to develop the curriculum, and a “train the trainer” event for COG staff planned for December 2023. We expect to implement the training program in ECC in 2024.

Some of the region-specific deliverables ECC proposed for this grant include:

- *Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater Infrastructure Grant Writing Assistance*
- *Strategic Planning*
- *FEMA Grant Writing Assistance and Training*
- *Stormwater Ordinance Review*
- *Promote FEMA’s Community Rating System*

ECC is collaborating with Upper Coastal Plains COG (UCPCOG) and a consultant – Working Landscapes – to assist with some of the scope of work for the grant. Working Landscapes will assist ECC and UCPCOG engaging communities with interest in:

- *Developing strategic priorities for disaster recovery / resiliency,*
- *Seeking grants for water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure, and*
- *Providing possible other assistance related to the recommendations from the RISE (Regions Innovating for Strong Economies and Environment) program.*

Regional workshops are being planned for October 23, 24, and 30.

(This update was for informational purposes only; no motion required.)

8. NCARCOG Forum Representation for ECC – Ed Riggs, President

A motion was made by Jay Bender, Town of Pollocksville, and seconded by Bill Taylor, Treasurer, second to appoint Ed Riggs as ECC’s Forum Delegate and Bennie Heath as ECC’s Alternate Forum Delegate. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Executive Director’s Report – David Bone, Executive Director

David Bone, Executive Director addressed the Executive Committee in several areas:

1. *Welcomed new members.*
2. *The Aging Department attended and helped with the SE4A Regional Conference.*
3. *The Aging Department partnered with the New Bern Police and Fire Departments to pilot the Project Lifesaver Program. This program provides a tracking device to people with cognitive impairment to allow them to be found very quickly if they are ever lost or wandering.*
4. *The National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) bestowed upon our aging department the Aging Health and Human Services Award for their*



Minutes

Regional Technology for Seniors Program. The use of the funds available to purchase OWL Systems and Obie Systems for all the Senior Centers for the region.

5. *The Transportation Summit is quickly approaching. Expecting about 150 people. Thank you to the sponsors for your help.*
6. *Disaster Recovery Workshops will be October 23, 24, and 30.*
7. *ECC is assisting with the Newport Fire/EMS Chief search, which is in progress.*

10. Members Comments

Jay Bender, Caucus Rep. for Jones County, made a motion to recess for 10 minutes and then reconvene for the closed session. Second by Danny Wooten. Motion carried.

11. Closed Session – N.C. General Statute 143.318.11 (a)(3) – Attorney-Client Privilege

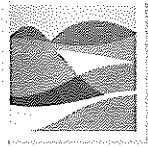
12. Adjournment

There being no further business, on motion duly made and seconded, the Executive Committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Sincerely Submitted,

Ed Riggs Jr., President

David Bone, Executive Director



North Carolina Total Retirement Plans



Dale R. Folwell, CPA
STATE TREASURER OF NORTH CAROLINA
DALE R. FOLWELL, CPA

10/19/2023

92507 - NEUSE RIVER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
ATTN: CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER OR BUDGET ADMINISTRATOR
PO BOX 1717
NEW BERN, NC 28560

Dear 92507 - NEUSE RIVER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS:

During the 2014 General Assembly session, contribution-based benefit cap legislation was enacted effective January 1, 2015. This legislation was created to control the practice of "pension spiking," in which a member's compensation substantially increases, resulting in a monthly retirement benefit that is significantly greater than the member and employer contributions would fund. The Contribution-Based Benefit Cap (CBBC) approach was created to protect each system for current and future retirees and to prevent all employers in the Retirement Systems from absorbing the additional liabilities caused by compensation decisions made by other employers. This legislation applies to members who retire on and after January 1, 2015, with an average final compensation of \$100,000 or higher (adjusted annually for inflation), and will directly impact only a small number of those individuals. It requires the member's last employer to pay the additional contribution required to fund the member's benefit in excess of the cap. [G.S. 135-5(a3); 135-4(jj); 128-27(a3); and 128-26(y)]

In order to assist employing agencies with planning and budgeting to comply with the CBBC provisions, we are required to report monthly to each employer a list of those members for whom the employer made a contribution to the Retirement System in the preceding month that are most likely to require an additional employer contribution should they elect to retire in the following 12 months. This letter and the attached report serve as our required monthly notification to your agency under this provision. [G.S. 135-8(f)(2)(f) and G.S. 128-30(g)(2)(b)]

The chief financial officer of your agency is required to provide a copy of the attached report to the chief executive of your agency, as well as to the governing body, including any board which exercises financial oversight. Additionally, the chief financial officer of a public school system is required to provide a copy of the report to the local board of education and notify the board of county commissioners of the county in which the local administrative unit is located that the report was received and how many employees were listed in the report. [G.S. 115C-436(c); 135-8(j); and 128-30(j)]

For the purpose of determining the employees of your agency that are likely to require an additional employer contribution should they elect to retire in the following 12 months, the Retirement System modified the criteria used in the CBBC calculation. This allows for a broad list of potential employees, including those whose compensation average may approach the threshold and attempts to provide your agency with prior notification of a potential cost. The attached report

lists employees of your agency who may be eligible to retire in the next 13 months (at either a reduced or unreduced benefit), whose salary is \$115,000.00 or greater, and whose estimated monthly retirement benefit exceeds the CBBC based on information in the employee's most recent annual benefits statement. In addition, a lower CBBC Factor (i.e., TSERS is 4.2 and LGERS is 4.4) is applied.

This list is not exhaustive, and members included on this list may or may not exceed the CBBC upon retirement, depending on a number of factors such as the member's average final compensation, the member's age at retirement, and membership service. This is merely a notification of a potential cost that your agency may be required to pay, in the form of a lump-sum payment, due after the member retires.

For those employees hired on or after January 1, 2015, the employer is not required to pay the additional contribution to fund the member's benefit in excess of the Contribution-Based Benefit Cap. The employer has the option to pay all or part of the contribution required in excess of the CBBC; the employee also has the option to pay all or part of the contribution. However, should neither of you choose to pay this additional contribution, the employee's retirement benefit will be capped.

You can calculate the likelihood of whether the retirement benefit of a member listed on the attached report will exceed the CBBC with information available on our website at <https://www.myncretirement.com/employers/employer-training/pension-spiking>.

If you have any questions or need assistance in calculating the likelihood of a potential CBBC liability, please contact us at the address or telephone number listed below.

Sincerely,

Retirement Systems Division
N.C. Department of State Treasurer

623_PENSPK



North Carolina
Total Retirement Plans

North Carolina Department of State Treasurer
Retirement Systems Division
3200 Atlantic Ave, Raleigh, NC 27604
1-877-NCSECURE (1-877-627-3287) toll-free • Fax (919) 855-5800
www.myncretirement.com



Dale R. Folwell, CPA
STATE TREASURER OF NORTH CAROLINA
DALE R. FOLWELL, CPA

CONTRIBUTION-BASED BENEFIT CAP REPORT

Members		
Hired Before Jan 1, 2015		
Agency	Member ID	Name
92507-NEUSE RIVER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS	1219755	BONE, DAVID B

* PLEASE FORWARD TO YOUR CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER OR BUDGET ADMINISTRATOR

Consent Agenda Item – Staff Report on Economic Development Efforts Supported Through EDA CEDS Grant

November 9, 2023

Summary:

The following is an update on our economic development activity through our EDA Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) grant.

- **Board Presentations / Meetings**
 - Made a presentation to the Pamlico County Leadership group (municipal and county representatives in the county) on October 25th.
- **Highlights of Recent Efforts**
 - Prepared for and hosted the Transportation Summit on October 19th (presentation about this event will be in tonight's meeting).
 - The NC Coastal Federation received an EDA Financial Assistance Award in the amount of \$734,000 for construction of a new shellfish aquaculture facility in Carteret County. ECC has been working with the NC Coastal Federation and EDA for the last year during the application process. ECC will be the grant administrator for this grant.
 - Participated in a follow-up meeting about a regional EDA Tech Hub grant application with ECU as the lead; application involves a planning grant to provide funds to help establish AERO-TECH (Aviation Entrepreneurship and Rural Opportunities-Tech Ecosystems and Commercialization Hub) in the region; unfortunately, the application was not approved, but ECU plans to move the effort forward.
- **Additional Efforts**
 - Submitted an EDA report.
 - Sent out grant newsletter for October.
 - Ongoing conversations with communities about grant opportunities.
 - Ongoing conversations / correspondence with EDA staff about CEDS efforts.

Attachments:

None

PERFORMANCE PROGRESS REPORT / EDA UPDATE
Neuse River Council of Governments

Date:	10/30/23
Grant Recipient:	Neuse River Council of Governments
Grant Number:	04-06-07797
Report Type:	Performance Progress Report
Reporting Period:	04/01/2023 – 09/30/23
Final Report:	No
Report Due Date:	10/30/23

BACKGROUND

The Neuse River Council of Governments (d/b/a Eastern Carolina Council, or ECC) was founded in 1967 to serve the eastern North Carolina Counties and the municipalities in Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Pamlico, and Wayne. Over the years, there have been several periods of leadership challenges, and at times, the COG has struggled to be relevant. Most recently, the executive director position became vacant in July 2021.

The ECC Executive Committee voted to recommend to the ECC Board of Directors and the local governments in the region to rebuild the ECC into a comprehensive COG that will maximize the relevancy of the organization to its owners, the local governments of the region. To accomplish that goal, not only will the local governments have to financially support and participate in efforts of the ECC but will have to acquire a staff that possesses the skill sets to provide the services needed and desired by the region's local governments.

The Neuse River Council of Governments currently is designated by the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic as an EDA District for Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Pamlico, and Wayne counties in eastern North Carolina. The District is in good standing with an approved Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) plan on file with EDA-Atlanta.

The current EDA planning grant has historically funded the salary and work of the COG's executive director position. Some of the COG's tasks were contracted out for project work in the last few years, because there are no other professional staff at the COG providing community economic development technical assistance, grant writing, and project development.

ECC is currently designated an Economic Development District by the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration. It risks losing that designation if the ECC does not successfully rebuild into a functional COG. This grant provides resources to assist in the re-establishment of capacity at ECC.

PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN ACCOMPLISHING SCOPE OF WORK GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- **GOAL #1** –

- PLANNED - Develop Strategic Priorities for ECC.
- ACTUAL PROGRESS
 - In the February 9th Executive Committee meeting, Executive Director David Bone facilitated a conversation with the Executive Committee about the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (or SWOT analysis) for the organization.
 - ECC Staff also completed a SWOT analysis on March 13th.
 - Executive Director Bone took feedback from the two SWOT analyses to draft some strategic priorities for the 2023-24 fiscal year and presented them at the April 13th ECC Executive Committee meeting.
 - At the June 8, 2023, meeting, the Executive Committee recommended, and the General Membership Board approved the 2023-24 Strategic Goals.
 - It is planned to develop annual goals as part of the annual budget process.

- **GOAL #2** –

- PLANNED – Continue to expand planning and management technical assistance services.
- ACTUAL PROGRESS
 - ECC is assisting the Town of Pink Hill and the Town of Peletier with ongoing zoning administration services.
 - ECC is assisting the Town of Pink Hill with the development of the town's first Comprehensive Plan.
 - ECC assisted Vanceboro, Bogue, and Pink Hill with land use ordinance compliance reviews to be compliant with the State of NC's 160D statute compliance.
 - ECC is currently assisting the Town of Oriental and the Town of Pikeville with land use ordinance compliance reviews to be compliant with the State of NC's 160D statute compliance.
 - ECC is assisting the Town of Richlands with Subdivision Plant Review.

- ECC assisted Dover, Faison, Beulaville, Atlantic Beach, Pollocksville, and Lenoir County with grant writing assistance.
 - ECC is currently assisting the Town of Faison with grant administration.
 - ECC successfully assisted the Town of Dover with a Town Clerk search.
 - ECC is currently assisting the Town of Newport with a Fire Chief search.
- **GOAL #3 –**
 - PLANNED – Evaluate opportunities and implement strategies to expand organizational and staff capacity.
 - ACTUAL PROGRESS
 - ECC evaluated opportunities to recruit and hire a Regional Planning Director. Larry Faison was hired and started on October 9, 2023.
 - ECC applied for and received approval as the Local Development District (LDD) for the Southeastern Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC).
 - ECC applied for and was approved for a Digital Inclusion planning grant through the NCSU Institute for Emerging Issues. The grant was approved, and we are waiting for the final grant contract. Some funding will be included to support staff efforts.
 - ECC applied for a position through the Climate Action Corps (an AmeriCorps program). The position is expected to start January 2024.
 - ECC partnered with several organizations on 2 NOAA grants that would have provided some funding for staff, but the grant applications were not funded.
 - ECC partnered with the State of NC on a FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant. If approved, this program should fund a position for at least 2 years.
- **GOAL #4 –**
 - PLANNED – Continue member outreach / positive communication.
 - ACTUAL PROGRESS
 - Distribution of the monthly ECC newsletter has continued.
 - Distribution of the monthly ECC grants newsletter has continued.
 - Distribution of the weekly ECC updates has continued.
 - ECC has distributed several press releases.

- The ECC website has been updated, and some pages have been revamped.
- Social media posts have increased.

- **GOAL #5 –**

- PLANNED – Have a net gain of at least three new member communities in 2023-24.
- ACTUAL PROGRESS
 - At ECC’s September 14th Executive Committee meeting, several counties and municipalities were recognized and welcomed as new ECC members in 2023-24, including:
 - Onslow County
 - Craven County
 - City of Jacksonville
 - City of New Bern
 - Town of Magnolia
 - Town of La Grange
 - Additionally, the Town of Peletier joined in July 2023.

- **GOAL #6 –**

- PLANNED – Seek new financial resources, including grants and evaluation of membership dues structure.
- ACTUAL PROGRESS
 - ECC applied for and received approval as the Local Development District (LDD) for the Southeastern Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC).
 - ECC applied for and was approved for a Digital Inclusion planning grant through the NCSU Institute for Emerging Issues. The grant was approved, and we are waiting for the final grant contract. Some funding will be included to support staff efforts.
 - ECC applied for a position through the Climate Action Corps (an AmeriCorps program). The position is expected to start January 2024.
 - ECC partnered with several organizations on 2 NOAA grants that would have provided some funding for staff, but the grant applications were not funded.
 - ECC partnered with the State of NC on a FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant. If approved, this program should fund a position for at least 2 years.

- The ECC dues structure is currently under evaluation. Discussion of this item is planned for the November 3rd Budget & Audit Committee and Executive Committee meetings.
- **GOAL #7** –
 - PLANNED – Expand network of federal, state, local, and not-for-profit connections to build regional partnerships; continue to participate in regional conversations and promote the regional concept / collaboration.
 - ACTUAL
 - Hosted several workshops in partnership with federal, state, and non-profit organizations.
 - Held introductory conversations with several nonprofits.
 - Added nonprofits to monthly ECC grants newsletter distribution lists.
 - Allowed several nonprofits to attend a 2-day grant writing class at no cost.

DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

(As applicable, should include information on specific reasons why goals and objectives were not met, and plans to resolve the difficulties.)

Goals were met.

ACTIVITIES ANTICIPATED DURING NEXT REPORTING PERIOD

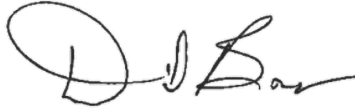
(Should correspond to “Planned” entries under Progress Achieved in the next report.)

- **GOAL #1** – Provide update on Strategic Priorities for ECC Executive Committee.
- **GOAL #2** – Continue to expand planning and management technical assistance services.
- **GOAL #3** – Evaluate opportunities and implement strategies to expand organizational and staff capacity.
- **GOAL #4** – Continue member outreach / positive communication.
- **GOAL #5** – Make at least 3 presentations to non-member local governments to show the value of ECC membership.

- **GOAL #6** – Continue to seek new financial resources, including grants and evaluation of membership dues structure.
- **GOAL #7** – Continue to expand network of federal, state, local, and not-for-profit connections to build regional partnerships; continue to participate in regional conversations and promote the regional concept / collaboration.

Respectfully Submitted by

Authorized Official

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Bone', is written over a horizontal line.

David Bone, Executive Director

10/30/23

Date

PROGRESS REPORT / EDA UPDATE
Neuse River Council of Governments

Date:	10/30/23
Grant Recipient:	Neuse River Council of Governments
Grant Number:	ED21ATL3020016
Report Type:	Performance Progress Report
Reporting Period:	04/01/2023 – 09/30/2023
Final Report:	No
Report Due Date:	10/30/2023

PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN ACCOMPLISHING SCOPE OF WORK GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of EDA planning investments is to provide support to planning organizations for the development, implementation, revision, or replacement of Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) pursuant to Section 303 of EDA's Final Rule. Progress on the goals as stated in the prior semi-annual report include:

- **GOAL #1** –
 - PLANNED – Continue to utilize the CEDS and CEDS process to meet with community leaders in the region and foster collaborative regional economic development efforts.
 - ACTUAL
 - Promoted ECC's 2023-27 CEDS in presentations to various communities.
 - Shared ECC's 4 priority areas for the CEDS in various conversations and presentations:
 - (1) Cultivate and champion regional collaboration and partnership.
 - (2) Develop critical infrastructure to grow economic opportunities and support disaster resiliency.
 - (3) Grow and support skilled workforce and enhance educational attainment.
 - (4) Create healthy and connected communities and improve quality of life.
 - Discussed regional collaboration in various regional manager meetings.

- Participated in a Wayne County Education to Workforce meeting (associated with the myFutureNC educational attainment goal effort) in April.
- Included economic developers in an April 21st city-county managers meeting, which was held at the NC Global Transpark and included a Tour of the NC Global Transpark, FlyExclusive (a private jet charter service), Draken International (a military flight training company), and Lenoir Community College's Advanced Manufacturing System.
- Continued to collaborate with the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board on Workforce Development efforts.
- Participated in an Aerospace Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) meeting at the NC Global TransPark on May 8th.
- On May 11th, ECC Board adopted a resolution of support for myFutureNC's educational attainment goal of having 2 million North Carolinians with a high-quality credential or postsecondary degree by 2030.
- Participated in quarterly meeting of the Highway 17-64 Association (includes part of the future I-87 corridor)
- Participated in quarterly meetings of the Highway 70 Commission (involves the future I-42 corridor).
- Participated in the development of a regional EDA Tech Hub grant application with ECU as the lead; provided a letter of support for application; application involves a planning grant to provide funds to help establish AERO-TECH (Aviation Entrepreneurship and Rural Opportunities-Tech Ecosystems and Commercialization Hub) in the region.
- Participated in ongoing discussions about a regional water effort in Wayne County.
- Coordinated with International Economic Development Council (IEDC) and various communities for projects across the region (will provide an economic development professional to provide recommendations on a particular project at no cost to community; individual typically visits community for several day.
- Participated in county meetings with municipalities in their counties – Wayne, Pamlico, Jones, Duplin, and Onslow counties.
- Continued ongoing conversation about a potential EDA grant application for ONWASA and Jacksonville Onslow Economic Development.
- Continued conversation with NCSU Institute for Emerging Issues on potential Digital Inclusion Plan project for the region.
- Supported a Job Fair in Greene County on September 13th.
- Participated in several Craven Workforce Development Pipeline meetings.

- Planned and promoted the Eastern Carolina Transportation Summit (which was held October 19, 2023). The theme was, “Investments in Transportation - a Driving Force in Economic Development”.
- **GOAL #2** –
 - PLANNED – Expand network of federal, state, local, and not-for-profit connections to build regional partnerships; continue to participate in regional conversations and promote the regional concept / collaboration.
 - ACTUAL
 - Hosted several workshops in partnership with federal, state, and non-profit organizations.
 - Held introductory conversations with several nonprofits.
 - Added nonprofits to monthly ECC grants newsletter distribution lists.
 - Allowed several nonprofits to attend a 2-day grant writing class at no cost.
- **GOAL #3** –
 - PLANNED – Begin meeting quarterly as a group with economic developers in the region to assess the changing economic development climate / regional economy, develop a regional economic development conversation, and foster collaborative regional economic development efforts.
 - ACTUAL
 - Included economic developers in an April 21st city-county managers meeting, which was held at the NC Global Transpark and included a Tour of the NC Global Transpark, FlyExclusive (a private jet charter service), Draken International (a military flight training company), and Lenoir Community College’s Advanced Manufacturing System.
 - Coordinated with International Economic Development Council (IEDC) and various communities for projects across the region (will provide an economic development professional to provide recommendations on a particular project at no cost to community; individual typically visits community for several days).
- **GOAL #4** –
 - PLANNED – Meet individually with economic developers in the region to discuss ways ECC can support their efforts.
 - ACTUAL
 - Met with economic developers of:
 - Craven County

- Jones County
 - Pamlico County
 - Greene County
 - Wayne County
 - Lenoir County
 - Duplin County
 - Onslow County
 - (Carteret County position has been vacant for some time)
 - City of New Bern
- **GOAL #5 –**
 - PLANNED – Continue to promote EDA programs and resources to local member governments to facilitate project development and implementation of strategies to ensure the region’s capacity to provide the necessary infrastructure and workforce to attract private investment and encourage the creation and expansion of higher-paying-jobs; hold a regional workshop to promote EDA programs.
 - ACTUAL
 - Continued conversations with the NC Coastal Federation about its EDA Aquaculture Hub Project. Funding was approved!
 - Participated in the development of a regional EDA Tech Hub grant application with ECU as the lead; provided a letter of support for application; application involves a planning grant to provide funds to help establish AERO-TECH (Aviation Entrepreneurship and Rural Opportunities-Tech Ecosystems and Commercialization Hub) in the region.
 - Continued ongoing conversation about a potential EDA grant application for ONWASA and Jacksonville Onslow Economic Development.
 - Held meetings with Craven Community College about a potential EDA grant.
 - Held a meeting with Wayne Community College about potential EDA grant opportunities.
 - Held EDA workshops on grant opportunities on May 24th and June 26th.
- **GOAL #6 –**
 - PLANNED – Strive to have at least one grant administration contract for an EDA grant.
 - ACTUAL

- Received good news about from EDA the Aquaculture Hub Project (NC Coastal Federation) – funding was approved! ECC is expected to administer this grant.
 - Continued ongoing conversation about a potential EDA grant application for ONWASA and Jacksonville Onslow Economic Development.
- **GOAL #7 –**
 - PLANNED – Continue to develop the regional conversation for support of the military assets in the region.
 - ACTUAL
 - Included economic developers in an April 21st city-county managers meeting, which was held at the NC Global Transpark and included a Tour of the NC Global Transpark, FlyExclusive (a private jet charter service), Draken International (a military flight training company), and Lenoir Community College’s Advanced Manufacturing System.
 - Participated in an Aerospace Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) meeting at the NC Global TransPark on May 8th.
 - Participated in the development of a regional EDA Tech Hub grant application with ECU as the lead; provided a letter of support for application; application involves a planning grant to provide funds to help establish AERO-TECH (Aviation Entrepreneurship and Rural Opportunities-Tech Ecosystems and Commercialization Hub) in the region.
 - Invited the USMC Air Station Cherry Point civilian employee to attend ECC General Membership Board meetings.
 - Spoke with the managers of Craven County, Wayne County, Onslow County, City of Jacksonville, City of Havelock, and City of Goldsboro about importance of supporting our military and the possibility of hosting a regional event that focuses on supporting the military and defense community.
- **GOAL #8 –**
 - PLANNED – Work on outreach to tourism and chamber of commerce leadership in the region.
 - ACTUAL
 - Reached-out to Chamber and Tourism leadership in promotion of the Transportation Summit (held Oct. 19, 2023).
 - Included Chamber and Tourism representatives / perspectives in panel discussions for the Transportation Summit.
 - Updated Chamber / Tourism contact information in our contact lists.

- Promoted tourism assets and events on social media.
- Promoted NC's "Year of the Trail" on social media.

DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

(As applicable, should include information on specific reasons why goals and objectives were not met, and plans to resolve the difficulties.)

- **GOAL #3** –
 - PLANNED – Begin meeting quarterly as a group with economic developers in the region to assess the changing economic development climate / regional economy, develop a regional economic development conversation, and foster collaborative regional economic development efforts.
 - ACTUAL
 - Included economic developers in an April 21st city-county managers meeting, which was held at the NC Global Transpark and included a Tour of the NC Global Transpark, FlyExclusive (a private jet charter service), Draken International (a military flight training company), and Lenoir Community College's Advanced Manufacturing System.
 - GOAL MOVING FORWARD – engage economic developers more directly. It can be a challenge to get commitments from economic developers for meetings, as they are focused on assisting their clients. Getting buy-in and showing value will be important. ECC could do this possibly in collaboration with the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board (which we have discussed on several occasions).

ACTIVITIES ANTICIPATED DURING NEXT REPORTING PERIOD

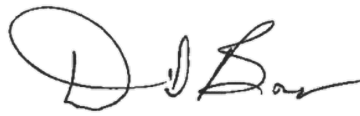
(Should correspond to "Planned" entries under Progress Achieved in the next report.)

- **GOAL #1** – Develop short-term goals to support and implement the priorities of the 2023-27 CEDS.
- **GOAL #2** – Continue to expand network of federal, state, local, and not-for-profit connections to build regional partnerships; continue to participate in regional conversations and promote the regional concept / collaboration.
- **GOAL #3** – Develop a plan to meet with economic developers in the region on a regular basis to assess the changing economic development climate / regional economy, develop a regional economic development conversation, and foster collaborative regional economic development efforts.
- **GOAL #4** – Continue to engage economic developers in the region individually to discuss ways ECC can support their efforts.

- **GOAL #5** – Continue to promote EDA programs and resources to local member governments.
- **GOAL #6** – Begin grant administration services for the NC Coastal Federation and its EDA Aquaculture Hub Project.
- **GOAL #7** – Continue to develop the regional conversation for support of the military assets in the region.
- **GOAL #8** – Continue to develop outreach efforts to tourism and chamber of commerce leadership in the region.

Respectfully Submitted by

Authorized Official



David Bone, Executive Director

October 30, 2023

Date

Summary:

The following is an update from the Area Agency on Aging.

- **New Staff Member – Amanda Young** – ECC welcomes Amanda Young to our Area Agency on Aging team. Amanda Young has joined ECCAAA as an Aging Consultant. Amanda worked at the Carteret County Department of Social Services as a Family and Children's Income Maintenance Case Worker for five years. She provided information on program eligibility, information, and referral programs. She worked closely with clients to ensure that they were aware of the resources available to them in Carteret County. Amanda has a background working in emergency medical services in multiple counties in the region and brings great knowledge to ECC.
- **ECC Representation in the Senior Tar Heel Legislature** –
 - On October 4, 2023, Woody Brinson, from Duplin County, was elected and sworn in as the North Carolina Senior Tar Heel Speaker (NCSTHL). Mr. Brinson will be the principal officer and official spokesperson of the NCSTHL. He will preside over all sessions of the STHL and all meetings of the Executive Committee.
 - On October 4, 2023, Elliott Ashburn, from Greene County, Elliott was elected to the office of Deputy Speaker Pro Tempore, the 3rd ranking officer. Due to a conflict, Elliott was unable to be present on October 4th and was sworn in on October 17th.
 - Walter LaRoque, of Lenoir County, serves on the NCSTHL Executive Committee as President of the Friends of Senior Tar Heels nonprofit which helps provide financial support to the NCSTHL. Walter was elected by the Friends Board of Directors in 2021 and re-elected again this year.

ECCAAA would like to congratulate all of these individuals for representing our region on the state level!

- **Volunteers Needed for Community Advisory Committees** – The AAA Ombudsman program is seeking volunteers for their Community Advisory Committees (CAC's). Community Advisory Committee members work to ensure quality care for persons residing in long term care facilities. For further information on CAC volunteer opportunities, please visit our website at <https://eccog.org/human-services-area-agency-on-aging/programs-and-services/long-term-care/community-advisory-committees/>.
- **ECCAAA Participates in Pollapalooza** – ECCAAA staff member January Brown attended the Pollapalooza Festival that was held on October 21, 2023, at the Pollocksville Elementary School. Vendors included Jones County Department of Social Services, Jones County Parks, and Recreation Department, and much more. Participants received information on older adult services, the Family Caregiver Support Program, fraud, and the ECCAAA Ombudsman Program. The annual event brings together members of the

community to engage with others, learn about services available in the community, and to engage with vendors.

- **ECCAAA Participates in New Bern Health Expo** – ECCAAA staff provided an information and resource table at the City of New Bern Health Expo on October 26, 2023 at the West New Bern Recreation Center. City employees attended informational sessions and talked with vendors regarding services. ECCAAA provided information to employees to include the Family Caregiver Support Program, Ombudsman Program, older adult services, volunteer opportunities, and fraud prevention information. AAA staff engaged with city employees to include the New Bern Police Department, Fire Department, local government members, parks and recreation staff, and many more.
- **October was National Resident Rights Month** – National Resident Rights Month is an opportunity to focus on and celebrate the dignity and rights of individuals receiving care in long-term care facilities. ECCAAA Ombudsman conducted long-term care resident rights presentations throughout the region during October 2023.
- **November is National Family Caregiver's Month** – National Family Caregiver's Month is celebrated each November to recognize and honor family caregivers across the country.
- **November is National Alzheimer's Awareness Month** – Alzheimer's Disease is the most common form of dementia among older adults. According to the Alzheimer's Association, there are more than 5.7 million people in the United States currently living with Alzheimer's. There are 180,000 individuals 65 years and older living with Alzheimer's in North Carolina. This number is expected to reach 210,000 by the year 2025. For further information and support, please visit Eastern Carolina Council Area Agency on Aging Family Caregiver Support Program https://eccog.org/human-services-area-agency-on-aging_trashed/family-caregiver-support-program/respitel/, Dementia Alliance North Carolina at <https://dementianc.org/>, or the Alzheimer's Association at <https://www.alz.org>.

Summary:

The following is an update on our Community Planning Technical Assistance efforts:

- **ARP Technical Assistance (through NCARCOG / State grant funding)**
 - Staff is working with communities on an ongoing basis to assist communities in developing policies and procedures, as well as ARP reporting.
- **Disaster Recovery Technical Assistance (through NCARCOG / State grant funding)**
 - The State of North Carolina received a \$6 million dollar appropriation from the North Carolina General Assembly in Session Law 2021-180c to support local governments effectively to manage disaster recovery funding and build capacity essentially to recover from disasters. The North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management (“OSBM”) entered into a subaward agreement with NC Association of Regional Councils of Government (NCRCOG) regarding these funds.
 - One of the purposes of this grant funding / program is to provide training and support to local governments for disaster recovery / hazard mitigation plan training and development. The NCARCOG selected High Street Consulting and Tidal Basin Consulting to assist with the development of a training module on Disaster Recovery. ECC Finance Director Melinda McGuire is working with High Street Consulting and a committee of staff members from other Councils of Government to develop a curriculum for disaster recovery training. All the COGs will be assisting the consultant to develop the curriculum, and a “train the trainer” event for COG staff planned for December 2023. We expect to implement the training program in ECC in 2024.
 - ECC is collaborating with Upper Coastal Plains COG (UCPCOG) and a consultant – Working Landscapes (<https://workinglandscapesnc.org/>) – to assist with some of the scope of work for the grant. Working Landscapes will assist ECC and UCPCOG engaging communities with interest in:
 - Developing strategic priorities for disaster recovery / resiliency,
 - Seeking grants for water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure, and
 - Providing possible other assistance related to the recommendations from the RISE (Regions Innovating for Strong Economies and Environment) program.
 - As a follow-up to the ECC Disaster Resiliency Interest Survey, regional workshops were held October 23, 24, and 30. Attendance ranged from 15-30 per site.
 - As part of the Disaster Recovery Technical Assistance, ECC will be assisting the Town of Newport with an update to its Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance, grant funding was secured for this initiative and therefore provided at no direct cost to the Town.

- **Training Events Added to ECC Training Schedule**
 - ECC staff is working to provide ongoing training opportunities to its members. Our goal is to host at least one training opportunity per month.
 - Training events and other meetings are on ECC's new event calendar (at <https://eccog.org/>).
 - ECC's upcoming training schedule includes:
 - *Grant Writing* with ECC's Holly C. Lippitt, Nov. 7, 8.
 - *Flood Insurance and the NFIP* with ISO/CRS Specialist, David Holcomb – Nov 14: 2-3PM, (hybrid hosted event).
 - *Brownfields* with Joselyn Harringer, - Nov. 15th 10:00-11:30 AM, (hybrid hosted event).
- **160-D Compliance Ordinance Reviews**
 - ECC is now assisting the Town of Oriental and the Town of Pikeville with their 160D updates.
 - ECC Community Planner Carlton Gideon is performing research into Best Practices related to the design of comprehensive plans & subdivision ordinances to further assist existing contracts for technical assistance and prospective proposals.
- **Bridgeton:** ECC has offered the Town two proposals that would update their Minimum Housing Code and provide enforcement assistance.
- **Holly Ridge:** ECC Community Planner Carlton Gideon has been invited to participate in the Town's Community Action Team (CAT) for Resilient Coastal Communities Program (RCCP). Carlton's involvement will include providing insights on principles and practices from a regional perspective during meetings of the town's CAT-RCCP.
- **Pink Hill Comprehensive Plan (in partnership with Colliers):** Results from a community survey have been used to develop a preliminary Plan. Staff will be scheduling dates to review the draft Plan with Stakeholders and Council in early-mid November.
- **Pink Hill Land Use Administration**
 - Services are ongoing.
- **Peletier Zoning Administration**
 - Services are ongoing.
- **Richlands Subdivision Plat Review Service**
 - Services are ongoing.
- **Grants Newsletter**
 - Thee ECC's *Grant Resources and Opportunities* newsletter is distributed monthly, and are archived online at <https://eccog.org/planning-resources/>.

- **Grant Administration**

- ECC Community Planner Carlton Gideon is assisting the Town of Calypso with the application process for the FEMA - Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities (BRIC) in the program area - Capabilities & Capacity Building (C&CB). The application was channeled through NC Department of Public Safety (NCDPS), the Town will be a potential subrecipient of approximately \$200,000 for sewer rehabilitation.
- ECC Community Planner Holly C. Lippett is assisting the Town of Faison with a Rural Transformation Fund Grant (RTFG). The Town received a grant award of \$180,000 to make improvements to their town park. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has approved the project review, RTFG's review is ongoing.
- ECC Community Planner Holly C. Lippett is assisting the Town of Pine Knoll Shores with a FEMA - Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG). The Town is seeking funds for a Fire Apparatus to replace their 2007 Pump Truck.

- **NC Climate Action Corps**

- ECC was approved to participate in the NC Climate Action Corps (an AmeriCorps program).
- This effort would build upon the Eastern NC RISE (Regions Innovating for Strong Economies and Environment) program.
- An AmeriCorps team member would serve as a Resilience Project Coordinator and would serve as the Eastern Carolina Council's region's primary resource for community and climate resilience and will work on addressing the Eastern NC RISE priorities.
- ECC Staff is collaborating with the Conservation Trust NC (Nick DeColandrea) for development of the Job Description and the Recruitment process.
- The NC Climate Action Corps effort is expected to start in ECC in January 2024.

- **Digital Inclusion Plans**

- In partnership with the Institute of Emerging Issues at NC State University, ECC applied for grant funding from the NC Department of Information Technology to assist in the development of digital inclusion plans in our region.
- The NCSU Institute of Emerging Issues received a grant award from NC DIT.
- ECC is waiting on an agreement from NCSU IEI (Jess Epstein & Samantha Graham)
- Grant funds should provide funding to help local leaders in Craven, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Onslow, and Pamlico develop a collaborative and equitable digital inclusion plan. (Carteret, Duplin, and Wayne Counties already have a digital inclusion plan or are working on one.)
- ECC expects to host multiple public engagement sessions on a regional basis to gather input from those communities. The data will be integrated with the assistance of a subcontractor to develop regional plans incorporating jurisdictional perspectives.

- **Planning Staff Development**

- Community Planner Holly C. Lippitt was accepted into a School of Government class entitled, *Planning and Development Regulations*, which began on Sept. 11th and ended on Nov. 3rd. This was a 13-day class (about 3.5 hours each day); most of the program was virtual, with the last few days held in Chapel Hill.

Summary:

The following is a Transportation update from our RPO staff:

- **FY24 RPO Workplans** - NCDOT confirmed approval earlier this year and provided notice of the fiscal year funding level that sets forth this formula: 80% federal, 15% state, and a 5% local match (80/15/5), the local match is exclusive of any other federal or state funds. The funding is provided on a reimbursement basis for transportation planning expenses that were described in each of the RPO Workplans.
 - ECRPO: Federal: \$122,400, State: \$22,950, and Local: \$7,650 (Program Total: \$145,350)
 - DERPO: Federal: \$128,720, State: \$24,135, and Local: \$8,045 (Program Total: \$152,855)
- **SPOT 7.0** – The Strategic Prioritization Process (SPOT) is the methodology that NCDOT uses to develop the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The prioritization process was created to ensure input from local officials and the public in the transportation planning process. It is a transparent, data driven process that selects DOT projects for funding and is used to develop the State Transportation Improvement Plan. The Plan is updated every two years.

On October 27th the ECRPO and DERPO completed the submittal process for their respective RPO projects. The submittals included more than 110 transportation projects, of which there were 40 highway, 24 aviation, 5 rail, 34 Bike/Ped, and 11 ferry. The submittals from ECRPO and DERPO will now be scored by the NCDOT/SPOT Office over the next few months, and the RPO's should know the scores for all projects sometime in Spring 2024. After scores are released, the RPO's will deliberate on which projects will be given local input points for regional impact and division needs projects. The Staff appreciates the diligent and dedicated effort of our committee members from the ECRPO and DERPO during this submittal period.

The Eastern Carolina RPO (ECRPO) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) approved the project list for P7.0 on September 21st at its regularly scheduled meeting. Highway projects were submitted October 27th for scoring and are listed below in no particular order:

- Widen US 258 to 4-lane divided highway from Browntown Road to Kingold Boulevard.
- Construct new Roadway off NC 24 creating a shallow bypass of Beaulaville.
- Kinston Bypass (6 sections; A, B, CA, CB, CC, D).
- Upgrade at-grade intersection of US 117 and West West Main Street (Mt Olive) to grade separation or interchange.

- NC 903 extension to Middle School Road.
- Widen NC 41 from NC 11 to Jack Dale Road to four lanes with paved shoulders.
- Improve multiple intersections along NC 24 from NC 11 to Routledge Road.
- Construct left turn lane on NC 41 at SR 1827.
- Upgrade at-grade intersection to grade separation or interchange at US 13 and NC 58 in Snow Hill.
- Intersection improvements at US 258 and NC 58 (Kingold Boulevard).
- Widen NC 58 (Kingold Boulevard) from the US 13 intersection to US 258 to five lanes with center turn lane.
- Construct turn lane on NC 41 at SR 1947 (Hanchey Road).
- Widen NC 241 from NC 24 to Beaulaville Town limits to a 4-lane median divided boulevard with appropriate median breaks and traffic signals.
- Access management along NC 148 (CF Harvey Parkway) from US 258 to NC 58.
- Construction of Pink Hill Bypass on NC 11 from Faison Turner Lane to Bob Stroud Road.
- Construction of Spine Road (north side of runway at GTP) from NC 148 to NC 58.

The ECRPO submitted 60 projects for scoring in SPOT 7.0 prioritization process, which included twenty-one highway projects, eighteen aviation, seventeen bike/ped, two of both rail and public transportation projects were submitted. For more information on the highway projects listed above, please contact Mickey Anderson, ECRPO Transportation Planner, at manderson@eccog.org.

The Down East RPO (DERPO) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) approved the project list for P7.0 on September 26th. Highway projects were submitted October 27th for scoring and are listed below in no particular order:

- Carteret: Upgrade US 70 to Interstate Standards to McCabe Rd.
- Carteret: NC 24 Superstreet Red Barn Rd to McCabe Rd.
- Carteret: Little Nine Rd. Widening and Extension.
- Carteret: Lake Rd. Modernization.
- Carteret: Nine Mile/Nine Foot Rd Modernization.
- Carteret: Arendell St Intersection Bundle.
- Carteret: Taylor Notion Rd Intersection Bundle.
- Carteret: Hibbs Rd Modernization.
- Carteret: Atlantic Beach Causeway.
- Carteret: NC 24 Superstreet from McCabe to US 70 superstreet.
- Craven: Piney Neck Rd Modernization.
- Craven: Lake Rd Widening to Havelock Bypass.

- Craven: NC 101 Intersection Bundle (Ferry Rd, Temple Point Rd, Adams Creek Rd).
- Jones: US 17/US 17 BUS Interchange Upgrade.
- Jones: Maysville NC 58/US 17 BUS Roundabout.
- Pamlico: Neuse Rd/Prescott Rd intersection improvement.
- Pamlico: Florence Rd modernization.
- Pamlico: Janeiro/Buckland Rd. modernization in Pamlico County.

The DERPO submitted 56 new transportation projects for scoring in the SPOT 7.0 prioritization process, which included nineteen highway submittals (the maximum we are allotted), six aviation submittals, three rail submittals, eleven ferry submittals, and seventeen bike/ped submittals. For more information on the highway projects listed above, please contact Becca Eversole, DERPO Senior Transportation Planner, at beversole@eccog.org.

- **Kinston By-pass - USACE Stakeholder Meeting:** RPO Transportation Planners - Becca Eversole, Senior Transportation Planner & Micajah Anderson, Transportation Planner participated in a ZOOM Session on November 9th, involving the Kinston Bypass, the session was hosted by US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

The purpose of the session was to validate project purpose & information, the preferred alternative, project process, to aggregate interests-concerns-ideas of stakeholders, and to identify and/or clarify potentially new and existing mitigative measures. The last Stakeholder meeting hosted by USACE was held on June 15, 2023. USACE has stressed that a final decision related to the project has not been made, that they are actively engaging stakeholders to help determine new or modified minimization and/or mitigation measures for inclusion in the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).

- **Transportation Summit – October 19th:** The ECC hosted the Eastern Carolina Transportation Summit on October 19, 2023, in New Bern, and we had a terrific event! The theme was, *“Investments in Transportation - a Driving Force in Economic Development.”*

Participants received updates on the US-70 (Future I-42) and US-17 corridors, we had great panel discussion about the importance of transportation investment to various industry sectors, and NCDOT Secretary Joey Hopkins provided the keynote address. Additionally, we received intermodal updates (including Airport, Rail, Ferries, Transit, and Bike/Ped) and a presentation on the City of Wilson’s Microtransit initiative.

Thank you to our speakers and panelists, and thank you to our event sponsors, which included:

- Craven County,
- TranSystems,
- Colliers Engineering & Design,

- JMT Engineering, and
- Coastal Carolina Regional Airport (EWN).
- **NCARPO Quarterly Meeting:** The Down East RPO was privileged to host the quarterly meeting of the NC Association of RPO Directors on October 27-28th at Atlantic Beach Town Hall. The meeting included several informative presentations and a tour of the Fort Macon Coast Guard Station. We extend a warm thanks to the town of Atlantic Beach for their fabulous accommodations.
- **Carbon Reduction Plan Grant Awards** – The Carbon Reduction Plan, a grant program resulting from the American Rescue Plan, provides funding for local projects with a goal of reducing carbon emissions. Guidelines for these grants are left intentionally open-ended, leaving municipalities and counties with a wide range of options to seek funding for. Projects can be anything from purchasing new EV transit vehicles (subject to Buy America), new traffic signalization, roundabouts, bike lanes, greenways, sidewalks and more.

In the first round of CRP funding:

- The Town of Atlantic Beach received a grant award of approximately \$327,000 for its sidewalk extension project on NC-58.
- The Town of Pollocksville received an award of \$400,000 for a pedestrian project on its Main Street.
- Lenoir County received \$3.3 million in funding for the Kinston Riverwalk Phase 2 project. ECRPO Staff, county planning, and NCDOT are currently working on determining the next steps for this great opportunity.

Thanks to Becca and Mickey for helping these communities successfully apply for these grants!

NCDOT is currently accepting applications on a rolling, quarterly basis for the CRP:

- Quarter 1 – runs through March 31st
- Quarter 2 – runs through June 30th
- Quarter 3 – runs through September 30th
- Quarter 4 – runs through December 31st

The Carbon Reduction Plan (CRP), as per most federal programs, requires a 20% local match for all grants awarded. CRP projects are locally administered, but DOT can be used for assistance. If any entity is interested in the CRP, you must apply through your local RPO, please contact Becca Eversole for more information at beversole@eccog.org or call at (252) 229-4332.

- **Greene County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP)** – Greene County is currently developing a new Comprehensive Transportation Plan, or CTP. The CTP is a long range, unconstrained planning document that provides a high-level overview all the transportation needs of a given location for the future. The CTP Steering Committee has

been meeting monthly to review the existing CTP, assess current and future needs, make project recommendations, and provide local context to transportation issues.

The next step in the development of the new CTP is the public survey, which went live on Friday, September 29th, and will remain live until November 22nd. Physical copies of the survey will be distributed in county water bills, municipal water bills, “Wednesday Folders” in the Greene County School system and are available at most government facilities throughout the county (post offices, libraries, county admin building, etc.). The survey is also available to be filled out electronically. Surveys are available in both English and Spanish. Once the survey window closes, NCDOT and ECRPO staff will compile and analyze survey results to present to the CTP Steering Committee. To fill out the survey electronically, please visit the Greene County website at <https://greenecountync.gov/ctp2023/>.

- **Carteret County CTP:** The Carteret County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) Steering Committee held its most recent meeting on Monday, October 23rd. Our partners at NCDOT presented the results of the public survey conducted earlier this year, and we discussed next steps in the process. The CTP is on track to be completed by the end of calendar year 2024. The next steering committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 3rd, at the CCATS Building in Morehead City. For more information on the process contact Becca Eversole, DERPO Senior Transportation Planner, at beversole@eccog.org.
- **Street / Pedestrian Counters Available Through ECC** – Traffic / pedestrian data can be helpful to support transportation requests. If any of local governments would like traffic or pedestrian counts for a particular roadway/intersection, ECC has the counter equipment to do so. For more information, contact ECRPO Transportation Planner Mickey Anderson at manderson@eccog.org or DERPO Senior Transportation Planner Becca Eversole at beversole@eccog.org.

Summary:

The ECC hosted the Eastern Carolina Transportation Summit on October 19, 2023, in New Bern. The theme was, *“Investments in Transportation - a Driving Force in Economic Development.”*

Approximately 140 participants received updates on the US-70 (*Future I-42*) and US-17 corridors, we had an intriguing panel discussion about the importance of transportation investment to various industry sectors, and NCDOT Secretary Joey Hopkins provided the keynote address. Additionally, we received intermodal updates (*including Airport, Rail, Ferries, Transit, and Bike/Ped*) and a presentation on the City of Wilson’s Micro-transit initiative.

The Summit included a variety of speakers that included these personalities:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ✓ <i>Jeff Cabaniss, PE, NCDOT Division 2 Engineer</i> | ✓ <i>Kurt Rogerson, 2024 Chair, Carteret Co. Chamber of Commerce</i> |
| ✓ <i>Keith Eason, PE, NCDOT Division 4 Engineer</i> | ✓ <i>Mark Pope, President, NC Global TransPark Economic Development Region</i> |
| ✓ <i>M. Durwood Stephenson, Executive Director, I – 42/US – 70 Corridor Commission</i> | ✓ <i>Catherine “Cat” Peele, Interim Assistant Director, NC Shipyard Manns Harbor, NC Ferry Division</i> |
| ✓ <i>Caitlin Melvin, PE, NCDOT Division 3 Deputy Division Engineer</i> | ✓ <i>Stephanie Ayers, Director of Real Estate and Planning, NC Ports</i> |
| ✓ <i>Jeff Cabaniss, PE, NCDOT Division 2 Engineer</i> | ✓ <i>Ed Wu, Director of Engineering, NC Railroad</i> |
| ✓ <i>Marc Finlayson, Executive Director, Highway 17/64 Association</i> | ✓ <i>Brennon Fuqua, Interim Director, Integrated Mobility Division, NCDOT</i> |
| ✓ <i>Dr. Tisha Emerson, Chair, ECU Department of Economics</i> | ✓ <i>Andy Shorter, Coastal Carolina Reg. Airport, New Bern</i> |
| ✓ <i>Steve Yost, President, NC’s Southeast</i> | ✓ <i>Rick Barks, Airport Director, NC Global TransPark, Kinston</i> |
| ✓ <i>Tim McCurry, Marine Corps Liaison, MCB Camp Lejeune, MCAS New River</i> | ✓ <i>Gronna Jones, Transit Manager, City of Wilson</i> |
| ✓ <i>Kevin Johnson, Director, Wayne Co. Cooperative Extension</i> | |

There were quite a few contributing factors that came together to make this Summit incredibly successful – the array of speakers, panelists, and the following sponsors:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| • Craven County, | • JMT Engineering, and |
| • TranSystems, | • Coastal Carolina Regional Airport (EWN) |
| • Colliers Engineering & Design, | |

A hearty thank-you to one and all; the ECC is quite appreciative!

Attachment:

- Letter from River Bend Mayor John Kirkland



TOWN OF RIVER BEND

45 Shoreline Drive
River Bend, NC 28562

T 252.638.3870
F 252.638.2580

www.riverbendnc.org

October 24, 2023

Mr. David Bone
Executive Director, ECC
PO Box 1717
New Bern, NC 28563-1717

Dear David,

I thank you for convening the "Transportation Summit" under the auspices of the ECC. It was very well planned, and the speakers were very appropriately selected. I believe that all who attended were well informed of the issues being faced by DOT. I know that you and your staff worked hard to make the event a success. Please express my appreciation to them as well.

You have brought a new and meaningful life to the ECC, and it can now perform the role that has been needed for some time. Thanks again.

Most Sincerely,


John Kirkland
Mayor

Payment Register from 10/01/2023 to 10/31/2023**01 General - FCB**

EFT or Check #	Date	Vendor / Description	Payment Amount
99843875	10/04/2023	[0485] ONSLOW COUNTY FINANCE DEPT (AUGUST Service Month)	62,203.91
99843874	10/04/2023	[0739] DHHS- Controllers Office (SERVICE MONTH AUGUST 2023)	298.18
EFT	10/06/2023	[0515] CARTERET COUNTY (AUGUST 2023 SERVICE MONTH)	80.00
EFT	10/06/2023	[0310] LENOIR COUNCIL ON AGING (AUGUST 2023 SERVICE MONTH)	1,594.00
EFT	10/06/2023	[0668] DUPLIN COUNTY GOVERNMENT (AUGUST 2023 SERVICE MONTH)	40,307.04
EFT	10/06/2023	[0670] CRAVEN COUNTY FINANCE DEPT (AUGUST 2023 SERVICE MONTH)	67,092.26
EFT	10/06/2023	[0671] WAYNE COUNTY FINANCE DEPT (AUGUST 2023 SERVICE MONTH)	77,158.21
EFT	10/06/2023	[0698] LENOIR COUNTY (AUGUST 2023 SERVICE MONTH)	69,279.32
EFT	10/06/2023	[0724] GREENE COUNTY (AUGUST 2023 SERVICE MONTH)	22,946.08
EFT	10/12/2023	Pay period ending 10/06/2023	22,490.54
99843896	10/17/2023	[2332] OREN LEE THOMPSON (MILEAGE 10/7-10/13/23)	8.12
99843880	10/17/2023	[2336] CAROLINA SHRED LLC (Invoices CS86726, CS86726, CS88267)	266.80
99843891	10/17/2023	[2337] OLD NORTH STATE ELECTRIC	368.18
99843886	10/17/2023	[0639] LAROQUE, IV WALTER D. (MILEAGE STHL 10-9-23)	49.78
99843877	10/17/2023	[2287] BLUE ARBOR INC (Invoices 16584, 16683)	1,124.64
99843887	10/17/2023	[2300] Lauren Ann Latshaw (MILEAGE 9/30-10/6/23)	216.75
99843889	10/17/2023	[2301] National Business Furniture LLC (At Work Storage Cabinet (Gray/brushed Nickel) 36754)	787.33
99843888	10/17/2023	[2317] Jackie D McKinney (R&M)	1,395.21
99843890	10/17/2023	[2319] NC Department Of Revenue - Wage Garnishment (Pay period ending 10/06/2023,GarnNCDOR)	162.64
99843881	10/17/2023	[0635] CITY OF NEW BERN (UTILITIES)	1,019.17
99843895	10/17/2023	[0619] ANGELIA H PRIDGEN (Invoices AP101323, AP10623)	398.92
99843898	10/17/2023	[0307] WARD AND SMITH P.A (LEGAL FEES)	4,457.35
99843879	10/17/2023	[0873] JANUARY BROWN (Invoices JB101323, JB10623)	475.99
99843894	10/17/2023	[0636] PIEDMONT NATURAL GAS (GAS)	23.78
99843884	10/17/2023	[1007] HEINRICH, VICTOR (MILEAGE STHL 10-9-23)	58.95
99843883	10/17/2023	[1039] LINDA HARPER (MILEAGE STHL 10-9-23)	81.22
99843897	10/17/2023	[2114] VEL & MEL CATERING SERVICE (Catering for Sept 2023 Board Meeting)	427.35
99843878	10/17/2023	[2157] WOODY BRINSON (MILEAGE STHL 10-9-23)	107.42
99843885	10/17/2023	[2168] INTERLOCAL RISK FINANCING FUND OF NC (Invoices I0039821, I0039990)	7,200.00
99843893	10/17/2023	[2221] PB MARES (Invoices 168336, 170464)	30,000.00
99843876	10/17/2023	[2257] Elliotte Ashburn (MILEAGE STHL 10-9-23)	64.19
99843892	10/17/2023	[2264] Optimum Business (PHONE)	805.57
99843882	10/17/2023	[2278] John Carlton Gideon, III (MILEAGE 9/30-10/6/23)	51.41
99843899	10/18/2023	[0214] THE FLAME CATERING & BANQUET (Transportation Summit)	794.00
99843907	10/25/2023	[0018] MUNICIPAL INSURANCE (Invoices 2023-14, 2023-15, 2023-16, 2023-18, 2023-19, 2023-20)	23,545.00
99843914	10/25/2023	[0307] WARD AND SMITH P.A (LEGAL FEES)	5,838.60
99843909	10/25/2023	[0619] ANGELIA H PRIDGEN (MILEAGE 10/14-10/20/23)	216.81
99843901	10/25/2023	[0635] CITY OF NEW BERN (UTILITIES)	905.60
99843910	10/25/2023	[0337] TERMINIX (PEST CONTROL)	75.00
99843902	10/25/2023	[2278] John Carlton Gideon, III (MILEAGE 10/14-10/20/23)	251.45
99843912	10/25/2023	[2231] USAging (2024 AAA Membership Dues for Heather O'Connor)	3,450.00
99843900	10/25/2023	[2132] B&B Communications, Inc. (LICENSE FOR ESET & CLOUD)	1,549.45
99843913	10/25/2023	[0637] VERIZON WIRELESS (CELL PHONES)	535.50
99843911	10/25/2023	[0982] THEE CATERING COMPANY (CATERING FOR BOARD MEETING)	292.05
99843908	10/25/2023	[2319] NC Department Of Revenue - Wage Garnishment (Pay period ending 10/20/2023,GarnNCDOR)	162.64
99843905	10/25/2023	[2323] JEREMY LEWIS (PAINTING)	3,828.00
99843906	10/25/2023	[2317] Jackie D McKinney (Handyman Services as needed. \$25/hr up to \$4000 max.)	856.52
99843903	10/25/2023	[2310] KOS Financial Services (Invoices 5026317667, 5026711381, 5027088441)	1,784.06

Payment Register from 10/01/2023 to 10/31/2023**01 General - FCB**

<u>EFT or Check #</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Vendor / Description</u>	<u>Payment Amount</u>
99843904	10/25/2023	[2300] Lauren Ann Latshaw (Invoices LL102023, LL102023-1)	234.18
EFT	10/26/2023	Pay period ending 10/20/2023	25,733.08
<u>Total Payments:</u>			<u>483,052.25</u>

**Agenda Item – Budget & Audit Committee Report – Presentation
of Vision for ECC**

November 9, 2023

Summary:

The ECC management team made a presentation to members of the Budget and Audit Committee on October 12, 2023, about a vision for ECC; however, the Budget and Audit Committee did not have a quorum on October 12th. The ECC management team will provide a presentation about a vision for ECC at the November 9th Budget and Audit Committee meeting. The vision includes:

- Re-branding the Aging Department as the Human Services Department (the Department was known as the Human Services Department for a brief period several years).
- Re-energizing ECC's nonprofit that was create a few years ago. (Many councils of government have a nonprofit, because nonprofits can apply for some grants that government agencies cannot. Accessing these grants can empower ECC to be that much more impactful in our communities. For example, one council of government has been able to access over \$1million in housing grants that benefit their region – they would not have been able to access these funds without having their nonprofit.)
- Moving the financial functions in Aging to the Finance Department, so the Human Services Department can focus on programs.
- Establishing a Human Services Manager classification that would be utilized instead of the AAA Director classification. The Human Services Manager would focus on supporting existing programs and growing new Human Services programs.
- Establish an Assistant Executive Director classification, which could be combined with another classification in one person. The Assistant Executive Director would provide leadership in helping to build new community partnerships and pursue funding sources to help support the Human Services Department.

A presentation of this item is also planned for the Executive Committee meeting.

Attachments:

None

**Agenda Item – Budget & Audit Committee Report – Assistant
Executive Director and Human Services Manager**

November 9, 2023

Summary:

As part of the vision for ECC, the following classifications have been suggested:

- Establishing a Human Services Manager classification that would be utilized instead of the AAA Director classification. The Human Services Manager would focus on supporting existing programs and growing new Human Services programs.
- Establish an Assistant Executive Director classification, which could be combined with another classification in one person. The Assistant Executive Director would provide leadership in helping to build new community partnerships and pursue funding sources to help support the Human Services Department.

Current ECC classifications include:

Grade	Hiring Rate	Minimum	Mid Point	Maximum	Position Title
21	65,299	68,563	84,888	104,478	Deputy AAA Director Deputy Finance Director
22	68,563	71,992	89,133	109,702	Area Agency on Aging Director Regional Planning Director
23	71,992	75,591	93,590	115,187	
24	75,591	79,371	98,269	120,947	
25	79,371	83,339	103,183	126,995	
26	83,339	87,507	108,341	133,343	Finance Director
27	87,507	91,882	113,759	140,011	
28	91,882	96,476	119,446	147,011	Executive Director

It is recommended that a Human Services Manager be placed at Grade 21 and Assistant Executive Director be placed at Grade 26.

Attachments:

None

**Agenda Item – Budget & Audit Committee Report – Review of
ECC Dues Structure**

November 9, 2023

Summary:

One of ECC's 2023-24 Strategic Priorities includes reviewing the structure of membership dues. The Budget and Audit Committee is scheduled to begin this discussion at its November 9th meeting, and some discussion about this is also desired for the November 9th Executive Committee meeting.

Current ECC Dues Structure / History:

- Membership rates remain at \$0.353 per capita.
- Dues have not increased since FY 2006-07.
- A cap on dues was discussed at the 11/14/19 Board Meeting and implemented for the 2020-21 Fiscal Year.
- MUNICIPALITIES
 - Do not pay Aging or RPO dues.
 - Cap of \$8,000 for municipalities.
 - Minimum of \$218 for municipalities.
 - The military population has been deducted from the population counts since at least the 2015-16 year for municipalities.
- COUNTIES
 - Pay Aging and RPO dues.
 - The Aging dues and Economic Development dues are subtracted from the per capita rate.
 - Counties only pay for non-municipal residents, but they get the benefit of their total Aging matches when the Aging dues are subtracted from the per capita population rates.
 - Cap of \$10,000 and minimum of \$500 for Economic Development dues.

Attachments:

None

**Agenda Item – Budget & Audit Committee Report – Request for
Executive Director to Have Ability to Move Forward with Certain
Actions between Board Meetings when Time-Sensitive**

November 9, 2023

Summary:

ECC is heavily reliant on grants for funding. ECC is constantly seeking grants to fund existing programs and services and expand programs and services for the benefit of our member communities. Sometimes, grant opportunities require a quick turnaround. For example, ECC team has been working with Kaine Riggan of the NC Department of Public Safety and three (3) other councils of government on a FEMA grant to assist with Flood Mitigation. The grant would provide funding for each COG to hire an employee for a two-year period to work with local governments and NC Emergency Management to identify and fully develop 100 individual flood mitigation projects. The ECC portion of the project would involve Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Onslow, Pamlico, and Wayne Counties.

It is expected that we could hear positive news on the project in late November, and it is desired that we have an employee recruited, hired, and working in February; however, a Board meeting is not scheduled for December. Ideally, we would need to start recruiting in December in order to have someone in place in February.

It is suggested the Executive Director have the ability to move forward with such projects between Board meetings when time-sensitive.

Direction from the Executive Committee is desired for such time-sensitive matters.