

**William Taylor**  
TAC Chair

**Beth Bucksot**  
TCC Chair



**Brandi Robertson**  
TAC Vice-Chair

**Chad Strawn**  
TCC Vice-Chair

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## DERPO TCC Regular Meeting, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024; 10:00am

### Attendance:

Don Baumgardner, Chair – Craven County  
Sandi Watkins – Town of Morehead City  
Jeff Wood – Craven County  
Rohan Lahiji – NCDOT Division 2  
Len White – NCDOT Division 2  
Janie Mason – Michael J. Smith Airport  
Stephanie Ayers – N.C. State Ports Authority  
Katrina Marshall – City of Havelock  
Chad Strawn – Craven County

Becca Eversole – Eastern Carolina Council  
Amanda Killian – NCDOT TPD  
Janie Mason – Michael J. Smith Airport  
Julie Shambaugh – Town of Cape Carteret  
David Rief – Town of Cedar Point  
Kelly Walker - CARTS  
Greg Hartman – Carteret County  
Kim Nguyen – NCDOT IMD

### Minutes for TCC

**Call to Order** – *Chad Strawn, Vice-Chair TCC opened the meeting at 10:05am.*

1. **Public Comment Period** – *no public comments.*
2. **ACTION: Approval of Agenda**  
The agenda for today’s meeting was presented for approval.  
*A motion to approve the agenda was made by Stephanie Ayers, seconded by Don Baumgartner, and approved unanimously.*
3. **ACTION: Approval of Minutes**  
Minutes from the January 23<sup>rd</sup> TCC meetings were presented for approval.  
*A motion to approve the agenda was made by Don Baumgartner, seconded by Roham Lahiji, and approved unanimously.*
4. **DERPO Staff Report** – *Becca Eversole*
  - a. *SPOT 7.0 Update* – *Ms. Eversole updated the committee on the schedule for SPOT 7.0, which has been moved up two months to allow for the new draft STIP to be presented at the January 2025 meeting of the N.C. Department of Transportation. This means that the end of the Regional Impact local input points assignment window will close on August 30, and the Division Needs window will close on November 29.*

b. *Carbon Reduction Program* – Ms. Eversole announced that the Town of Cape Carteret had submitted a multi-use path as well as three improved pedestrian crossings on NC 24. She reminded the committee that communities can submit projects at any time and that grants are awarded quarterly. She also reminded them that this is a reimbursement program and required a 20% local match, and to contact her if their community is interested.

c. *Other DERPO Updates* – The Western Carteret Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan had their kickoff meeting on February 22, and regular meetings will take place both on Zoom and in Cape Carteret. Ms. Eversole will be attending the 2024 NCAMPO Conference in New Bern on April 18-19, will be out of the country from April 20-30, and will attend the N.C. Transportation Summit in Greensboro on May 20-22.

## **5. NCDOT/Transportation Agency Reports**

a. *Division 2* – Len White of NCDOT Division 2 gave updates on current projects underway in the DERPO region. Right of way and utility work for the NC 43 Connector project in New Bern. The Havelock Bypass is 77% complete with an anticipated completion date near the end of this year. The James City upgrades to US 70/Future I-42 is 41% complete with an anticipated completion date near the end of 2025. The US 70 upgrade project to connect these two projects, R-5777C, is slated to be completed in FY 2027 or 2028. A meeting was held concerning U-5878 (Newport River Bridge project in Morehead City) to consider a replacement of the existing railway trestle over the river. Repaving/restriping NC 58 and the Atlantic Beach Causeway was nearing completion.

b. *Transportation Planning Division* – Amanda Killian of NCDOT TPD stated that the next Carteret County CTP steering committee meeting will be on April 10, and that project sheets are being prepared for the committee's review.

c. *Integrated Mobility Division* – Kim Nguyen of NCDOT IMD spoke about the Western Carteret Bike and Pedestrian Plan briefly, stating that the steering committee is being selected and its first meeting is upcoming. She also spoke of a new multimodal app from NCDOT.

### **d. Public Transit/Aviation**

i. *CARTS (Craven, Jones, Pamlico) Update* – Kelly Walker briefly updated the committee on ridership, which continues to trend up, but had no further updates.

ii. *Michael J. Smith Airport* – Jamie Mason updated the committee on the rehab of runway 321, stating that the award bid was out for repavement and upgrading lights. Preliminary work also continues on the planned runway extension.

6. **ACTION: Recommend Final FY 2025 Planning Work Program - Becca Eversole**  
*The Planning Work Program (PWP) is the annual budget for the Down East RPO and lays out DERPO's priorities in the new fiscal year. Ms. Eversole presented the final draft of the document and detailed changes from this fiscal year in priorities, including an increase in indirect costs. The final draft was unchanged from the one approved in January. A motion to recommend the PWP to the TAC was made by Don Baumgartner, seconded by Len White, and approved unanimously.*
  
7. **ACTION: Recommend SPOT 7.0 Local Input Point Methodology – Becca Eversole**  
*It is required by STI law that all planning organizations and NCDOT Divisions must create a methodology for the purpose of assigning local input points (LIPs) to transportation projects in the Regional Impact and Division Needs funding categories. Ms. Eversole presented a draft SPOT 7.0 LIP Methodology for DERPO, which included significant changes from previous methodologies. The changes were designed to provide more equity in project selection and provide a simpler overall method for everyone involved. Don Baumgartner asked if, should this method prove not to be satisfactory, could we return to the previous method, to which Len White responded yes. A motion was made to recommend the methodology to the TAC for approval by Don Baumgartner, seconded by Len White, and approved unanimously.*
  
8. **Other Business/Discussion – No other business/discussion.**
  
10. **Adjournment – Mr. Strawn adjourned the meeting at 10:45am.**