

Brandi Robertson
TAC Chair

Beth Bucksot
TCC Chair



Chadwick Howard
TAC Vice-Chair

Chad Strawn
TCC Vice-Chair

DERPO TAC Meeting, March 26, 2023; 10:00am

Attendance:

Councilman Bill Taylor – Town of Morehead City
Commissioner Candy Bohmert – Pamlico County
Commissioner James Harper – Jones County
Merrie Jo Alcoke – NC Board of Transportation
Commissioner Chadwick Howard – Craven County, Vice Chair
Commissioner Brandi Robertson – Town of Arapahoe, Chair

Becca Eversole – Eastern Carolina Council Senior Transportation Planner
Len White – NCDOT Division 2 Planning Engineer
Amanda Killian – NCDOT Transportation Planning Division
Kim Nguyen – NCDOT Integrated Mobility Division
Jeremy Stroud – NCDOT Division 2 Engineer
Maksym Bezrushko – NCDOT Transportation Planning Division

Minutes for TAC

Call to Order – *Chair Brandi Robertson opened the meeting at 10:02am.*

- 1. Ethics Awareness & Conflict of Interest Statement** – *no conflicts. DERPO Director Becca Eversole reminded TAC members of their required ethics paperwork as the deadline was April 15.*
- 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 Merrie Jo Alcoke, seconded by James Harper, and approved unanimously.
- 4. ACTION: Approval of Minutes**
Minutes of the September 26, 2023, meeting was presented for approval.
A motion to approve minutes from the previous meeting was made by James Harper, seconded by Merrie Jo Alcoke, and approved unanimously.

5. 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.*

6. NCDOT 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, with an expected let date of July 2025. The Havelock Bypass is 77% complete with an anticipated completion date near the end of this year or early 2025. The James City upgrades to US 70/Future I-42 is 41% complete with an anticipated completion date in early 2026. The US 70 upgrade project to connect these two projects, R-5777C, is slated to be completed in FY 2028. Final design is being worked on, as are utilities. 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. Its expected let date is in 2033. A preferred alternative is expected in this summer in the R-5727 Bridges Street Extension project in Morehead City, and there is a new project website at the NCDOT website. U-6058, which will build a roundabout at the intersection of NC 101 and former US 70 (Live Oak St.) in Beaufort has an expected let date of July 2025.*

- b. Transportation Planning Division – *Amanda Killian of NCDOT TPD spoke about the deadline for the finalized PWP for FY 2025, which is May 16. She also announced that the next Carteret County CTP Steering Committee meeting would take place on April 10.*
- c. Integrated Mobility Division – *Kim Nguyen of NCDOT IMD on the first meeting of the Western Carteret Bike and Pedestrian Plan Steering Committee would take place the next day at 4pm at Cape Carteret Town Hall.*
6. **ACTION: Approve 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 approve the PWP was made by Merrie Jo Alcock, seconded by James Harper, and approved unanimously.
7. **ACTION: Approve 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 approve the methodology by James Harper, seconded by Merrie Jo Alcock, and approved unanimously.
8. **Other Business/Discussion – No further business or discussion.**
9. **Adjournment – Brandi Robertson adjourned the meeting at 10:40am.**