

## **Eastern Carolina Council Rural Planning Organizations – At Work in Our Region**

### **Prioritization**

For the last two rounds of Prioritization (approx. 2023), the ECC’s Rural Planning Organizations have remained active in seeking funding for transportation initiatives in the region. The following chart shows the number of projects submitted by the RPOs per-mode per-county.

<b>P7 and P8 Submittals per-County by Mode (Including Carryovers)</b>									
	<b>Carteret</b>	<b>Craven</b>	<b>Duplin</b>	<b>Greene</b>	<b>Jones</b>	<b>Lenoir</b>	<b>Pamlico</b>	<b>Wayne</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Highway</b>	29	11	16	12	5	20	0	3	<b>96</b>
<b>Bike/Ped</b>	26	0	9	10	2	10	1	4	<b>62</b>
<b>Aviation</b>	10	0	14	0	0	8	0	11	<b>43</b>
<b>Transit</b>	2	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	<b>6</b>
<b>Rail</b>	9	10	2	0	5	3	0	2	<b>31</b>
<b>Ferry</b>	18	12	0	0	0	0	10	0	<b>40</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>278</b>

### **Comprehensive Transportation Plans**

Comprehensive Transportation Plans, or “CTPs”, are long-range planning documents that outline the current and anticipated transportation needs of a county. The plans span a 30-year period and are typically updated every 10 years. The ECRPO has worked with NCDOT to update Greene County’s CTP, and the Down East RPO has done the same for Carteret County.

- **Greene County**
  - Previous CTP has not been updated since 2013
  - Work began on update in late 2023, after a two-year process between ECRPO staff and NCDOT to agree to begin the project
  - Delays in the CTP completion were due to NCDOT turnover and staffing issues within the Department. Work continued due to the diligence of Greene County stakeholders and ECRPO staff
  - Draft CTP was endorsed by all municipalities and the ECRPO in early 2026
- **Carteret County**
  - Previous CTP has not been updated since 2014
  - Work began in late 2020, and was paused due to COVID and NCDOT staff turnover until early 2024
  - Project was picked back up thanks to local stakeholders and DERPO staff

- Draft CTP was endorsed by all municipalities, the county, and DERPO in early 2026

**Carbon Reduction Funding Awards**

NCDOT, as part of the IIJA legislation, released a competitive grant for the RPOs to receive Carbon Reduction Funds. Both the ECRPO and DERPO participated in this program, receiving over \$4 Million for two projects.

- Lenoir County – Kinston Riverwalk Phase 2
  - Completing a multi-path along the Nuese in downtown Kinston
  - Awarded \$3.3 Million
- Cape Carteret Multi-Use Path
  - Design and construction of a multi-use path within existing NCDOT ROW along NC 24, sound side
  - Awarded \$920,000

**Multi-Modal Grants**

In 2023, the Down East RPO applied for and was awarded an NCDOT Multi-Modal Planning Grant for the Western Carteret Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. The first-of-its-kind plan was a joint effort between the towns of Cape Carteret, Cedar Point, Peletier, and Bogue to improve bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in their region.

**Attendance**

Regular attendance by our Transportation Advisory Committee Member’s at our regularly scheduled meetings is vital to the continued success of transportation initiatives in our region. Without input from our members, we do not know the needs of the region or the priorities each community has. Below is a chart tracking general attendance by our TAC members by county, since 2023.

Transportation Advisory Committee Member Attendance since 2024	
0-25%	Wayne, Craven
26-50%	Lenoir
51-75%	Duplin, Jones
76-100%	Greene, Carteret, Pamlico