

UPPER COASTAL PLAIN RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

March 1, 2022

RPO Transportation Coordinating Committee Minutes

Attendance

TCC

Wendy Oldham, Wilson's Mills
Stephen Wensman, Smithfield
Catherine Grimm, Tarboro
Dervin Spell, Edgecombe
Adam Tyson, Nash
John Morck, City of Wilson

NCDOT

Jennifer Collins, NCDOT Division
Grey Keeter, NCDOT
Sam Lawhorn, NCDOT

Other

Tirance Horne, UCPCOG
Neal Davis, JCATS
Ron Townley, UCPCOG
Alrik Lunsford, Clean Tech Center

UCPRPO

James Salmons

Introduction

1. *Welcome & Introductions – Adam Tyson – TCC Chair*
Mr. Adam Tyson welcomed everyone and asked everyone to introduce themselves and then called the meeting to order.
2. *Approval of Agenda and January 4, 2022 Minutes*
Mr. Tyson asked if everyone had an opportunity to review the agenda and Minutes for the March 1, 2022, TCC meeting and asked if anyone had any additions to be made to either to the agenda or minutes. It was requested that a Letter of Support for a Passenger Rail Study to connect Raleigh to eastern North Carolina be added to the day's agenda. **UPON A MOTION** by Wendy Oldham (Wilson's Mills), second by Catherine Grimm (Edgecombe), the agenda and minutes for the January 4, 2022, were unanimously approved with addition of the consideration of supporting a Passenger Rail Study connecting Raleigh to eastern North Carolina.
4. *Member Updates*
Each member provided a brief highlight of activities within each member's jurisdiction.

Presentation

5. *Clean Cities Coalition Presentation, Alrik Lunsford, Clean Transportation Extension*
Mr. Lunsford provided a presentation on the Clean Transportation Plan. The Coalition provides information and education on potential clean fuels technology grants. Each member provided a brief highlight of activities within each member's jurisdiction.

Decision Items

6. *Letter of Support of NC Clean Fuels Coalition*
Members were provided with a letter of support for the Clean Cities Coalition. **UPON A MOTION** by Stephen Wensman (Smithfield), second by Ms. Wendy Oldham (Wilson's Mills) that the TCC recommended to the TAC that the UCPRPO join the Clean Cities Coalition, the motion was unanimously adopted.
- 6a. *Letter of Support for a Passenger Rail Study Connecting Raleigh to eastern North Carolina*
Members were provided a letter of support for a Passenger Rail Study connecting Raleigh to eastern North Carolina in their agenda packet. After a brief discussion and **UPON A MOTION** that the TCC recommended to the TAC the adoption of a letter of support for a Passenger Rail Study from Raleigh to eastern North Carolina by Stephen Wensman (Smithfield), second by Catherine Grimm (Tarboro), the motion unanimously adopted.
7. *Adoption of Public Participation Plan (PPP)*
Members were provided with the proposed UCPRPO Public Participation Plan and reminded the plan had been posted for public comment since January 4, 2022. **UPON A MOTION** by Wendy Oldham (Wilson's Mills), second by Catherine Grimm (Tarboro) the UCPRPO Public Participation Plan was adopted unanimously for recommendation to the TAC for their adoption.

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8. *Adoption of Planning Work Program (PWP) for FY23*

Members were provided with the proposed UCRPO draft PWP FY23 approved by NCDOT along with local match budget amounts per County. **UPON A MOTION** by Catherine Grimm (Tarboro), second by John Morck (City of Wilson) the UCRPO FY23 PWP was adopted unanimously for recommendation to the TAC for their adoption.

Discussion

9. *Prioritization P6 Update*

It was reported that the programming of the STIP was continuing. The NCDOT Board of Transportation continues to work through how to address committed versus non-committed projects and how or if to include non-committed projects in the STIP. The goal is to have the final STIP adopted by the late summer of 2023.

10. *Neuse River Trail Clayton to Smithfield Feasibility Study Update*

The Neuse River Trail Study workgroup continued to work on developing the preferred alignment of the trail. Their next meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2022 at 1:30pm. The Study Team will be performing property owner interviews in the coming months. A public meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 26, 2022 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm at the Smithfield Recreation and Aquatics Center.

11. *NC Statewide Bike Route Update*

Members were asked to provide input on the NC Statewide Bike Route Study. Members were encouraged to share with all interested to provide input via the web site: <https://ncdot.altplanning.cloud/#/>

12. *COVID-19 Traffic*

A brief update on more traffic volumes compared to pre-COVID pandemic levels and volumes during the pandemic. More recent traffic volumes are showing the traffic volumes are near the same level as pre-pandemic levels.

13. *TAC Member Ethics Reminder*

TCC members were asked to remind their TAC members of their ethics filing requirements. The deadline to file is April 15, 2022.

Reports

14. *US 70 Commission*

The US 70 Commission's next meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2022 at 1:30pm at the Johnston County AG Center. Secretary Boyett is scheduled to attend the meeting and provide a brief update.

15. *Hwy 17/64 Association*

The Association last met January 26, 2022. John Sullivan with the FHWA provided a brief update on the recently passed IIJA. He noted that the IIJA had a focus on resiliency and equity or projects that help transportation disadvantaged. In addition, Beu Memory, NCDOT COO provided an update on the recently pass NC State budget and the anticipated resources the recently passed IIJA law would affect North Carolina directly. Mr. Memory also provided more information on how the Department is improving its STIP process to improve the program and help eliminate future issues with project cost estimations and programming.

16. *Legislative Update*

There was no legislative update.

17. *NCDOT Division 4*

Sam Lawhorn stated the W-5600 project in Wilson's Mills is ongoing and expected to be completed in 2025. The I-95 from the County line to I-40 for widening to 8 lanes is expected to be completed in 2024. A "mini" roundabout in Benson is expected to get started soon at Wall St and Main St. On US 70 near Princeton there is a project to alleviate left turns to help with ongoing safety issues. Grey Keeter provided and updated on the Gold Rock interchange project that is about 18% complete. He reported there is a project to install curb ramps in Tarboro. Jennifer gave an update on multiple bridge projects are moving forward in Edgecombe with some complications. Jennifer stated that the STIP office is currently working on reaching out with some partnering education for the MPOs and RPOs this Spring and then reach out for public input in developing the new draft STIP.

18. *NCDOT Planning Division (TPD)*

There was no TPD update currently.

19. *NCDOT Integrated Mobility Division (IMD)*

There was no IMD update currently.

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Other Business

20. TCC Member Comments

Mr. Bobby Liverman was recognized for his extra efforts in helping a motorist along I-95 retrieve his wallet who lived in norther New York. Mr. Curri made sure to reach out to NCDOT's public relations office to ensure he received credit for making sure he received his valuable family photos and memorabilia that he had lost while traveling through North Carolina.

Public Comment

21. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Upcoming meeting:

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 3, 2022, at 2:00pm.

UPON A MOTION from to adjourn Steven Wensman (Smithfield) and a second motion was made by Catherine Grimm (Tarboro) and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Tyson, TCC Chair

James M. Salmons, UCPRPO