

UPPER COASTAL PLAIN RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

July 21, 2021

RPO Transportation Advisory Committee Minutes

Attendance

TAC

C.B. Brown, Tarboro
Jerry Medlin, Benson
Cheryl Oliver, Selma
Wayne Outlaw, Nash
Derrick Creech, City of Wilson
Andy Moore, Smithfield
Lu Harvey Lewis, Middlesex
Brenda Lucas, Spring Hope
Craig New, Red Oak
Miranda Boykin, Sims

NCDOT

Bobby Liverman, Division 4
Carlos Moya, TPD

UCPRPO

James Salmons

Introduction

- Welcome & Introductions – Lu Harvey Lewis – TAC Chair*
TAC Chair Mr. Lu Harvey Lewis (Middlesex) called the meeting to order. Mr. Lewis welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.
- Mr. Lu Harvey Lewis asked if any members have a conflict of interest on any of the items on the agenda. There being none.
- Agenda Approval*
Mr. Lu Harvey Lewis asked if everyone had an opportunity to review the agenda and if there were any proposed changes. It was requested that the Letter of Support for JCAT's 5310 Application be added without objection. **UPON A MOTION** by Andy Moore (Smithfield), second by Cheryl Oliver (Selma) the agenda was unanimously approved with the addition of the Letter of Support for JCATS' grant application and was added to the agenda as item 7a.
- Minutes – May 12, 2021*
After reviewing the Minutes for the May 12, 2021 meeting and **UPON A MOTION** by C. B. Brown (Tarboro), second by Miranda Boykin (Sims) they were unanimously approved.

Action Items

- Adopt Resolution of Support for FY2122 Planning Work Program (PWP) Amendment #1 to accommodate the (MST) Neuse River Trail Feasibility Study in Johnston*
Members were provided with background information on the proposed amendment to the UCPRPO FY2122 PWP to provide the required budget change to accommodate the Neuse River Trail Study. It was noted that Johnston County would be required to fund all the required local match and that no other member county would be responsible for any additional funding. After a brief discussion and **UPON A MOTION** by C.B. Brown (Tarboro), second by Andy Moore (Smithfield) the amendment to the UCPRPO FY2122 PWP to include an additional \$150,000.00 to fund the Neuse River Trail Study between Clayton and Smithfield in Johnston County was unanimously approved.
- Adopt Resolution of Support Designate U-70 as I-42 in Johnston County*
The Resolution of Support to Designate US-70 as I-42 in Johnston County was tabled until the next meeting to allow for more time for the Town of Wilson's Mills to approve the resolution.

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7. *Adoption of STI P6 Local Input Methodology Resolution*

Members were provided with the draft UCPRPO STI P6 Local Input Methodology within the agenda packet emailed to all members prior to the meeting. The draft methodology was also posted to the UCPRPO website for 90 days for public review. It was noted that the TCC recommended making the change in the Division Funding Category by moving 100 points from the Transit Projects to the Bike/Pedestrian projects due to the increasing requests received for more bike/pedestrian projects. This provided 200 total points to be allocated to Transit projects and 200 total points available to allocate to Bike/Pedestrian projects. **UPON A MOTION** by C.B. Brown (Tarboro), second by Miranda Boykin (Sims) the UCPRPO STI P6 Local Input Methodology was unanimously adopted.

7a. *Approval of Letter of Support for JCAT's 5310 Application*

Members were provided a copy of the Letter of Support for JCATS' 5310 grant application. It was explained that the grant will help provide transportation to seniors and those with disabilities within Johnston County. **UPON A MOTION** by Cheryl Oliver (Selma), second by Derrick Creech (City of Wilson) they were unanimously approved.

Discussion

8. *STI P6 Prioritization Update*

Members were provided with a list of available funding for STI P6 based on each funding category. After reviewing the estimated funding availability, it was apparent that the STIP was over programmed due to rising project costs, old and/or poor estimates, and recent rising inflation. Law requires the STIP to be an accurate reflection of what will be built. It was explained that it is anticipated that some "committed" projects may become "uncommitted" and fall out of the STIP. At this time, it was believed that the STI P6 process may be halted to help balance the STIP. Members stated that they were ok with a pause with P6 but had serious concerns with not having the ability to submit new projects over the next 10-15 years. This would dramatically hinder future transportation priorities. Members also stated their desire to be included in the decision in the STIP modification process.

9. *Call for CMAQ projects for Edgecombe, Nash, and Johnston Counties Only November 1, 2021 to February 29, 2022*

Members were informed that the UCPRPO would be accepting CMAQ projects starting in November and ending February 29, 2022. The UCPRPO is allocated \$603,240.00 in funding for CMAQ projects for FY2223.

10. *CAMPO/UCPRPO Southeast Area Study Kickoff – [Previous SEAS Link](#)*

Members were informed that CAMPO and UCPRPO were teaming together again to update the Southeast Area Study. Stakeholder meetings are anticipated to kickoff this fall, 2021.

Reports

11. *US 70 Commission*

The US 70 Commission met July 15, 2021 in Morehead City, NC. Reports were provided by the NCDOT Board of Transportation members. A presentation was provided by the NC Rural Center on Resilient Communities. Secretary Boyette provided the following updates:

- a. Eight million pounds of litter have been collected so far this year.
- b. Transportation workers have been working weekends when needed.
- c. Transit operations have stepped up to provide rides to vaccinations.
- d. All Division met over the past weekend to support the DBE Program or Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program to make sure DBE firms are included in contracting.
- e. Morehead City Port continues to grow.

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Beau Memory, NCDOT COO provided a brief report on rising costs for building materials and labor along with right of way costs and is causing transportation construction costs to rise. Ronnie Keeter, State Chief Engineer provided a detailed report on the STI's over programming issues. Kevin Lacey, State Traffic Engineer provided information on the dilemma on the new I-42 designation and potential confusion with NC 42 in Johnston County. Natasha Earle-Young, NCDOT TPD provided an update on the Strategic Transportation Corridor study for the US 70 corridor. Don Kirkman, Carteret County Economic Development Director provided information on Radio Island and the Morehead Port as it pertains to offshore wind farm potential. Division Engineers provided updates on all projects along the US 70 Corridor in eastern North Carolina.

12. *Hwy 17/64 Association*

There was no report currently.

13. *Legislative Update*

The Senate has passed their budget. It is anticipated that the NC House would be releasing their budget the first of August.

14. *NCDOT Division 4*

There was no Division 4 report provided.

15. *NCDOT Planning Division (TPD)*

There was no TPD report. Carlos Moya stated his appreciation to James Salmons for his work in partnering with NCDOT TPD in supporting the UCPRPO members and his continued work in submitting invoices in a timely matter.

Public Comment

16. *Public Comment*

There was no public comment.

Other Business

17. *TAC Member Comment*

There was a brief discussion on NCDOT's cash balance and how it is affecting the STIP. The Department now provides the Board of Transportation a Spend Plan that is closely monitored. In addition, the Department took a financial hit due to the COVID-19 pandemic in losses in the gas tax when the economy was shut down. The gas tax revenue has since recovered to previous levels. It was noted that the STIP and STI P6 issues were based on over programming and not a lack of revenue.

Upcoming meeting:

It was noted that the next meeting was pushed back one week to September 22, 2021.

UPON A MOTION from Cheryl Oliver (Selma) was made to adjourn with a second motion was made by C.B. Brown (Tarboro) and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lu Harvey Lewis, TAC Chair

James M. Salmons, UCPRPO Transportation Planner