

UPPER COASTAL PLAIN RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

March 10, 2021 – Zoom Virtual Meeting

RPO Transportation Advisory Committee Minutes

Attendance

TAC

Wayne Outlaw, Nash
Jerry Medlin, Benson
Ted Godwin, Johnston
Oscar Mabry, Pinetops
Derrick Creech, City of Wilson
Craig New, Red Oak
Miranda Boykin, Sims
Lu Harvey Lewis, Middlesex
C.B. Brown, Tarboro

NCDOT

James Dunlop, NCDOT
Carlos Moya, NCDOT TPD
Jimmy Eatmon, Division 4
Haywood Daughtry, NCDOT
Kristin Barnes, Division 4
Gray Keeter, Division 4
Bobby Liverman, Division 4

UCPRPO

James Salmons

Introduction

1. *Welcome & Introductions – Lu Harvey Lewis – TAC Chair*
TAC Chair Mr. Lu Harvey Lewis (Middlesex) called the meeting to order. Mr. Harvey welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.
2. Mr. Lu Harvey Lewis asked if any members have a conflict of interest on any of the items on the agenda. There being none.
3. *Additions or Corrections to Agenda*
There were no corrections or additions to the agenda.
4. *Minutes – January 13, 2021*
After reviewing the Minutes for the January 13, 2021 meeting and **UPON A MOTION** by Jerry Medlin (Benson), second by Miranda Boykin (Sims) the agenda for March 10, 2021 and minutes for the January 13, 2021 were unanimously approved.

Presentation

5. *Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA) James Dunlop, NCDOT Congestion Management Engineer*
James Dunlop provided a presentation on NCDOT's partnering opportunity on providing traffic impact analysis with local jurisdictions. His presentation included Department driveway permitting requirements.

Discussion Items

6. *Resolution of Support for US 264 to Interstate Standards (I-587)*
Members were provided with a proposed resolution of support for upgrading US 264 to Interstate Standards (I-587) from the City of Wilson to the Wilson and Wayne County line. Mr. Haywood Daughtry stated the value to economic development the upgrade would provide. After a brief discussion and **UPON A MOTION** by Ted Godwin (Johnston), second by Derrick Creech (City of Wilson) the resolution of support to upgrade US 264 to Interstate Standards was unanimously approved and recommended to the TAC for adoption.
7. *Resolution of Support for the Town of Selma CAMQ Funding Application*
Members were provided with a resolution of support for the Town of Selma's CMAQ project application allocating no more than \$603,240 for the project contingent on their approval for CMAQ funding and that no local matching funds will be required from UCPRPO or its member jurisdictions except for the Town of Selma. **UPON A MOTION** by Ted Godwin (Johnston), second by Miranda

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Boykin (Sims) the resolution of support for the Town of Selma's CMAQ project application was unanimously approved.

8. *FY2021-2022 PWP – Planning Work Program (PWP)*

Members were provided with the Planning Work Program (PWP) for FY2122 that was recommended by the TCC and approved by NCDOT Transportation Planning Division (TPD). After a brief discussion and **UPON A MOTION** by C.B. Brown (Tarboro), second by Ted Godwin (Johnston) the UCPRPO FY2122 Planning Work Program (PWP) was unanimously approved.

Discussion

9. *TAC Member Ethics Reminder*

TAC members were reminded to complete their State Ethics filings. They were reminded the deadline to file is April 15, 2021. Those who do not file within 60 days of the April 15th deadline are subject to a \$250 fine, to be assessed by the State Ethics Commission, and possible removal from their position. In addition, RPO TAC member are subject to an additional \$250 fine for failure to file a timely RED and may be subject to criminal penalties for late filing of their SEI and RED.

10. *NCDOT Division 4 Guide*

Members were provided the new 2021 NCDOT Division 4 Guide. It was stated that the Division 4 has done a great job completing projects and providing safe transportation for the citizens within our region. The guide provides detailed information on the Division's hard work. Various statistics and information were shared with members.

Reports

11. *US 70 Commission*

The US 70 Commission has not met since their October 15, 2020 meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2021 at 1:30 pm and will be live streamed on Facebook and YouTube. It was reported that the US 70 Wilson's Mills project was still scheduled to be let in March of 2021.

12. *Hwy 17/64 Association*

The Hwy 17/64 Association met on January 27, 2021 virtually. There was a presentation from the NC First Commission, Public Opinion Polling Results by NC Go. NCDOT provided updates on all the current projects along both US 17 and US 64 corridors. Chief Engineer Ronnie Keeter reported that there was approximately \$260 million in the COVID Relief bill that will provide relief from losses last year and may help accelerate some of the projects delayed last year. The next Hwy 17/64 meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2021 with the location to be determined.

13. *Legislative Update*

14. The **Joint Transportation Appropriations Committee** met during last week of February 2021.

- Financial Reports were provided on all modes of transportation from the Legislative Fiscal Research Unit
- Committee Chair stated need to stabilize the transportation industry and prevent "feast or famine" scenario.
- Need to find alternate sources of revenue due to report that GM plans to no longer build combustible engines after 2035.
- Secretary Boyette stated the need for all NCDOT Divisions i.e. highway, rail, aviation, bike/ped to work together in unison.
- Roadside trash is a huge concern. The cash crises limited past litter pickup. Effort is on the way to increase spending for contracts to outsource cleanup.
- NCDOT is working to hire internal auditors and is working towards bringing in independent auditors to help review specific audits.

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- NCDOT Executive leadership currently meeting with Federal Partners with discussions on multi-modal transportation needs.

15. NCDOT Division 4

Division 4 reported that 1.2 million pounds of litter has been picked up across the State since January 1, 2021. The cash balances is showing a cash balance of about \$1.3 billion as of March, 2021. The plan is to try and have 2-3 cycles of picking up litter this year especially on the heavily traveled routes. The department has spent close to \$22 million in the past picking up litter. It would be nice if there was not a need to pick up litter so that that money could be spent on something else more worthwhile. The US 70 Wilson's Mills Project (W-5600) to bring it up to Interstate Standards is expected to be Let this month (March). In addition, Greg Burns has been promoted to the Eastern Deputy Chief Engineer. Mr. Brown stated that he had seen illuminated signs asking citizens not to litter and that he appreciated the effort.

16. NCDOT Planning Division (TPD)

There was no update from TPD.

Public Comment

1. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Other Business

2. TAC Member Comment

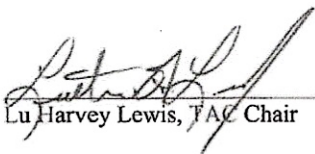
There were no TAC member comments.

Upcoming meeting:

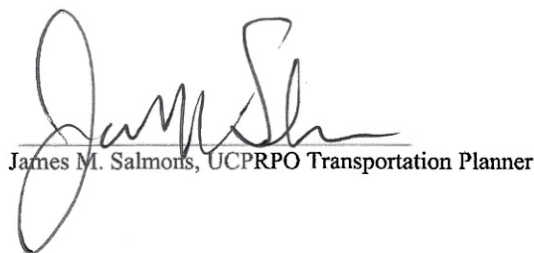
It was noted that the next meeting was pushed back one week to May 12, 2021.

UPON A MOTION from Jerry Medlin (Benson) was made to adjourn with a second motion was made by Derrick Creech (City of Wilson) and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Lu Harvey Lewis, TAC Chair



James M. Salmons, UCPRPO Transportation Planner