

# UPPER COASTAL PLAIN RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

May 5, 2015

## RPO Transportation Coordinating Committee Minutes

### Attendance

#### TCC

Berry Gray, Johnston County  
Mark Johnson, Wilson  
Zach Ollis, Wilson's Mills  
Nancy Nixon, Nash County  
Bill Bass, City of Wilson  
Julie Maybee, Selma  
Cynthia Jenkins, Edgecombe

#### NCDOT

Jimmy Eatmon, NCDOT-Division 4  
Tobline Thigpen, TPB-NCDOT  
Suzette Morales, TPB-NCDOT  
Terry Ellis, NCDOT-Division 4

#### UCPRPO

James Salmons

### Introduction

#### *1. Welcome & Introductions – Nancy Nixon – TCC Chair*

TCC Chair Ms. Nancy Nixon welcomed everyone and asked everyone to introduce themselves to the members and then called the meeting to order.

### Action Items

#### *2. Minutes – March 3, 2015*

After reviewing the Minutes for the March 3, 2015 meeting and **UPON A MOTION** by Bill Bass (City of Wilson), second by Zach Ollis (Wilson's Mills) they were unanimously approved.

### Old Business

#### *3. UCPRPO STI Prioritization Process – New Projects in August-September and STI 4.0 Schedule*

A handout was provided to the members detailing the schedule and key dates for the STI P4.0 process. It was noted that new projects would be submitted to NCDOT by the end of September 2015. Mr. Salmons reported that the Eastern NC Coalition staff had met the week prior and discussions were under way on whether an agreement on Criteria Weights between other Region and Division member organizations could be reached. He stated that any agreement would require a unanimous agreement among all involved organizations. Mr. Salmons also reported that the SPOT Workgroup was considering different methods to trim the overall number of projects within the STI project list. He asked members to be prepared to meet and discuss their priority projects to ensure they remained on the STI list. It was suggested that there be individual meetings based on County to review the projects within each jurisdiction some time in July and August to be ready to submit to the TAC for their approval on September 23, 2015. Mr. Salmons asked the members to consider if they would like to consider modifying the UCPRPO Methodology for the STI process. The deadline to update the methodology will be January 2016.

### New Business

#### *4. Consideration for Adoption a Resolution in Support of City of Wilson TIGER Grant Application*

Mr. Bill Bass presented a resolution in support of the City of Wilson's TIGER Grant Application for their US 301 project. Mr. Bass stated that the project was a top priority for the City. He explained that the function of the road remains the same but does not require the same volume since I-95 takes a lot of the volume. The road however no longer fits the community and City would like to upgrade the road to serve a new function to include non-highway modes including pedestrian and bike facilities. He stated the project did not score very well in P3 and he believes it will not score very well in P4. The City has already invested dollars into the project and the TIGER Grant would help provide the

# UPPER COASTAL PLAIN

---

## RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

additional funding needed to move the project forward. He asked the members for their support for their TIGER Grant application. After a brief discussion and **UPON A MOTION** by Mark Johnson (Wilson), second by Zach Ollis (Wilson's Mills) the Resolution in Support of City of Wilson's TIGER Grant was unanimously approved.

### **Other Business**

#### **5. TCC Member Comments**

Mr. Salmons reported that there was CMAQ funding available for Nash and Edgecombe Counties. He asked TCC members from these areas to let him know if they had any interest in applying for any CMAQ projects.

Mr. Salmons reported that there is a Feasibility Study currently under way to consider the consolidation of the Wilson County Transit agency with the City of Wilson Transit system. Mr. Mark Johnson stated that the feasibility study is a study and not a plan to consolidate. He reported that there are two options being considered. One option is for the two systems to merge with the City of Wilson being the lead agency. A second option is for the two systems to merge with the establishment of a Transit Authority with oversight by both the City and the County. The Steering Committee plans to continue to meet to discuss options.

### **Report Items**

#### **6. CAMPO Southeast Area Study**

Mr. Salmons reported that the contract with the consultant selected has been signed and that the leadership team was in the process of establishing the Core Technical Team (CTT) and the Stakeholder Oversight Team (SOT). The next meeting is expected to be in the first or second week of June, 2015. He stated that the study was a great opportunity for the communities within the study area.

#### **7. Tarboro Pedestrian Plan**

Mr. James Salmons reported that the UCPRPO has met with the 4 local focus groups. The town planner Josh Edmundson is no longer with the Town of Tarboro and the plan may need to be put on hold until his position has been filled.

#### **8. Legislative Update**

Mr. Salmons reported that SB20 (Gas Tax) did pass and was signed by the Governor. He provided a brief update on some of the other current transportation bills in the House and Senate.

#### **9. NCDOT Division 4**

Mr. Jimmy Eatmon reported that the bridge and two culverts replacement for US 301 near Whitakers (B-5124) was let and construction was planned to start in June or July. Mr. Terry Ellis reported that construction is expected to be completed by the end of the year 2015.

#### **10. NCDOT Planning Branch**

Mrs. Suzette Morales reported that she is transferring over to the Rocky Mounty MPO and that Ms. Tobline Thigpen would be taking her place. Her first assignments would be reviewing the Johnston County CTP and then working on updating the Nash County CTP.

#### **11. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

# UPPER COASTAL PLAIN RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

**Upcoming meeting:**

The next meeting will be held on July 7, 2015.

**UPON A MOTION** from Mr. Mark Johnson (Wilson) was made to adjourn and a second motion was made by Ms. Cynthia Jenkins (Edgecombe) and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Nancy Nixon, TCC Chair

---

James M. Salmons, UCPRPO Transportation Planner