

# UPPER COASTAL PLAIN RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Upper Coastal Plain RPO

July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009

### RPO Transportation Coordinating Committee Minutes

#### Attendance

#### TCC

Bryant Bunn, City of Wilson  
Fleta Byrd, Wilson's Mills  
Rosemary Dorsey, Nash Co.  
Berry Gray, Johnston Co.  
Brian D. Hassell, Edgecombe Co.  
Mark Jonson, Wilson Co.  
Troy Lewis, Tarboro  
Charles Pittman, III, City of Wilson  
Ola Pittman, Edgecombe Co.

Ryan Simons, Selma  
Elaine Swinson, Wilson Co.  
Al Wester, Red Oak

#### NCDOT

Bobby Lewis, Division 4  
Ronnie Keeter, Division 4

#### UCPRPO

Daniel N. Van Liere

#### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Troy Lewis, called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM

#### 2. Approval of Minutes

UPON A MOTION by Ms. Dorsey (Nash Co.), second by Ms. Pittman (Edgecombe Co.), the minutes from the UCP RPO TCC meeting held on March 3, 2009 were unanimously approved.

#### 3. Request for a Letter of Support for Federal RPO Funding

Mr. Van Liere explained that the House of Representatives had drafted H.R. 2782 federally recognizing Rural Planning Organizations across the County. It was requested of the Upper Coastal Plain RPO by the North Carolina RPO Association that a letter be sent out to the UCPRPO's congressional representatives requesting that they co-sponsor H.R. 2782.

UPON A MOTION by Mr. Pittman (City of Wilson), second by Mr. Bunn (City of Wilson), the drafting of a letter to the UCPRPO's congressional representatives requesting that they co-sponsor H.R. 2782 with the idea that the bill support funding RPOs and should the bill's language go way outside of this recommendation that the letter be withdrawn, was unanimously approved for recommendation to the TAC.

#### 4. Road Transfer Resolution

Mr. Van Liere explained Senate Bill 1001 and the main points for the bill. It was discussed by the TCC that many other state organizations opposed the bill and there were thoughts that the bill was "parked."

UPON A MOTION by Ms. Dorsey (Nash Co.), second by Ms. Pittman (Edgecombe Co.), the resolution in opposition of Senate Bill 1001 and find out the status of the bill was unanimously approved for recommendation to the TAC.

#### 5. SPOT

Mr. Van Liere explained that SPOT will be in charge of TIP project submittal and organization. He also explained the different changes that were made from the SPOT reorganization. Mr. Van Liere recommended that the UCPRPO use the same criteria that are used to prioritize projects at DOT for prioritizing projects for the UCPRPO. A timeline for the SPOT process was also presented.

Ms. Dorsey (Nash Co.) asked how RPO members could submit new projects to be submitted by the UCPRPO. Mr. Van Liere stated that he would send an email out requesting new project submittals to be

sent to him by August 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Lewis (Div. 4) stressed the need for only beneficial and serious projects to be submitted.

**6. Special Studies Timeline**

Mr. Van Liere explained that a special studies subcommittee met and developed the special study that the UCPRPO will work on over the 2009-2010 Fiscal Year. A timeline was presented as to how the project would move forward over a 12 month time frame. It was stated that monthly progress reports would be given to both the TCC and TAC.

Mr. Van Liere also recommended setting up a subcommittee for reviewing the special study's progress and direction. The subcommittee members are: Rosemary Dorsey (Nash Co.), Bobby Lewis (Div. 4), Bryant Bunn (City of Wilson), Ola Pittman (Edgecombe Co.), Mark Johnson (Wilson Co.), and Berry Gray (Johnston Co.).

**7. Nash County CTP**

Mr. Van Liere stated that Nash County should be initiated by August 2009. This plan would be headed by Elena Talanker at NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch.

**8. Upper Coastal Plain RPO Website**

The Upper Coastal Plain RPO now has a website that is live and available for all to access. The website address will be [www.ucprpo.org](http://www.ucprpo.org) but the RPO is currently waiting for the domain name to be transferred from the UCP COG to the RPO. It was requested that the TCC members to take time and visit the website and provide comments for improving the website.

**Reports**

**9. Johnston County CTP**

The Johnston Co. CTP has been moving along and a steering committee has been meeting. A resolution recognizing the need for a CTP was adopted by the Johnston County Board of Commissioners at their July meeting. A survey will be available from August 1<sup>st</sup> through September 31<sup>st</sup>.

**10. Wilson County CTP**

The Wilson County CTP is moving nearly parallel to the Johnston Co. CTP. The next meeting held will be finalizing the resolution of support determining how to move forward in presenting the resolution to the Wilson Co. municipalities.

**11. NCDOT Division 4**

Mr. Lewis (Division 4) gave an overview of the projects that developed from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Mr. Lewis (Division 4) added that he would work with the RPO to develop a project submittal worksheet to allow the municipalities an avenue for requesting projects outside of the TIP (SPOT) process.

**12. Upcoming Meetings**

Next meeting will be held on September 1, 2009.

**13. Adjournment**

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Troy Lewis, TCC Chair

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Daniel Van Liere, UCPRPO Transportation Planner