

UPPER COASTAL PLAIN RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

May 13, 2015

RPO Transportation Advisory Committee Minutes

TAC

Kenneth Jones, Wilson's Mills
Cheryl Oliver, Selma
Vines Cobb, Pinetops
Logan Liles, City of Wilson
Derrick D. Creech, City of Wilson
Ron McCormick, Saratoga
Lu Harvey Lewis, Middlesex
Ted Godwin, Johnston
Charles Williams, Smithfield
Nancy Walker, Spring Hope

Attendance

NCDOT

Jimmy Eatmon, NCDOT
Suzette Morales, TPB
Tobline Thigpen, TPB

UCPRPO

James Salmons

TCC Member

Bill Bass, City of Wilson

Introduction

1. Welcome & Introductions – Cheryl Oliver – TAC Chair

TAC Chair Mrs. Cheryl Oliver welcomed everyone and then called the meeting to order. She asked everyone to review the agenda and requested a motion for approval. **UPON A MOTION** by Kenneth Jones (Wilson's Mills), second by Ted Godwin (Johnston) the agenda was approved. Mrs. Oliver then asked if any members have a conflict of interest on any of the items on the agenda. There were no members with a conflict.

Action Items

2. Minutes – March 11, 2015

After reviewing the Minutes for the March 11, 2015 meeting and **UPON A MOTION** by Kenneth Jones (Wilson's Mills), second by Ted Godwin (Johnston) they were unanimously approved.

3. 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 NCDOT was in support of the project. Mr. Bass stated that the project was a top priority for the City. He reported that the City has spent around \$35k in surveying costs to support the project and that the City has hired a consultant to help with writing the Grant application. He stated the project did not score very well in P3 and he believes it will not score very well in P4. 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. The City has committed to meet the 10% match-funding requirement and the TIGER Grant would help provide the 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 Kenneth Jones (Wilson's Mills), second by Nancy Walker (Spring Hope) the Resolution in Support of City of Wilson's TIGER Grant was unanimously approved.

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Old Business

4. *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 explained that the SPOT Workgroup was considering different methods to trim the overall number of projects with within the STI project list. The TCC plans to have the proposed projects for submittal prepared to be present to the TAC for their approval at the September 23, 2015 TAC meeting. Mr. Salmons asked the members to let him or their TCC member know if there were additional projects to be considered. The next key dates would be in April-May 2016 when the TAC members would prioritize the Region projects and then in August-September members would prioritize the remaining Region and Division projects.

Other Business

5. *TAC Member Comments*

Mr. Ted Godwin asked how the Governor's proposed Transportation Bond would affect the STI process. Mr. Salmons explained that the Bond itself would not affect the STI process unless any of the projects within the Bond were funded within the STI and removed them from competition. Mr. Jimmy Eaton stated that one of the requirements for the Bond projects was that they have to have some form of Environmental Permitting in process.

Mr. Salmons provided a handout of the NCDOT Base Categorical Allocations and FY1415 Flow of Funds with the agenda that was provided to the NCDOT Board of Transportation at their last meeting. The handout provided a breakdown of Department's incoming funds and expenditures. There was a brief discussion in reference to dollars being transferred from the Highway Trust Fund to the General Fund.

Report Items

6. *CAMPO Southeast Area Study*

Mr. Salmons reported that the contract with the consultant (Kimley-Horn) 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. Mr. Salmons asked for support from the members for a long-term passage of MAP-21 that was currently being considered in the House and Senate. The current MAP-21 legislation is scheduled to expire by May 31, 2015.

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9. NCDOT Division 4

Mr. Jimmy Eatmon reported that the US 70 Pine Level project has been let. Construction should begin soon. Mr. Kenneth Jones asked for the status of W-5600 and Mr. Eatmon reported that the consultant firm working on the project had decided to move out of North Carolina and new consultants were being hired. Mr. Williams asked what type of work was being completed on US 70 in Pine Level and Mr. Eatmon stated that it was a safety project and there was some median work along with an interchange. Mr. Godwin reported that there was a US 70 Commission meeting scheduled for May 21st and everyone was invited to attend.

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.

Upcoming meeting:

The next meeting will be held on September 23, 2015.

UPON A MOTION from Mr. Charles Williams (Smithfield) was made to adjourn and a second motion was made by Ms. Nancy Walker (Spring Hope) and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Oliver, TCC Chair

James M. Salmons, UCPRPO Transportation Planner