

UPPER COASTAL PLAIN RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

September 10, 2014

RPO Transportation Advisory Committee Minutes

Attendance

TAC

Kenneth Jones, Wilson's Mills
Cheryl Oliver, Selma
Vines Cobb, Pinetops
Wayne Outlaw, Nash
Carol Ruffin, Tarboro

NCDOT

Suzette Morales - NCDOT
Jimmy Eatmon, NCDOT
Munah Awyan, NCDOT

UCPRPO

James Salmons

Introduction

1. Welcome & Introductions – Kenneth Jones – TAC Chair

After reminding all members of the Ethics and Conflict of Interests requirements, TAC Chair Mr. Kenneth Jones welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

Action Items

2. Minutes – July 23, 2014

After reviewing the Minutes for the July 23, 2014 meeting and **UPON A MOTION** by Mrs. Cheryl Oliver (Selma), second by Mr. Vines Cobb (Pinetops) they were unanimously approved.

3. STI Point Allocation Update – Methodology Discussion

Mr. James Salmons reported that the STI points had been submitted the UCPRPO points to SPOT Online on August 29, 2014 prior to the September 1, 2014 deadline. The next phase is for the NCDOT Program Development Branch to compile all the data and release a preliminary STIP in mid December for public comment. The final STIP is scheduled to be released by June 2015. It was reported that in the TCC meeting on September 9th, 2014 members felt there could have been more collaboration with the Division. Mr. Salmons reported that this is a two-year process and that the RPO can address any changes to the methodology next fall (2015). He asked that if any members had any comments or recommendations to let him know so that he could pass them along to the SPOT Workgroup. Mrs. Cheryl Oliver stated that she liked the increased dialogue around the projects. She felt that next fall would be good time to review the process after we have an opportunity to see how things line up. Mr. Kenneth Jones also stated that it might give us an opportunity to see some input on how projects scored. Mr. Salmons stated he felt that it gave members an opportunity to learn about other projects in the region.

4. New Ethics Legislation Update

Mr. Kenneth Jones stated that the new legislation requires that BOTH the Statement of Economic Interest and the Real Estate Disclosure Form be completed in a timely matter or there may be criminal misdemeanor and/or fines of up to \$250 per form.

5. TAC Member Comments

There were no TAC member comments.

Report Items

6. I-495 Senator Hagan Introduces Bill to Connect Raleigh, NC to Norfolk, VA

Mr. Salmons provided members with a copy of the Bill sponsored by Senator Hagan to convert US 64 to I-495. An identical Bill was presented in the House and both Bills have bipartisan support. The project would provide connection to the southeastern Virginia area.

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7. *MAP-21 and FHWA Rules for Rural Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs)*
Mr. Salmons reported that within the language of MAP-21 that the DOT's would be required to "cooperate" with RPO's versus "consult". This should help RPO's have a greater say in transportation decisions made within the State. He also reported that the President signed an extension to MAP-21 that will keep funding the Highway Trust Fund at least through May of 2015.
8. *Merger Process for US 70 Project (W-5600)*
Mr. Salmons reported that the US 70 Project (W-5600) Merger Team met in July and that the members agreed that the project should go into the process at Concurrence Point 2b. He explained that the Merger Process was part of the environmental permitting process. NCDOT is expected to proceed with public meetings and Mr. Salmons stated he would send out emails to let members know about the meetings. Mr. Eatmon stated that the Merger Process brings the different agencies together (Corp of Engineers, DENR etc.) who evaluates the alternate routes of a project to determine the ones that have the least amount of impact on the human and natural environment.
9. *CTP Updates and/or Revisions*
Mr. Salmons reported that the TCC discussed the any potential updates to member CTP's. He stated that Nash County was interested in adding U-2561C – NC 43 in Dortches to the Nash County CTP. Mr. Salmons asked the members to notify him if there were any additional projects or updates any members may have for their CTP's. Mr. Eatmon stated that the Comprehensive Transportation Plan is an unrestrained long term 30 year planning document.
10. *NCDOT Division 4*
Mr. Eatmon reported that the US 70 project in Pine Level is scheduled to go out for bid in the second week of February 2015. Mr. Eatmon thanked all members for their participation in the STI process.
11. *NCDOT Planning Branch*
There was no TBP report.
12. *Public Comment*
There was no public comment.

Upcoming meeting:

The next meeting will be held on November 12, 2014.

UPON A MOTION from Ms. Cheryl Oliver (Selma) to adjourn and a second motion from Ms. Carol Ruffin (Tarboro) and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth Jones, TAC Chair

James M. Salmons, UCPRPO Transportation Planner