

# UPPER COASTAL PLAIN RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

September 28, 2016

## RPO Transportation Advisory Committee Minutes

### Attendance

#### TAC

C.B. Brown, Tarboro  
Brent Wooten, Pinetops  
Cheryl Oliver, Selma  
Derrick Creech, City of Wilson  
Kenneth Jones, Wilson's Mills  
Lu Harvey Lewis, Middlesex  
Perry Harris, Smithfield

#### Other

Lauren Triebert, VHB Engineering  
Ray Blackmon, Johnston Regional Airport

#### NCDOT

Jimmy Eatmon, NCDOT Division 4  
Tobline Thigpen, TPB  
Tim Little, NCDOT Division 4

#### UCPRPO

James Salmons

#### UCPRPO TCC

Bill Bass, City of Wilson

### Introduction

- Welcome & Introductions – Cheryl Oliver – TAC Chair*  
TAC Chair Mrs. Cheryl Oliver (Selma) called the meeting to order. Mrs. Oliver welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Everyone present briefly introduced themselves.
- Mrs. Oliver asked everyone to review the agenda and requested a motion for approval. **UPON A MOTION** by Kenneth Jones (Wilson's Mills), second by Derrick Creech (City of Wilson) the agenda was approved. Mrs. Oliver then asked if any members have a conflict of interest on any of the items on the agenda. No conflicts of interest were disclosed.
- Minutes – June 23, 2016*  
After reviewing the Minutes for the April 21, 2016 meeting and **UPON A MOTION** by Kenneth Jones (Wilson's Mills), second by Derrick Creech (City of Wilson) they were unanimously approved.

### Presentation

- US 70 to Interstate Upgrade (I-95 to Princeton Feasibility Study) – VHB Engineering, Study Team*  
Lauren Triebert with VHB Engineering presented the NCDOT feasibility study on US 70 improvements from I-95 in Selma to Princeton. The study will not produce final construction drawings. The goal of the project is to upgrade the corridor to interstate standards from SR 1003 (Buffalo Rd) near Selma to SR 2372 (Edwards Rd) in Princeton. This will help improve regional mobility and provide better connectivity between Raleigh and Morehead City and improving safety along rural sections with uncontrolled access. Additionally, the hope is to promote economic development for the surrounding communities. The traffic forecast has been completed for the study. The next milestone date will be April 2017 for the design review meeting. Following will be the draft report in October 2017 with the final report scheduled to be complete by December 2017. If there are any comments or questions,

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members may contact Lauren Triebert directly at [ltriefert@vhb.com](mailto:ltriefert@vhb.com). Ms. Triebert also agreed to come back next year to provide an update on the study.

### **New Business – Action Items**

#### **5. STI P4.0 Regional Projects programmed and the P4.0 Prioritization Division Worksheet**

Mr. James Salmons briefly went over the projects that were programmed or committed and should be including in the upcoming draft 2018-2025 STIP during the Regional category prioritization completed earlier this year. The list of projects programmed were provided in the agenda packet.

Mr. Ray Blackmon provided a brief description of Johnston Regional Airport's top priority project A-130499 to construct phase I of the new corporate area development to include a new t-hangar and apron. He explained that currently all hangars are full and there is a waiting list for hangars therefore there is no room for growth. Mr. Blackmon stated that the area for the projected was already permitted. Mr. Salmons stated that the Tarboro-Edgecombe Airport top priority project is A-130494 to expand their corporate apron.

Mr. Salmons briefly went over each of the highway projects identified by TCC members as top priorities.

- Project H-090470 NC 42 is only 8% within the UCPRPO therefore the maximum number of points that we can allocate to the project is 8. Mr. Tim Little noted that Division 4 is also planning to apply 100 points to this project.
- Project H-090470 NC 111 Wilson St was identified as a priority. Mr. C.B. Brown stated that at the intersection at Western Blvd and new businesses have opened recently along with two new apartment complexes and that there is nowhere for people to walk safely. There is also a charter school along this route. He added that there is a lot of motorized scooters that travel this corridor and that there is a trail in the grass where pedestrians travel. Mr. Little explained that there is a 20% cost share to add sidewalk facilities if the project moves forward.
- Project H-090346-C NC 43 in Nash County is a priority project and has become more viable due to the newly planned CCX multi-modal hub.
- Project H-090417 US 301 from NC 96 to Brogden Rd was highlighted as a priority project. Mr. Little explained Division 4 was not planning to allocate points to this project and that the project cost at this time made the project difficult to get programmed. He explained that it was a good project especially since two of the bridges on the project needed to be replaced. It was recommended that the project be split into two separate projects for P5.0 to help it score better in the next round. Mr. Perry Harris stated that he did own property along this corridor and that on Sunday's due to the Flea Market the congestion is very difficult to navigate.

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- Project H-150519 Kellie Drive was identified as a priority project to help relieve congestion within the area. Mr. Little stated that Division 4 planned to allocate 100 points to this project. He explained that there are two schools in the area and the congestion is so heavy and that this project would help mitigate many of the issues within the area. Mr. Perry Harris stated that there also a community aquatics facility within the same area.
- Project H-090895 SR 1900 Noble St to expand to three lanes was identified as a priority due to the proximity to the Selma Industrial and Certified Sites. Additionally, there is the large tank farm facility in the area. Mayor Oliver stated that there are many large semi-trucks that travel through the area both day and night. She is concerned about safety issues within the area.
- Project H-090882 SR 1207 McNair Rd widen to three lanes was identified to help relieve congestion within the Tarboro area in Edgecombe County. This road is nearing capacity. Mr. Brent Wooten stated that there is a lot of truck traffic along this route and there is also a charter school in the area. He anticipated more traffic through the area due to the planned CCX CSX multi-modal hub planned in Edgecombe County.
- Project H150439 NC 210 intersection with Black Creek Rd was also identified as a priority. Mr. Little stated that there are lot of accidents at this intersection.
- Project B-150570 Middlesex sidewalk project was identified as a priority. The project will connect neighborhoods and the down town to an existing school.

Members were asked to complete the worksheets by Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> to allow the results to be posted to receive public comments prior to adopting the final points allocation at the October 26, 2016 TAC meeting.

### 6. *Proposed Resolution of Support for US 264 to Interstate*

The members were presented with the proposed Resolution of Support for US 264 to Interstate Standards and was included in the agenda packets. Mr. Salmons reported that the Governor had begun the administrative process to designate the corridor as an Interstate. Additionally, there are bills in both the US House and US Senate in support of the designation. After brief discus and **UPON A MOTION** by Brent Wooten (Pinetops) second by Perry Harris (Smithfield) the Resolution of Support for US 264 to Interstate Standards was unanimously approved.

## Reports

### 7. *NCDOT Division 4*

Mr. Little reported that there was an additional feasibility study under way from the Johnston County line to the new US 70 Bypass.

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**8. NCDOT Planning Branch**

Mrs. Tobline Thigpen reported that it is anticipated that the Nash County CTP update would be going before the NCDOT Board at their October meeting.

**9. Southeast Area Study Update (Scenario Comparison Planning)**

Mr. Salmons reported that the SEAS team was working on finalizing the Scenario Transportation Planning model and that another public symposium was being planned for the first of November. He added that there is a SOT meeting scheduled for October 25<sup>th</sup>.

**10. Hwy 17/64 Association (US 64 Feasibility Study)**

Mr. Salmons reported that the US 64 upgrade to Interstate Standards was ongoing. He added that the board just met and provided a tour of the Maysville Bypass currently under construction.

**11. US 70 Commission (I-95 to Princeton Upgrade Feasibility Study)**

Mr. Salmons reported that the US 70 Feasibility Study team was planning to provide a brief presentation to the TAC.

**Other Business**

**12. TAC Member Comments**

There were no TAC member Comments.

**Public Comments**

There was no public comment.

**Upcoming meeting:**

The next meeting will be based on the release of STI Regional Programmed Projects but is tentatively scheduled for October 26, 2016.

**UPON A MOTION** from Mr. Lu Harvey Lewis (Middlesex) was made to adjourn with a second motion was made by Mr. Kenneth Jones (Wilson's Mills) and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Cheryl Oliver, TAC Chair

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James M. Salmons, UCPRPO Transportation Planner