

2009

# Public Participation Plan

Upper Coastal Plain RPO

Upper Coastal Plain RPO  
120 W. Washington St., Suite 2110  
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## Purpose

The purpose of the Upper Coastal Plain Rural Transportation Planning Organization (RPO) Public Involvement Plan (Plan) is to provide guidance and policy in engaging the public in the transportation planning process. The Plan has the following objectives:

- Create a well-informed public that contributes to transportation decision-making in a meaningful way
- Engage the public early and continuously in the transportation planning process
- Develop a public education program on Upper Coastal Plain RPO activities
- Assist the Upper Coastal Plain RPO in developing specific transportation projects that reflect the interests and needs of the community
- Gain the support and trust of the public
- Satisfy the requirements of N.C.G.S. § 136-212 regarding duties of a RPO

The Plan is not intended to preempt any public involvement activities conducted by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) or any local governments within the Upper Coastal Plain RPO region.

## Forms of Public Involvement

### A. Public Outreach

Public Outreach is the process of informing the public about the transportation planning process, specific transportation projects, and activities of the Upper Coastal Plain RPO. Typical public outreach strategies include, but will not be limited to, the following: Open RTCC and RTAC meetings, development of an RPO web site, newsletters, press releases, open houses, and presentations to civic organizations and other interested groups.

One or more of the following specific measures will be used, as appropriate, to meet the needs of the public, the RPO, and NCDOT for a given transportation plan, project, or program:

#### Notification of Meetings

Notification of Upper Coastal Plain RPO meetings will be sent to news media in the region. Appendix A contains a maintained list of media contacts that will receive meeting notification.

## Posting of Draft and final Planning Documents

Copies of draft and final versions of certain planning documents will be posted on the Upper Coastal Plain RPO's website, and may be distributed to Upper Coastal Plain RPO member governments for posting on individual county and town websites.

Copies of draft and final versions of certain planning documents will also be made available for public review at the following public libraries in the Upper Coastal Plain RPO region:

Edgecombe County Memorial Library  
909 Main Street  
Tarboro, NC 27886  
252-823-1141  
252-823-7699 (fax)  
[www.edgecombelibrary.org](http://www.edgecombelibrary.org)

Braswell Memorial Library  
727 N. Grace Street  
Rocky Mount, NC 27804  
252-422-1951  
[www.braswell-library.org](http://www.braswell-library.org)

Johnston County Public Library  
305 Market Street  
Smithfield, NC 27577  
919-934-8146  
919-934-8084 (fax)  
[www.johnstonnc.com/library](http://www.johnstonnc.com/library)

Wilson County Library  
249 W. Nash Street  
Wilson, NC 27893  
252-237-5355  
252-265-5569 (fax)  
[www.wilson-co.com/library.html](http://www.wilson-co.com/library.html)

## Newsletters

Newsletters carrying information about certain projects and programs will be distributed to local governments and interested individuals periodically.

## Press Releases

Upper Coastal Plain RPO may issue press releases from time to time detailing significant actions of the RPO. These actions may include:

- Adoption of Long-Range Regional Transportation Plan
- Adoption of Highway Project Priority List
- Adoption of Significant Planning Policies and/or Documents

Appendix A contains a maintained list of media contacts that will receive press releases.

## Open Houses

Open houses may be held to provide information on transportation projects and Upper Coastal Plain RPO activities to the public in an informal setting. Open houses will have no fixed agendas or formal presentations. Planning documents, project maps, and other transportation-related information will be displayed. RPO staff and committee members will be available to provide details and answer questions.

## **Presentations to Civic Organizations**

Presentations will be made to interested civic organizations on Upper Coastal Plain RPO activities, the transportation planning process in general, or specific transportation projects upon request. Presentations will be made by Upper Coastal Plain RPO staff and/or NCDOT staff.

Public Outreach activities will include efforts to involve traditionally underserved groups (i.e., minorities, elderly, low-income persons) in the transportation planning process. These efforts may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Identifying areas in the Upper Coastal Plain RPO region with concentrations of minority, elderly, and low-income populations
- Sending notification of meetings, public hearings, and open houses to County Health Departments, Senior Centers, and/or Community Centers for posting
- Publishing notification of meetings, public hearings, and open houses in both English and Spanish when feasible

## **B. Public Input**

Public Input is the process of gathering the views, opinions, and ideas of interested individuals and groups in the transportation planning process. Opportunities for public input provided by the Upper Coastal Plain RPO include, but are not limited to, the following:

### **Public Comment at Upper Coastal Plain RPO Meetings**

Upper Coastal Plain RPO meetings are open to the public and provide opportunity for public comment.

### **Public Hearings**

Public hearings will be held by the Upper Coastal Plain RPO's Rural Advisory Committee (RTAC) prior to taking formal action on specific planning documents. These actions may include:

- Endorsement of Long Range Regional Transportation Plan
- Amendment to Long-Range Regional Transportation Plan
- Adoption of TIP Candidate Highway Project Priority List

### **Open Houses**

Open houses will be held to provide information on transportation projects to the public in an informal setting. The open houses also provide the public an opportunity to provide comments. Open houses will have no fixed agendas or formal presentations. Planning documents, project maps, and other transportation-related information will be displayed. RPO staff and committee members and/or NCDOT staff will be available to provide details and answer questions.

## **Surveys**

Surveys may be developed to gauge citizen opinion on specific transportation planning issues and/or projects. Survey content, method of distribution, and geographic target area will be dependent on the specific transportation planning issue or project.

## **Workshops**

Workshops will be in the form of small group discussions used to gather views and opinions on a single transportation topic or project. The workshops will provide detailed information on the specific issue, and will allow for in-depth discussion by invited key stakeholders, local government officials, and citizens.

## **Schedule of Public Involvement**

### **A. Regular Public Involvement Opportunities**

#### **Planning Documents**

All documents, resolutions, meeting minutes, etc. adopted by the Upper Coastal Plain RPO are kept at the Upper Coastal Plain RPO office located within the Nash County office building at 120 W. Washington St. Suite 2110, Nashville, NC. These documents will be made available for public review upon request.

#### **Meetings**

Regular meetings of the Upper Coastal Plain RPO's Rural Transportation Coordinating Committee (RTCC) and Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) are open to the public. A timely opportunity for public comment on the Draft TIP Candidate Highway Project Priority List and the Long Range Regional Transportation Plan will be made available at one RTCC and one RTAC meeting, the latter being a public hearing. Notification of the meetings will be sent to news media in the region.

#### **Public Hearings**

Notification of all public hearings held by the Upper Coastal Plain RPO will be sent to news media in the region.

#### **Press Releases**

All press releases issued by Upper Coastal Plain RPO will be sent to news media in the region.

## **B. Public Involvement for Specific Activities**

Public involvement strategies will vary depending on the particular issue or project for which public comment is desired. Typical actions for specific activities of the Upper Coastal Plain RPO may include, but are not limited to:

### **Comprehensive Transportation Plan**

- Workshops
- Regular Meetings of RTCC and RTAC
- Public Hearing
- Posting of Draft and Final Document
- Presentations to Civic Organizations

### **Prioritization of Projects for Recommendation to North Carolina's Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP)**

- Regular Meetings of RTCC and RTAC
- Public Hearing
- Posting of Draft and Final Document

### **Specific Projects/ Issues**

- Press Releases
- Workshops
- Regular Meetings of RTCC and RTAC
- Presentations to Civic Organizations
- Surveys

## **Response to Public Input**

Public involvement may be documented in a variety of ways. Comments received during a meeting of the Upper Coastal Plain RPO's RTCC or RTAC will be included in the meeting minutes. Also, any comments received during a public hearing held by the Upper Coastal Plain RPO's RTAC will be included in the meeting minutes. Written comments received during workshops, open houses, or presentations to civic organizations will be presented to the RTCC and RTAC, and kept on file. Results of surveys will be compiled, summarized, presented to the RTCC and RTAC, and kept on file.

Significant public comments may be included as appendices in formal documents or plans for which they were made.



## Appendices

### Appendix A: Media Contacts

#### Newspapers

##### Edgecombe County:

**Daily Southerner**  
PO Box 1199  
Tarboro, NC 27886  
Ph: 252-823-3106  
Fax: 252-823-4599  
Classified: 252-823-4599  
tmayer@cnci.com

##### Johnston County:

**The Smithfield Herald**  
125 S. Fourth St.  
PO Box 1417  
Smithfield, NC 27577  
Ph: 919-934-2176  
Fax: 919-989-7093  
srodrigu@nando.com

##### Princeton News Leader

P.O. Box 597  
Princeton, NC 27569  
Ph. 919-936-9891  
Fax: 919-936-2065  
editor@newsleadernow.com  
ads@newsleadernow.com

##### Nash County:

**The Rocky Mount Telegram**  
PO Box 1080  
Rocky Mount, NC 27802  
Ph: 252- 446-5161  
Fax: 252- 446-1418  
Classified fax: 252- 446-7068  
jwhite@coxnews.com

##### The Nashville Graphic

203 W. Washington St.  
Nashville, NC 27856  
Ph: 252-459-7101  
Fax: 252-459- 3052

##### Spring Hope Enterprise

PO Box 399  
Spring Hope, NC 27882  
Ph: 919-478-3651  
Fax: 919-478-3075

##### Triangle East Business Journal

PO Box 1180  
Spring Hope, NC 27882  
Ph: 252-478-4802  
Fax: 252-478-3075

##### Wilson County:

**Wilson Daily Times**  
2001 Downing St.  
PO Box 2447  
Wilson, NC 27894  
1-800-849-8811  
Ph: 252-243-5151  
Fax: 252-243-7501  
editor@wilsondaily.com

##### Wayne-Wilson News Leader

P.O. Box 158  
Fremont, NC 27830  
Ph: 919-242-6301  
Fax: 919-936-2065  
editor@newsleadernow.com  
ads@newsleadernow.com

## Radio Stations

### **WKNS 90.3**

Public Radio East  
Barker Hall - Craven Community College  
800 College Court  
New Bern, NC 28562  
Ph: 252-672-7522  
Fax: 252-638-3538  
hsegar@publicradioeast.org

### **WRQM 90.9**

Goodmon Building  
120 Friday Center Drive  
Chapel Hill, NC 27517  
Ph: 919-445-9150  
Fax: 919-966-5955  
news@wunc.org

### **WFXK 104.3**

Radio One Raleigh  
8001-101 Creedmoor Road  
Raleigh, NC 27613  
Ph: 919-848-9736

### **WRDU 106.1**

RDU County  
3100 Smoketree Court, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Raleigh, NC 27604  
Ph: 919-878-1500  
Fax: 919-876-8578  
cshebel@clearchannel.com

### **WNCT 107.9**

WNCT Radio  
2929 Radio Station Rd.  
Greenville, NC 27834  
Ph: 252-757-0011  
Fax: 252-757-0286  
live@1079wnct.com

### **WRVA 100.7**

The River  
3100 Smoketree Court, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Raleigh, NC 27604  
Ph: 919-878-1500  
Fax: 919-876-8578  
myronbethea@clearchannel.com

## Appendix B: Key Stakeholders

### Local Governments

County of Edgecombe  
County of Johnston  
County of Nash  
County of Wilson  
Town of Bailey  
Town of Benson  
Town of Black Creek  
Town of Castalia  
Town of Clayton  
Town of Conetoe  
Town of Dortches  
Town of Elm City  
Town of Four Oaks

Town of Kenly  
Town of Leggett  
Town of Lucama  
Town of Macclesfield  
Town of Micro  
Town of Middlesex  
Town of Momeyer  
Town of Pine Level  
Town of Pinetops  
Town of Princeton  
Town of Princeville  
Town of Red Oak  
Town of Saratoga

Town of Selma  
Town of Sharpsburg  
Town of Sims  
Town of Smithfield  
Town of Speed  
Town of Spring Hope  
Town of Stantonsburg  
Town of Tarboro  
Town of Whitakers  
City of Wilson  
Town of Wilson's Mills

### Other Governmental

North Carolina Department of Transportation  
Edgecombe County Transportation Needs Committee  
Johnston County Transportation Advisory Committee  
Nash County Transportation Committee  
(Wilson County Transportation Committee - TBD)  
Rocky Mount MPO  
Capital Area MPO  
Town of Nashville  
City of Rocky Mount

## Chambers of Commerce

### Tarboro Edgecombe Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Drawer F  
Tarboro, NC 27886  
Ph: 252-823-7241  
Fax: 252-823-1499  
jbgarris@embarqmail.com

### Carolina Gateways Partnership

427 Falls Road  
Rocky Mount, NC 27804  
Ph: 252-442-0114  
Fax: 252-442-7315  
cgp@econdev.org

### Greater Smithfield-Selma Area Chamber of Commerce

1115 Industrial Park Dr.  
Smithfield, NC 27577  
Ph: 919-934-9166  
Fax: 919-934-1337  
chamber(at)smithfieldselma.com

### Kenly Area Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 190  
Kenly, NC 27542  
Ph: 919-284-5513  
Fax: 919-284-1179  
[kacc@embarqmail.com](mailto:kacc@embarqmail.com)

## Economic Development Commissions

### Carolina Gateways Partnership

427 Falls Road  
Rocky Mount, NC 27804  
Ph: 252-442-0114  
Fax: 252-442-7315  
cgp@econdev.org

### Johnston County Economic Development

P.O. Box 1179  
Smithfield, NC 27577  
Ph: 919-989-5001  
Fax: 919-989-5178  
econdev@johnstonnc.com

### Four Oaks Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 415  
Four Oaks, NC 27524  
Ph: 919-963-4004  
Fax: N/A  
Jennifer.wiggins@fouroaksareachamber.com

### Benson Area Chamber of Commerce

303 East Church St.  
Benson, NC 27504  
Ph: 919-894-3825  
Fax: 919-894-1052  
Loretta@benson-chamber.com

### Wilson Chamber of Commerce

200 West Nash St.  
Wilson, NC 27894  
Ph: 252-237-0165  
Fax: 252-243-7931  
rtew@wilsonncchamber.com

### Clayton Chamber of Commerce

301 East Main St.  
Clayton, NC 27520  
Ph: 919-553-6352  
Fax: 919-553-1758  
chamber@claytonchamber.com

### Wilson County Economic Development Council

126 West Nash St.  
Wilson, NC 27894  
Ph: 252-237-1115  
Fax: 252-237-1116  
jlantz@wilsonedc.com

## Regional Organizations

### Upper Coastal Plain Council of Governments

P.O. Box 9  
Wilson, NC 27894  
Ph: 252-234-5952  
Fax: 252-234-5971

### Triangle J Council of Governments

4307 Emperor Blvd, Suite 110  
Durham, NC 27703  
Ph: 919-549-0551  
Fax: 919-549-9390  
tjcog@tjcog.org

## Public Transportation Providers

### Tar River Transit

331 S. Franklin St.  
Rocky Mount, NC 27802  
Ph: 252-972-1174  
Fax: N/A  
todd.gardner@rockymountnc.gov

### Johnston County Area Transit

1363 W. Market St.  
Smithfield, NC 27577  
Ph: 919-202-5030  
Fax: 919-202-5032  
info@jcats.org

### Wilson County Transit

2201 Miller Rd. South  
Wilson, NC 27893  
Ph: 252-399-2817  
Fax: 252-399-2770  
eswinson@wilson-co.com

### North Carolina's Eastern Region

3802 Highway 58 N  
Kinston, NC 28504  
Ph: 1-800-474-8499  
Fax: 252-523-9017  
info@nceast.org

### Wilson Transit System

320 E. Nash St.  
Wilson, NC 27893  
Ph: 252-291-2850  
Fax: N/A  
gajones@wilsonnc.org

### Rocky Mount – Wilson Regional Airport

7265 Air Terminal Dr.  
Elm City, NC 27822  
Ph: 252-446-7057  
Fax: 252-985-3728  
info@rwiairport.com

Wilson Industrial Air Center  
4545 Airport Dr.  
Wilson, NC 27896  
PO Box 10  
Wilson, NC 27894  
Ph: 252-291-8810 (Airport)  
Ph: 252-399-2488 (office)