



KERR-TAR RPO RTAC MEETING MINUTES

January 28, 2008

11:30 A.M.

Western Sizzlin Restaurant

Henderson, NC

ATTENDEES

RTAC Members

Alston, Clinton – Warren County

Averette, Pete – Granville County

Brown, Thomas – City of Roxboro

Day, Jack – Town of Stem

Gardner, Walter – Town of Warrenton

Pernell, Karl – Town of Louisburg

Sidney Dunston – Franklin County

*Spaulding, Ken – NCDOT Board of
Transportation

*Vacant – City of Henderson

Wright, Danny – Vance County

Yarborough, Larry – Person County

**Denotes voting members who were absent*

Others Present

Ellen Wilkins, Town of Stem

Geraldine Dumas, Kerr-Tar RPO

Julie Bollinger, NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch

Mr. & Mrs. Reggie Ponder, Daily Dispatch

Shelby Powell, Kerr-Tar RPO

Wally Bowman, NCDOT Division 5

MINUTES

Welcome & Introductions – W. Gardner welcomed attendees to the meeting and had everyone introduce themselves.

Minutes from November 19, 2007 meeting – Minutes were mailed to RTAC members in the agenda packets. It was noted that Mishew Gardner's name was spelled incorrectly in the attendance list, and that Norlina was the town that had not adopted the Warren County plan instead of Macon. **Motion made by J. Day with a Second by K. Pernell to adopt the minutes; there being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.**

Administrative Document Update

Planning Work Program FY 08-09: S. Powell reviewed the Planning Work Program for Fiscal Year 2008-2009, covering the major work items to include wrapping up the Granville County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP), continuing work on the Franklin County CTP, beginning work on the Person County CTP, and assisting in pre-TIP planning efforts for several projects in the region. Also, the RPO staff will conclude the sidewalk inventory and will complete a central parking inventory for the towns in the region. The RTCC has recommended that the RTAC release the PWP for public comment and, upon satisfactory completion of the comment period, adopt the PWP as presented. **Motion made by J. Day with a Second by K. Pernell to release the PWP for public comment and to adopt the document pending a satisfactory public comment period.** There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Memorandum of Understanding – S. Powell reviewed the changes in the Memorandum of Understanding, including language adding a quorum requirement and adding Butner as a member municipality. There was some discussion about Butner helping to pay the local match for the RPO planning funds; since Butner is applying to be a COG member, the COG dues from Butner will assist in paying the RPO match. If Butner does not become a COG member, the RTAC will discuss other options for having Butner pay a portion of the match at a future meeting. The Memorandum of Understanding should be released for public comment, then adopted by the RTAC, and then will go before each member government for adoption. The COG and NCDOT will also sign off on the updated MOU.

RTAC Bylaws – S. Powell reviewed several changes in the RTAC Bylaws that were a result of mandates by NCDOT, including language related to the purpose of the committee and the quorum requirement. S. Powell has also added a provision to formalize the staggered bi-annual appointments to the RTAC for member governments. Like the MOU, these Bylaws must be released for public comment. A provision for replacing RTAC members who missed more than two meetings in a fiscal year was also added.

Motion made by S. Dunston with a Second by J. Day to release the MOU and RTAC Bylaws for public comment and to adopt the MOU and Bylaws pending satisfactory public comment period. There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Transportation Improvement Program Public Hearing Discussion – S. Powell presented the NCDOT Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) public hearing schedule, and noted that this hearing was to receive comments on the 2009-2015 TIP, which had been discussed at previous RTAC hearings. She advised that the RTCC had forwarded a recommendation to the RTAC to appear at the hearing and voice support for the RPO's projects in the TIP, as well as other projects in the region that were receiving funding, and to thank NCDOT for allowing the RPO to participate in the process. RTAC member agreed that this was an appropriate role for the RTAC, and agreed to have Walter Gardner represent the interests of the RPO at the hearing.

NCDOT Division 5 Report – W. Bowman reported that two projects on I-85 are underway: a pavement rehabilitation project including reinforced shoulders and rumble strips on the section from Granville County north to US 158, which will be complete in October 2010, and a pavement preservation project from US 158 to the Virginia line that will reinforce the pavement, which will be complete in October 2008. Also, the project on US 401 in Franklin County from 581/56 to north of Main Street in Louisburg is underway, with the kickoff meeting being held last week. The intersection at Stem has been reevaluated for a signal, and it still does not meet signal warrants, but NCDOT will be creating a four-way stop at the intersection, which should help. A flashing light will be added at the intersection of 56 and Brassfield Road in Granville County, and the intersection at 96 and Pocomoke in Franklin County is currently under evaluation for safety improvements.

NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch Report – J. Bollinger reported that the Franklin County CTP subcommittee has been meeting to do traffic projections, and that the Louisburg CTP will be folded into the Franklin County plan. The Warren County plan still needs to be adopted by Norlina and endorsed by the RPO before it can go to the NCDOT Board for adoption. The Granville County plan should be going on the NCDOT Board agenda soon, as it has been adopted and endorsed by all necessary parties.

Planners Report – S. Powell reported on the following items:

TIP Hearing Schedule – The Division 5 public hearing will be February 21, 2008 at 2:00 at Durham City Hall. The schedule of other hearings was distributed for informational purposes.

Air Quality Conformity Update – Information regarding the final transportation conformity rule from SAFETEALU was included in the agenda packet, as was the Triangle Non-Attainment area conformity schedule. S. Powell reviewed the RPO's role in this process, which is to release the draft report for public comment, to comment on the report, and to consider endorsing the conformity report. Also, S. Powell advised that EPA will release a new ozone standard in coming months which could affect the non-attainment boundaries. She will keep the RTAC posted as this issue progresses.

21st Century Transportation Commission Update -- S. Powell reminded the RTCC that this is the commission created to make recommendations to the legislature in an effort to resolve the state's transportation funding crisis, as well as implement changes to policies and structures at NCDOT. They have met four times; RPO staff has been to two meetings. These meetings were mostly focused on information gathering. Their next meeting is at UNC Wilmington on February 21, which is the same day as the Division 5 TIP hearing. The RPO planner in that region is planning to attend the meeting and will report back any findings. A list of commission members was included in the agenda packet for information. Also included was a presentation regarding transportation issues as delivered by the Coalition of Engineers for Transportation at one of the 21st Century Commission meetings. The information in the presentation highlighted an alarming number of bridges in the state that did not currently have dedicated maintenance funding assigned to them. W. Bowman stated that the NCDOT regularly inspects and repairs faulty bridges, and that NCDOT is expecting a more robust bridge funding package in the coming years. The problem is mainly that many bridges in the state were built in the 1940s or so, and are nearing the end of their useful life. NCDOT will start paying more attention to the bridges and statewide tier of roads in coming years as far as maintenance.

RTAC Membership Changes – S. Powell advised that Mayor Thomas Brown, in attendance, was replacing Steve Joyner on the RTAC, and that the City of Henderson will reappoint someone to take Clem Seifert's place on the RTAC.

Southeastern Regional Transportation Forum – S. Powell distributed a flyer for the Southeastern Regional Transportation Forum being set for May 22-23, 2008.

Other Business – There being no further business, W. Gardner adjourned the meeting at 1:10 p.m.