



**KERR-TAR RPO RTAC MEETING**

November 9, 2006

11:30 A.M.

Western Sizzlin Restaurant  
Henderson, NC

**ATTENDEES**

**RTAC Members**

**Alston, Clinton – Warren County**  
**Averette, Pete – Granville County**  
**Day, Jack – Town of Stem**  
**Gardner, Walter – Town of Warrenton**  
**Joyner, Steve – City of Roxboro**  
**Pernell, Karl – Town of Louisburg**

\*Seifert, Clem – City of Henderson  
\*Spaulding, Ken – NCDOT Board of  
Transportation  
\*Swanson, Robert Lee – Franklin County  
**Wright, Danny – Vance County**  
**Yarborough, Larry – Person County**

*\*Denotes voting members who were absent*

**Others Present**

Timmy Baynes, Kerr-Tar COG  
Wally Bowman, NCDOT Division 5  
Shelby Powell, Kerr-Tar RPO Staff  
Charlie Richards, Henderson Daily Dispatch

**MINUTES**

Welcome and Introductions – RTAC Chair Karl Pernell welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Minutes from March 9, 2006 Joint RTAC/RTCC Meeting – Motion was made by J. Day, Second by L. Yarborough, to accept the minutes as presented in the agenda packet.** There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

**Letter of Thanks** – S. Powell distributed a status report of NC Moving Ahead projects in the region, and stated that the RTCC had voted unanimously to have the RPO send a letter of appreciation to the Division 5 office thanking the staff for the completion of the Moving Ahead projects. Interim Division Engineer Wally Bowman suggested the letter be addressed to NCDOT Board of Transportation member Ken Spaulding. **Motion was made by P. Averette, Second by J. Day to send an appreciation letter to Ken Spaulding and to Wally Bowman at Division 5.** There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

**RTAC Officer Elections for Fiscal Year 2006-2007** – Chairman Pernell opened the floor for nominations for the position of Chair and Vice Chair of the RPO for Fiscal Year 2006-2007. **Motion was made by D. Wright,**

**Second by P. Averette to nominate Karl Pernell for a second term as Chairman, and Walter Gardner for a second term as Vice Chair. Motion was made by J. Day, Second by C. Alston to close the floor for nominations.** There being no further discussion, both motions carried unanimously.

**Future RPO Local Match Strategies** – Timmy Baynes, Kerr-Tar COG Executive Director, reviewed the current funding strategy for paying the RPO’s local match portion of the budget. In 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 the COG paid the entire local match portion. In 2003-2004, the COG decided to use a special assessment of \$0.06 per capita to member governments in addition to their COG dues in order to fund 50% of the local match portion of the budget, with the COG continuing to cover the remaining 50%. RTAC members reviewed a spreadsheet showing their current dues amounts, and the potential amounts if their assessments were raised to \$0.13 per capita to cover the entire match amount. T. Baynes suggested a step-up method, where the per capita assessment could increase by \$0.03 in FY 2007-2008 and another \$0.03 in FY 2008-2009. He then presented a report from a survey of other NC COG’s to show how they collect their matches. D. Wright stated that continuing to spread the same match amount among fewer members was a trend that could not continue. RTAC members agreed that economic conditions were slightly better than they were when the RPO formed in 2001, and that it would be affordable to raise RPO assessments by \$0.03 in the coming fiscal year, and by another \$0.03 the following fiscal year. **Motion was made by P. Averette, Second by J. Day to agree to have the annual RPO per capita assessment increase by \$0.03 in FY 2007-2008, and another \$0.03 in FY 2008-2009.** There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

**RTCC Bylaws Update** – S. Powell stated that the RTCC voted at its last meeting to adopt new Bylaws in order to achieve a quorum more easily. The change involved changing the designation of non-voting members to “non-voting representatives.” That way, according to NCDOT, they will not be counted toward a quorum requirement. **Motion was made by W. Gardner, Second by D. Wright to approve the RTCC Bylaw changes as outlined in the agenda packet.** There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

**CTP Priority Needs List** – S. Powell stated that the RPO has three CTP’s underway currently: Louisburg, Granville County and Warren County. Each year the RPO is asked to submit a list of priorities for CTP’s so the NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch staff can accurately plan their work program for the coming year. Previously, the CTP Priority Needs List for the Kerr-Tar RPO identified Person County, then Vance County, then Roxboro as our top 3 next priorities. Franklin County was currently listed as #4. However, CAMPO is planning to devote resources to Franklin County’s plan this year, and it would be beneficial staff-wise and resource-wise to participate in this effort as it moves forward. Campo has worked diligently with us on Granville County’s plan. The effect of moving Franklin Co up on the list would be to bump Person County to #2, Vance County to #3, and Roxboro to #4. The RTCC voted unanimously to make this change to the priority list. The proposed list now stands as Franklin Co #1, Person Co #2, Vance Co #3, Roxboro #4, Oxford #5, Henderson #6. **Motion made by W. Gardner, Second by J. Day to approve the CTP Priority Needs List as recommended by the RTCC.** There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

**Statewide GIS for North Carolina** – S. Powell reviewed a proposal from the NC Interagency Leadership team, which is comprised of 10 state and federal agencies involved with transportation planning, economic development, environmental issues, and cultural resources. While working on a project to integrate CTP’s with the NEPA process to make transportation projects go from planning to construction more quickly, a need for a comprehensive state-wide GIS system was identified. The interagency team has developed a plan to implement this state-wide GIS system, and will work with local, regional and state agencies all across the state to develop 171 layers covering everything from schools to evacuation routes to orthophotography to brownfields to fish habitats and so on. This data is proposed to be housed at CGIA, and will be available to all state and local agencies over the internet. This will give us a state-maintained system of updated GIS information to use. The interagency leadership team will be asking the Gen Assembly this session to fund this effort, at a cost of \$38.2 million for initial program development, and \$4.7 million for annual maintenance of the layers. The projected savings from this investment are outlined in the agenda packet, and they include cost avoidances in the millions of dollars for developing projects faster, easier and more accurate pre-screening of project sites, and more accurate pictures of alternatives being studied in the Merger 01 process. Additionally, estimates over 2 million

dollars in savings for NPDES Compliance programs is projected. Since the Interagency Leadership Team plans to go to the General Assembly to request funding for this project, and since it will be a benefit to transportation planning across the state, they have asked RPO's and MPO's across the state to endorse this request. The RTCC voted unanimously to forward this resolution to the RTAC for approval. S. Joyner asked if this would eliminate the need for local staff to maintain GIS data. S. Powell stated that this would be for statewide coverages, and that local street, parcel, and other data would still need to be maintained by local staff. L. Yarborough expressed concern that private contract firms may not be efficient in maintaining some of the data. **Motion made by D. Wright, Second by J. Day to adopt the Resolution in Support of Development and Maintenance of a Comprehensive Geographic Information System for North Carolina.** There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

**Roxboro Pedestrian Planning Grant Application** – The City of Roxboro will submit a Pedestrian Planning Grant application to NCDOT and needs RPO endorsement of the application. This grant program is available to municipal governments in NC on an annual basis. The grant pays for the city to hire a consultant to perform a comprehensive bike or pedestrian plan. The RTCC forwarded the recommendation to endorse the grant application to the RTAC. **Motion made by D. Wright, Second by J. Day to endorse the Roxboro Pedestrian Planning Grant Application.** There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

**Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)** – S. Powell stated that the RTCC voted to approve a list of criteria for the updated TIP Priority Rating System. The list of criteria and maximum point value was given to the RTAC as information. S. Powell also stated that the Public Hearing to give input to the Draft 2007-2013 will be held in Roxboro on Friday, December 1 at 2:00 p.m. This will also serve as a forum for input into the 2009-2015 TIP. S. Powell presented a list of proposed comments for the RPO Chairman to present at this hearing, stating that they were intentionally vague because it was hard to submit comments for a new TIP when the final 2007-2013 TIP has not been released, and GARVEE funding is still up in the air also. NCDOT has not yet released a final date for the input into the 2009-2015 TIP, so the RPO should begin work on prioritization again very soon. She encouraged anyone with local project interests or comments to attend the hearing.

**Planners Report & Informational Items** – S. Powell stated that the Environmental Impact Statement for the US 158 project in Warren County is now underway, with an expected completion date of 2011. A record of decision for a route would be complete by 2013. Hopefully this project will receive funding on the 2009-2015 TIP for right-of-way and construction.

S. Powell presented an update on a work-related transportation project that the RPO is working on in conjunction with the COG's workforce development staff. This project will enable low-income workers in our region to have access to stable and reliable transportation to work. The project will culminate in a grant application to be submitted in early 2007. The grant funding would allow KARTS and PATS to expand services to meet unmet work transportation needs in the region.

S. Powell stated that the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carboro MPO was looking at expanding into the region, possibly into Granville and Person Counties. J. Day stated that Stem had no interest in joining DCHC. P. Averette stated that Granville County would likely stay with the RPO as well. L. Yarborough stated that no further discussions about the issue had occurred, but that it would be helpful for the RPO to develop a bullet list of RPO versus MPO issues to help the County make a decision.

There being no further business or discussion to come before the RTAC, Chairman Pernell adjourned the meeting.