



KERR-TAR RPO RTAC MEETING

**May 11, 2007
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*
Sidney Dunston – Franklin County
**Wright, Danny – Vance County*
Yarborough, Larry – Person County

**Denotes voting members who were absent*

Others Present

Geraldine Dumas, Kerr-Tar RPO Staff
Joey Hopkins, NCDOT Division 5
Sara Sherman, NCDOT – TPB
Charlie Richards, Oxford Public Ledger
Tonya Sneed, Town of Stovall
Bernard Holliday – Granville County

Leigh Woodall, Person County
Julie Bollinger, NCDOT – TPB
Patrick Young, Franklin County
Scottie K. Wilkins, Granville County
Tommy Marrow, City of Oxford

MINUTES

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

Minutes from February 2, 2007 RTAC Meeting – Motion was made by **W. Gardner, Second by C. Alston, to accept the minutes as presented in the agenda packet.** There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Air Quality Conformity Endorsement Resolution – S. Wilkins stated that John Hodges-Copple from Triangle J COG came to the last RTCC meeting on March 8, 2007 and reviewed the history of the Triangle Ozone non-attainment designation. S. Wilkins stated that there was an Air Quality Resolution within the agenda packets for each member to review and that this resolution had been reviewed by the RTCC members and they were recommending to the RTAC members to make an action to endorse the Air Quality Conformity Resolution. Motion made by W. Gardner, Second by C. Alston to endorse the Air Quality Resolution. There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Draft 2009 – 2015 TIP Priorities – T. Marrow, RTCC Chairman, gave a brief summary of the Kerr-Tar RPO TIP Rating System before Chairman K. Parnell opened the floor for discussion. T. Marrow stated that about 4 or 5 years ago when the RPO's were created one of the first tasks that they had to do was develop a priority rating system for all of our Regional TIP Projects. And at that time we felt like it would be a difficult task for us to do, but in 2005 we did complete that task. Those projects were rated and submitted; about a year or so later the RTAC along with the RTCC and other elected officials thought that a subcommittee should be created to review the list of priorities. In early 2006 the Kerr Tar RPO RTCC created a subcommittee to revisit the issues of the Priority Rating System. This committee would have representation from all 5 RPO counties plus RPO staff. They discovered that NCDOT was using some other criteria, state and federal criteria that we were not looking at. The RPO subcommittee then decided to try and realign itself with the state, federal and local criteria and that is how the new rating system came about. The subcommittee started working on a list of criteria and developed a point system. This system had 16 different criteria which gave a total maximum rating of 130 points. T. Marrow stated that to help build this ideal S. Powell had presented a summary and had individual county meetings with officials to discuss the rating system. She took down the comments and concerns from each individual county meeting, and S. Powell shared the comments received with the subcommittee for further review. Then the subcommittee looked at these comments and developed a list of criteria and weighted them and from that with S. Powell's help before she went on maternity leave reviewed those criteria and then re-rated the projects with the new list of criteria. Some of the projects were moved around from the new rating system. Some of the projects that were rated first or second in 2005 dropped down, such as one of Person County projects that dropped down significantly. The new criteria was weighted issues and this criteria was Preservation of right-of-way (ROW); Person County will address their concerns about this criteria today. The subcommittee felt that it was important and we know that NCDOT has funding issues like everyone else. We knew that NCDOT has moved some projects around such as the Transportation Enhancement Program which has been suspended for a couple of years. We knew that NCDOT is looking for someone to try to purchase ROW's or assist in developing ROW's so they would not have to pay as much for them, or maybe push it down to the local level. T. Marrow stated that preservation of right-of-way was not more important than accident rate, traffic flow and traffic congestion. But all the criteria were important and that some of us were ahead of the game and have an ordinance for the preservation of ROW in place already. He stated that he would try to answer any questions that the RTAC members may have and that there were some of the subcommittee members present that could also help out with answering questions.

Chairman K. Parnell opened the floor for questions pertaining to the Draft 2009-2015 TIP Priority Rating System. A question was asked if any of the priority criteria dealt directly with cost. T. Marrow stated that these priority criteria did not deal directly with the cost of projects. He also stated that the subcommittee looked at what was important regionally to each county. They had to be somewhat regional in nature, what was most important and how they rated out. T. Marrow also stated that we have always heard from NCDOT that if you have a project and you have already acquired the ROW for that project then they will look at it more favorably than a similar project that has not had the ROW acquired yet. J. Hopkins stated that T. Marrow was correct and that the total picture is a bigger problem and not just the ROW cost. The total cost of the project in which ROW can be a significantly part of that depending on the corridor or depending on the project itself. He said that DOT's problem is two-fold; there is a cash issue for spending because they have limits on themselves because they don't have cash on hand or in the bank to do a lot of things. And a bigger issue than that is their allocation is bounded based on a lot of things such as, inflation. DOT's construction costs have risen over 45% in the last 3 years.

L. Yarborough stated that Person County knows exactly how much their project will cost and that is one of the problems they have with the ordinance criteria. He said that there is no ordinance to preserve the land, because right now there is just lines on a map, but they know one day that it would be necessary. He said that Person County disagrees with the ROW ordinance criteria and feels that Person County should get some points as well. He stated that only one county in the region which is Franklin County has this ordinance in place and that is because they have a fairly urban section of their county and as a result of having that ordinance they get 15 points added to their projects. He also stated

that Granville County is working on an ordinance, so they get 5 points and everyone else gets zero points. This is the most heavenly weighted criteria in the point system and Person County does not feel like it is fair to their one project that they care about. S. Duntson asked L. Yarborough what he feels would be fair to Person County. L. Yarborough stated that it would be fair not to just jump right into the weighing of that one factor the first year that it is introduced, because they just found out two weeks ago about its impact. He said that if all counties knew this was coming they would have come up with an ordinance or some way to satisfy this requirement. T. Marrow also stated that S. Powell met individually with each county and reviewed the criteria. He was not for sure if all county commissioners were invited, but certainly some elected or local planners or EDC people attended most of these meeting. L. Yarborough stated that as a county commissioner he just found out about it on Monday. S. Wilkins stated that Granville County is in the process of adopting a draft ordinance.

L. Yarborough stated that Person County has had a de-facto ordinance on the project for over 20 years or since it has been put on the TIP. It has been known in Person County that one day that the road would be four-laned. He said that their planners will not allow anything to go along that ROW. He said for all traffic purposes that ROW has been preserved for over 10 years more closely to 20 years. He stated that is why they feel like Person County should get the 15 points for the criteria. L. Woodall stated, he felt that Person County is due some points for the preservation of ROW criteria, because the way the question was raised on the datasheet. L. Yarborough stated that R-2241 is the most important project in their county and it has been for over 20 years. L. Woodall stated that in past conversations with NCDOT they like to see consistency with the presentation of projects year after year and that is what Person County has tried to do with the 501 project. He stated that what bothers him mostly about the RPO system is that there is a significantly difference from the priority ranking 2 years ago verses the priority ranking of 2007.

Motion was made by S. Dunston, to accept the new rating system list. K. Pernell opened the floor for questions or discussion. L. Yarborough stated to the RTAC committee that Person County would like to remove all projects form the list. L. Yarborough said that he see this as an urban/rural issue, because as you become more urbanized you have a need for this type of ordinance. **Motion was made by S. Dunston again, Second by P. Averette to accept the new rating system list as presented.** There being no further discussion, the motion carried at a vote with 5 for and 3 against the motion.

NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch Update – J. Bollinger stated that Sara Sherman is working on the Warren County Comprehensive Transportation Plan and all three draft maps have been completed and now they are in the process of finalizing coordination with the rail division and their next CTP meeting is May 22nd. Rupal Desai is working on Granville County's CTP and all maps are completed as well. They will be meeting to present the rail, bike and highway maps. These maps will be presented to the committee on June 5th. R. Desai has started to work on the final CTP report. Louisburg has a draft highway completed and they are waiting on committee member replies. Franklin County has just started their CTP process and is creating a public survey; their next meeting is May 14th.

NCDOT Division 5 Update – J. Hopkins stated that a few small projects were approved this month. Two small projects in Franklin County were approved help pave fire station driveways; these were fire station #2 & #3. In Granville County, Stem school driveway and bus parking lot was approved. In Roxboro there was an enhancement project that was approved. He also stated that the GARVEE project on I-85 in Vance and Warren County which is I-4904 is a resurfacing project that has been delayed for a couple of months, because they are trying to get funds setup to help with the rumble strips placement. They are trying to get safety money set up to help with this project.

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