

KERR-TAR RPO RTCC MEETING

May 10, 2007

1:30 P.M.

Oxford Public Works Facility

Oxford, NC

MEETING ATTENDEES

RTCC MEMBERS

Alligood, Brian – Granville County Mgr

(Alternate: Barry Baker)

Ayscue, Jerry – Vance County Mgr

(Alternate: Ken Krulik)

*Barlow, Jonathan – Roxboro City Mgr

Baynes, Timmy – COG Director

(Alternate: Geraldine Dumas)

Becker, Kelly – NCDOT Traffic Engineer

Bowman, Wally – Division 5 Engineer

(Alternate: Joey Hopkins)

*Brink, Rob -- KARTS

Bruff, Mike – NCDOT TPB (Alternate: Julie Bollinger)

*Bullock, Ray – Middleburg Mayor

Carpenter, Steve – Person County Mgr

(Alternate: Leigh Woodall)

*Carver, Larry – Warrenton Town Mgr

*Church, John – Warren County EDC

Coudriet, Chris – Franklin County Mgr

(Alternate: Scott Hammerbacher)

Day, Jack – Stem Mayor

Finch, Benny – Vance County EDC

*Gobble, CL – Louisburg Town Mgr

Goswick, Ronnie – Franklin County EDC

(Alternate: Richie Duncan)

Harris, Carroll – Macon Mayor

*Jones, Linda – Warren County Mgr

*Lunsford, Gerald -- PATS

Marrow, Tommy – Oxford City Mgr

Moss, Jerry – Henderson City Mgr

(Alternate: Frank Frazier)

*Newman, Walter – Norlina Mayor

Newsome, Glen – Person County EDC

(Alternate: Larry Yarborough)

*Parrott, Janet – Stovall Mayor

*Powell, Shelby – RPO Planner

Turner, Leon – Granville County EDC

(Alternate: Scottie Wilkins)

*Wynne, Howard – Kittrell Mayor

**denotes voting members who were absent*

OTHERS PRESENT

Scott Walston – NCDOT TPB

Erris Dunston – City of Henderson

Charlie Richards – Oxford Ledger

Barry Baker, Granville Co Planning

MEETING MINUTES

Welcome and Introductions – Chairman Tommy Marrow welcomed attendees to the meeting, and asked everyone to introduce themselves, because there are some attendees who were alternates for TCC members. He also announced that Shelby Powell was out on maternity leave and Timmy Baynes was unable to attend due to family emergency.

Minutes from March 8, 2007 RTCC Meeting – T. Marrow announced that minutes from the last meeting were mailed to members in their agenda packets. Motion made by J. Day, Second by L. Woodall 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 our last meeting on March 8, 2007 and reviewed the history of the Triangle Ozone non-attainment designation, stating that the LRTP's of MPO's and the TIP's from RPO areas had to conform with regulations for air quality. She stated that there was an Air Quality Resolution within the agenda packets and that S. Powell is asking the RTCC Committee members to make an action to endorse the Air Quality Resolution, so that it can be given to the RTAC for adoption at their next meeting. Motion made by K. Krulik, Second by J. Day to endorse the Air Quality Resolution. There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Draft 2009-2015 TIP Priorities – T. Marrow stated that 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. The rating system criteria had approximately 130 points from 16 different criteria that made up the priority rating system. The total 130 points came from these 16 criteria. These criteria were tweaked from that point up until now. T. Marrow stated that in addition to, when the subcommittee started working on these criteria it was agreed upon by this committee (RTCC) that S. Powell would present a summary and would have individual county meetings with officials to discuss the rating system. She took down the comments from each individual county meeting, and from those comments S. Powell shared them with the subcommittee for further review.

T. Marrow stated that after about 5 or 6 meetings the subcommittee finalized the rating system. Then they were asked for the 5 counties to submit their top 5 projects for rating and they would be rated by the new system. The subcommittee met once again and the new rating system was unveiled and they found that some projects had been moved around a little do to the fact that the system had been tweaked. And in that subcommittee meeting they found that some counties may have misread the questions on the submittal forms and did not provide all the data for S. Powell to consider. The subcommittee felt like it would be fair if they gave those counties the opportunity to go back and do the research to see if that criteria was present in their county and was just over looked, and as it turned out that was the case. So they came back and tweaked it again and rescored the points again, because some counties did have the information and just overlooked it. T. Marrow stated that this is still new to all of us. After that S. Powell went back and rated the projects based on the new information and the final rated projects were sent out in the agenda packets.

T. Marrow opened the floor for discussion on the final rating of the Draft 2009-2015 TIP Priorities. L. Woodall started off the discussion by saying that he was one of the members of the subcommittee from the start. He stated that he attended all the meetings except for one and was very impressed with the thoroughness of the process that was developed by the subcommittee. He stated that the whole key to the rating system is that the numbers generated are the result of the rating system and that the numbers were not available before Thursday of week before last. He stated that was the first time that they had the actual numbers before them to look at and see what impact a given factor on the rating criteria can have on a given project and also on the overall list. He stated that the project for Person County has been on their list for a long time and has also been on the TIP for the RPO region the longest as well. This project is R-2241(US 501 from Roxboro to the Virginia state line). This project ranked number nine on the 2009-2015 TIP Project Priority list, whereas it was ranked number two on the 2007-2013 TIP Project Priority list. That has caused them to be quiet concerned. L. Woodall stated that when you start looking at the individual factors as to why such a difference, it turns out that Preservation of Right-of-Way factor was added to the 2007 criteria was the most important factor to skew the projects in the way they were skewed. The number one project in the RPO which is the highway 401 project through Franklin County stated number one and the number three project was in Granville County to improve US 15 and that project was ranked at number eight in 2005, was a significant jump. L. Woodall said that it concerned them because NCDOT looks at consistency to be a very important factor when submitting information or request to NCDOT Board. He stated that they had been told they could not be looking at having anything done to some of there other projects in Person

County until they complete project R-2241 up to the Virginia line, in which a couple of million dollars have already been spent on the planning & design phase. Mr. Woodall stated that there are some great factors in the evaluation criteria in the ranking system. It was just that you don't need to go forward to NCDOT requesting that our priorities be re-ranked as significantly as this ranking system dictates that we must do. The way it is set up now there is no oversight as to what has been purposed based on the motion that was approved back 2 or 3 months ago when we adopted this system, however the numbers fall out then that is what we would go with. We (Person County) don't feel comfortable in going with a package like that. L. Woodall asked for comments from NCDOT committee members that were present.

J. Hopkins from NCDOT stated that L. Woodall was right in his comment that NCDOT Board likes to see consistency over time in the project priority list. However, they do recognize this is really the first time that this group as a whole has done this. He stated that he did not know if that would be a bad thing or not if everything is re-prioritize or changed; at the same time he could see Person County point-of-view as well. L. Woodall stated that R-2241 is divided into 3 phases (A, B, C). The A phase is already funded and they are focusing on the B & C phrases of that particular project which is unfunded. This is also the closet part to the Virginia state line.

T. Marrow commented that the first rating system was the RPO's very first one several years ago. The members of the RTCC & RTAC and local elected officials designed the system pretty much in a vacuum which we thought was very good. Then we (RPO) discovered that DOT was using some other criteria, state and federal criteria, that we were not looking at. The RPO then decided to try and realign itself with the state, federal and local criteria and that is how the new rating system came about. S. Wilkins commented that she was part of the subcommittee and realigning our criteria to be more in line with what FHWA and NCDOT wanted would position us in the region to be more competitive against some of the more powerhouse areas that we are up against in the region and that is why she felt the Preservation of Right-of-Way was an important criteria. S. Wilkins commented that Franklin County already has the Preservation of ROW ordinance in their development regulations, so obviously they should get the 15 points for the criteria and Granville County has started to work on it, therefore they did not get all the points.

L. Woodall stated that most of the members were not aware of the impact that, that one factor would have on the rating system and when they got the numbers and saw the points it was really an eye opener. L. Woodall feels that the system needs to be modified at least this go around. His first preference is that he knows that we (RPO) do not have the time to redo the system today. L. Woodall stated, that he contacted Calvin Leggett at NCDOT and explained to him what was happening with our RPO ranking system and asked him what he thought about their project that was number 2 last time and is now number 9. C. Leggett's comment to Woodall was that NCDOT would frown upon that and Woodall did not take that as a very positive vibe. L. Woodall felt that Person County is due some points for the preservation of ROW criteria, because the way the question was raised on the datasheet. He stated that this particular project is going to be along the existing US 501 corridor so at least half of the ROW should be preserved as a result of going along that corridor. L. Woodall asked the committee members to consider going back to the ranking system that was used in 2005 to be used for the 2009-2015. This ranking would still kept Franklin County project US 401 as still number 1 priority, it would have Person County project R-2241 (US 501 from Roxboro to Virginia State Line number 2 priority and US 1 Business in Henderson would be number 3 priority.

K. Krulik commented that the ranking system is an on going project that would be continued to be tweaked over and over again. S. Hammerbacher concluded with K. Krulik that this is a working document and that we will continue to make changes to it. He also stated that going back using the ranking system from two years ago would not be fair to the other counties. L. Yarborough stated that you could ask the question "why don't you have an ROW ordinance". He answered the question by saying the reason is because they don't have an urban section of the County. If a county has an urban section it probably belongs to an MPO. Also he said that he could argue that Person County has an ordinance, because it is done fairly informal by the county planner. L. Yarborough said that the Person County planner does have the ability to say "no" you

can't build there, because there will be a road there one day. But turning it around and putting the most points of anything just because of an ordinance really sets your urban counties ahead of your rural counties and that is what is not fair about the ranking. According to L. Woodall, anytime you have the points for something called ROW is fifteen times more important than traffic flow therefore he does not feel comfortable with it. L. Woodall commented that we should be building roads based on traffic flow, traffic congestion and etc., are all important. S. Wilkins agrees with L. Woodall that accident rate, traffic flow and traffic congestion are all important criteria's. S. Wilkins also stated that once she found out that this factor would be a criteria she immediately when back and shared this information with the county and other leaders. She commented they knew in time about this factor and that is why she started to put things in motion so that Granville County would get some points for the criteria.

L. Woodall stated that from Person County's standpoint they have two projects that were accelerated from this ranking system above their project R-2241. He stated that Person County Thoroughfare Committee members discussed the project ranking of R-2241 during their meeting. And the committee members decided that they could no way participate in a system that goes forward to NCDOT that does not recognize R-2241 which is the four laning of US 501 from Roxboro to the Virginia state line. They could not participate in any type of system that does not allow them to recognize that R-2241 be their number one project. L. Yarborough commented that instead of calling it ROW owned or preserved it should just say ROW ordinance. He stated that Person County has owned and preserved that ROW for the last 20 years. It has been on the TIP for 20 years and there has been no development along there. He argued that this ROW is owned and preserved and that no one in the county does anything along it, because they know that one day it will be a four lane highway. S. Wilkins asked was it preserved. L. Yarborough commented that he felt they should get the fifteen points. S. Wilkins stated that they discussed this in the subcommittee meeting before they change it. The purpose of the meeting was to bring up areas of the forms that S. Powell had questions about or the forms were not filled out completely or they left something out and also discuss areas that were a little gray. She stated that they all sat down in the room and discussed topics that everyone had questions on and those areas that might be a little gray. L. Woodall stated that the numbers do make a difference. He also stated that when he got the numbers two weeks ago the first person he called the next day was C. Leggett of NCDOT and then the second person he called was T. Marrow. He said that he finally got to talk with T. Marrow on Tuesday. He was requesting that a new meeting be held; in fact a message went out to that effect and he only got two responses back and those were from S. Wilkins and P. Young and the response was that "we don't need another meeting".

B. Baker stated that he does not think any member should not become involved in the future, but should stay involved because this ROW preservation is important and to make stronger as an RPO so that we can hopefully get projects funded in the future. B. Baker asked were we looking for a motion today and T. Marrow told him yes, because the RTAC will be meeting on tomorrow. L. Woodall commented that if we were looking for a motion today, then he would be glad to throw out one for starters and that motion was that we approve the same priority rating system that we used back in 2005. He stated that we would preserve the consistency that we have had in the past couple of years. He stated that the consistency is important for NCDOT. He stated that very little has moved forward. L. Woodall made the motion that we adopt as our priority ranking system the same one we used in 2005. T. Marrow stated that we had a motion to use the 2005 Rating System for our 2009-2015 Rating System and did we have a second to that motion. The motion failed due to the fact there was no second to the motion. The floor was then open for other motions. L. Yarborough asked to make a motion and a request. He stated that the county has been working on this project for the last 20 years and it is the basis of their entire county road plan. He asked that their project P1 be given points for ROW preserved, because the corridor is owned by NCDOT. Person County has known for 20 years that a road would be built on that ROW. L. Yarborough made a motion that Person County be given the fifteen points. T. Marrow asked was the entire ROW acquired or a portion preserved? L. Yarborough stated that NCDOT does not own the entire ROW, but it runs along the same corridor. J. Hopkins stated that he would not use the word "preserved", but they do have existing ROW's of a two lane section. J. Hopkins stated that he did not know exactly how much ROW that DOT owned, but he said that it would not be unfair statement to say that DOT does come close to having half of it. S. Wilkins stated that

she asked the question because during the subcommittee meeting they looked at what percentage of it was protected or preserved or owned; if it was 50% then you would get 50% of the 15 points. L. Yarborough stated that the point he is trying to make was that this project has been on the books for 20 years and no one has built a house, store or anything else along that ROW, because everyone knows that DOT would one day come and take the property.

B. Baker made a motion that we recommend to the larger RPO body that these recommendations goes forward as presented with this information using the new system. S. Wilkins seconded the motion. The floor was open for discussion. S. Wilkins stated that if we gave everyone points then it would change all the numbers equally and L. Yarborough still feels that this is not fair to the rural counties. L. Woodall stated in the past couple of weeks he has played around with this and the only thing he could come up with was that would be fair to everyone was that we go back to the 2005 rating system. T. Marrow stated that if we go back to 2005 and we know what the rating system is now, we probably have a good idea now on how to score points now, so in two years from now we all probably will be adopting ROW ordinances for those 15 points, so what will we do in 2 years from now? He answered by saying you are going to want to make a change, so if you make it then, you make it now. L. Woodall commented that US 501 will remain their number one project regardless of the ranking system.

T. Marrow stated that we have a motion and a second to approve the ranking as submitted, the most recently. He asked that all members in favor to raise their right hand. All opposed was asked to raise their hand. The motion was passed. T. Marrow thanked everyone for the lively discussion and that some good points were talked about today and he commented that we have some goals to work on and that he feels that they are very doable to accomplish in two years.

L. Woodall made a motion that all Person County projects on the RPO ranking list be removed entirely before going forward to NCDOT. It was second by L. Yarborough. T. Marrow opened the floor for discussion. J. Hopkins asked L. Woodall if he meant that they want the projects removed from the list or if they wanted to be removed from the RPO. L. Woodall commented that he did not have the authority to ask to be removed from the RPO, but he was asking that Person County projects be removed from the TIP Priority List and not go forward to DOT. S. Wilkins asked if Person County does not submit any projects at all would it hurt them. J. Hopkins stated that it could hurt them and possibly the RPO. L. Woodall stated that the RPO should not be supporting a number nine project. T. Marrow reiterated the motion that was on the floor and the motion was to allow Person County to remove their projects from the priority list. He stated that we have a second to the motion He asked that everyone in favor please show by raising their right hand. All oppose raised their right hand. The motion failed.

NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch Update – S. Walston introduced Juile Bollinger and stated that she will be taking Rupal Desai's place as RPO Coordinator. R. Desai was promoted to CAMPO. J. Bollinger stated that Warren County's Comprehensive Transportation Plan was progressing and that all their draft documents have been completed and they are now in the process of coordinatoring with DOT's rail division. Their next planned meeting will be held on May 22nd. Granville County highway, rail and bike drafts are finished and they will be presented to the committee members during their June 5th. meeting and they will begin work on the final report. All of Louisburg's draft maps have been completed. Franklin County has just started on their Comprehensive Transportation Plan and they are creating their objectives, goals and survey. Franklin County's next CTP committee will be held on May 14th. T. Marrow welcomed J. Bollinger to Region K RPO and stated that we are looking forward to working with her.

NCDOT Division 5 Update – J. Hopkins stated that a few small projects were approved in the area. Franklin County got approval to pave the entrance to the volunteer fire department in Youngsville for \$19,000 dollars for Station #2 and \$23,000 dollars for Station #3. In Granville County, Stem school driveway and bus parking lot was approved for \$50,000 to help with pavement; this was for Stem High School. There was an enhancement project in Roxboro that was approved for \$16,000 dollars. J. Hopkins

stated a little over 12 ½ million dollars were approved for some construction projects throughout the region. These are highway resurfacing projects in the counties. 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 the shoulders are in really bad conditions and it is going to cost addition \$4 million dollars to correct the shoulders before resurfacing can begin.

Adjournment – T. Marrow announced that the next scheduled meeting of the RTCC is July 19, 2007. There being no further business, T. Marrow adjourned the meeting.