



KERR-TAR RPO RTCC MEETING

July 19, 2007

1:30 P.M.

Oxford Public Works Facility

Oxford, NC

MEETING ATTENDEES

RTCC MEMBERS

Alligood, Brian – Granville County Mgr

Ayscue, Jerry – Vance County Mgr

(Alternate: Ken Krulik)

Barlow, Jonathan – Roxboro City Mgr

Baynes, Timmy – COG Director

Becker, Kelly – NCDOT Traffic Engineer

(Alternate: David Phipps)

Bowman, Wally – Division 5 Engineer

Brink, Rob -- KARTS

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

*Bullock, Ray – Middleburg Mayor

Carpenter, Steve – Person County Mgr

(Alternate: Leigh Woodall)

Church, John – Warren County EDC

Coudriet, Chris – Franklin County Mgr

(Alternate: Pat Young)

Day, Jack – Stem Mayor

*Finch, Benny – Vance County EDC

*Freeman, John – Warrenton Town Mgr

*Gobble, CL – Louisburg Town Mgr

Goswick, Ronnie – Franklin County EDC

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

Parrott, Janet – Stovall Mayor (Alternate: Tonya Sneed)

Powell, Shelby – RPO Planner

Turner, Leon – Granville County EDC

(Alternate: Scottie Wilkins)

*Wynne, Howard – Kittrell Mayor

** denotes voting members who were absent*

OTHERS PRESENT

Charlie Richards – Oxford Ledger

Dionne Brown – NCDOT TPB

Geraldine Dumas – RPO Staff

Scott Walston – NCDOT TPB

Meeting Minutes

Welcome and Introductions – T. Marrow welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for everyone to introduce themselves and acknowledge who they were representing at the meeting.

Minutes from May 10, 2007 – Motion made by J. Day, Second by T. Sneed, to accept the meeting minutes as presented in the agenda packet. There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Transportation Funding Issues Presentation – Burt Tasaico from NCDOT's Fiscal Unit presented a slide show detailing the various funding sources and issues within NCDOT and highlighted federal funding sources and constraints associated with those. He stated that he would email the presentation to the RPO staff for distribution to RTCC members.

Draft 2009-2015 TIP Priorities –

- **Receive Public Comments** – S. Powell stated that the only public comment received on the RPO's draft TIP priority list had come from Person County in the form of a letter requesting all Person County projects be removed from the RPO's TIP priority list if project R-2241 (US 501) was not the first Person County project on the list. Also included in the agenda packet was the response from RTAC Chair Karl Pernell.
- **Forward TIP Priorities to RTAC to submit to NCDOT** – L. Woodall asked the group to delay the discussion of the TIP priority list because he had not gotten adequate response from Kerr-Tar COG Director T. Baynes regarding other rating systems being used by RPO's and MPO's in the state, and did not feel like Person County had had time to respond to the draft list. S. Powell stated that given the limited timeline and extensive discussion that had already occurred on this topic, the RTCC should try to wrap up this discussion today and formulate a draft list to forward to the RTAC for their meeting next week. She stated that two lists had been included in the agenda packet for consideration, one list with the region's projects as ranked by the rating system and one list that was the same except for the removal of all Person County projects from the list, as had been requested in the aforementioned letter. **Motion made by L. Woodall, Second by P. Young, to recommend the TIP priority list without any Person County projects on the list.** P. Young asked if it would make the organization look bad to not have one of the counties' projects represented on the list. S. Powell stated that legislatively, the RPO was required to submit a list of regional priorities for the TIP, but that no guidance existed on how to do that or what the list should include. W. Bowman stated that NCDOT looks for consistency in your priorities, and that the top five projects should stay the same for consistency purposes. He stated that it does not hurt the RPO to submit a list without Person County's projects on it because the list is still regional in nature. However, he felt that all regional projects should be left on the list. T. Marrow stated that consistency is important, but the local governments have local control over some issues in the rating system that could give their projects more points and could move them up on the list, such as the right-of-way preservation criteria. W. Bowman agreed that it would be feasible that some changes could come from issues like that. He further stated that the RPO might consider taking projects off the list if the corridor is even partially funded. S. Walston stated that the project descriptions need to be more accurate, especially where it was only segments of projects on the list such as with 401 and 501. W. Bowman stated that funding is extremely limited, and the RPO needs to focus on a few projects they want to push for and hopefully the Division would be able to get two or three of those in a TIP cycle. S. Powell stated that she felt the rating system had worked as far as identifying those projects which were of most regional benefit. L. Woodall stated that the 501 project had been ranked number two during the last rating, and that when it moved to number 8 or 9 on the list, that points to inconsistency. The Person County situation is simple: they have been cooperating with the County and City to promote that one project for 20 years. They do not need a rating system to tell them what is important in their county. He stated that taking 501 off the list all together is an attractive option if the RPO endorses funded TIP projects. If Person County does not get some concession at this meeting, Person County will have to withdraw from the RPO. They need 501 to be in the top four or five

projects or they will have to withdraw membership. He stated that Person County has not had construction money spent in the county in many years, and that he recognized that the RTCC did not want to tackle the equity issue. W. Bowman stated that it sends a mixed message to NCDOT to have R-2241 so far down the list now that it has been partially funded for construction. S. Powell stated that it was not clear in the handout, but that the ranked portion of 501 was the B and C sections of the project, not the A section which had been funded for construction already. That section had been included in the previous ranking, and that was why the R-2241 project had ranked so high during the 2007-2013 TIP ranking. S. Wilkins asked if, when looking at the region at a whole, was it reasonable to have criteria such as planning consistency and right-of-way preservation that helped to make local governments in the RPO more competitive in the division? Further, she stated that she believed such criteria made the RPO area more of a partner with NCDOT as far as keeping projects feasible and cost-effective. W. Bowman stated that the right-of-way preservation was a valid criteria to have in the point system. There is a need to protect corridors and having that corridor available for a project could keep costs down enough to make or break a project. P. Young stated that he felt the subcommittee tried to make the criteria objective, but that the RTAC can inject political views into the final list. He stated that the subcommittee had tried to achieve consistency with state and federal planning and prioritization policies. L. Woodall stated that the rating system provides a reward for local governments that have a particular ordinance in place but does not reward areas that are protecting the corridor through other means. S. Walston stated that the thoroughfare plan can be used as justification to protect corridors. L. Woodall stated that the RPO project submittal form asked the question incorrectly and did not allow Person County to get the points for preserving corridor. S. Powell stated that L. Woodall had been in the meeting where the form was developed and should have brought up those concerns then. L. Woodall stated that he did not know until April 26 how the points would be allocated to specific projects. S. Wilkins stated that she remembered seeing the points for each criteria prior to April 26. S. Powell stated that the subcommittee had determined what points would be given for each criteria back in the fall before she had taken the rating system to the individual county level meetings, and then the subcommittee had reviewed comments from those meetings. Then the subcommittee made a recommendation to the RTCC, who in turn made a recommendation to the RTAC, who finally approved the rating system before projects were submitted. P. Young offered an amendment to the motion that would explicitly show strong support for 501 to receive continued funding, along with other TIP projects in the region. T. Baynes asked if the RPO would support a non-member project if Person County dropped out of the RPO. S. Powell stated that Person County could not technically drop out of the RPO prior to the submittal of the list anyway, so that would not really be an issue for this submission. L. Woodall stated that it was very important that the RPO not submit another Person County project ahead of the 501 project. B. Alligood asked why Person County had not recognized the importance of the right-of-way criteria, and why they had not chosen to implement a measure to gain those points. He stated that Granville County had immediately begun work on an ordinance for preservation of corridor in part because of its impact on regional competitiveness. L. Woodall stated that there was no way to see that criteria's impact until the results of the points came out. C. Harris stated that it was his understanding that there were many factors in the rating system, not just the right-of-way criteria. T. Marrow stated that there was a motion on the floor with a proposed amendment. The amended motion was **to recommend to the RTAC the list of 09-15 TIP priorities without any Person County projects on the list, but with a strong endorsement for continued funding in the 501 corridor. Motion made by L. Woodall, and Second by P. Young.** With 18 votes for and two votes against, the motion carried.

RTCC Officer Elections FY 2007-2008 – T. Marrow stated that a request for nominations had gone out with the agenda packets, and that the vice-chairmanship was currently vacant. S. Powell stated that she had

received a nomination of Scottie Wilkins from Granville County as Chair and Pat Young from Franklin County as Vice-Chair. T. Marrow opened the floor for other nominations. **Motion made by L. Woodall, Second by T. Baynes, to close nominations and accept the given nominations by acclamation.** There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously. T. Marrow congratulated the newly-elected officers. They will take effect at the next RTCC meeting.

NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch Update – J. Bollinger updated the group on the following plans:

- Granville County CTP – the first public involvement session has been held and the next one is on Monday from 5:00 – 7:00 in Oxford. The session in Creedmoor was well-attended. T. Marrow asked what the format was. J. Bollinger stated that the workshops were informal with a presentation and a chance for the public to review the maps and make comments.
- Louisburg CTP – the draft maps are complete, and NCDOT is waiting to hear back from the city to move forward.
- Warren County CTP – the draft maps are complete and Sara Sherman with NCDOT is currently working with local officials to set up public involvement sessions.
- Franklin County CTP – the planning process has gotten underway and their public survey is just about to go out.

NCDOT Division 5 Update – W. Bowman stated that Joey Hopkins had been selected as part of NCDOT's strategic integration team and he would be working on that for 12-18 months. W. Bowman or other staff members would attend meetings in Joey's absence. The Henderson Western Loop currently terminates at County Home Road, which has put capacity pressures on the intersection there. The Division is using Spot Safety money to signalize the intersection and close off one of the five turns to straighten out traffic problems there. W. Bowman urged the TCC members to let the Division Office know if there was a safety problem in their jurisdictions so he could evaluate the use of Spot Safety funds to correct the problem. He stated that right-of-way must be available for those types of projects due to limited funding. Also, the metal pole for the signal at the Granville County intersection of 56 and 96 should be in by September. Also, the I-40 repairs in Durham County were estimated to be a \$21 million project, and that DCHC MPO and CAMPO want that project funded with non-equity funds because if the money comes off the top in maintenance it will affect all sources of funds, and it impacts Division 5 less if the burden is spread statewide. **Motion made by P. Young, Second by T. Baynes, to recommend that the RTAC adopt a resolution supporting the payment of the I-40 project in Durham County from NCDOT Administrative funds rather than equity funds.** There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously with W. Bowman abstaining from voting.

RPO Planner's Report – S. Powell updated the group on the following topics:

- a. *Air Quality Conformity Determination* - We received a letter from EPA and FHWA that the air quality conformity determination has passed for the Triangle Area. This means that Franklin, Granville, and Person Counties have been found to be conforming with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for this year through the 2007-2013 TIP.
- b. *New Ozone Standards* - EPA is reviewing current ozone standards, as they are required to do every 10 years. They sent out a graphic demonstrating potential non-attainment for NC counties at various levels of ozone. This chart was included in the agenda packet, along with a brief explanation that was provided by David Hyder at the High Point MPO. The new standards would not be announced or effective until late in 2008. S. Powell will keep the RTCC informed as this issue progresses.
- c. *Transportation Enhancements (TE) Update* – S. Powell stated that the Transportation Enhancements Unit had decided against holding regional workshops as had been previously discussed, and were planning to update website information instead. It is still uncertain as to whether there would be a project call in 2008, as administrative costs were continuing to

increase on currently funded projects. It is feared that if there is a call, it will be like the last call as far as a short turnaround time for applications, so RTCC members were advised to be thinking about possible projects just in case the call comes out.

- d. *2009-2015 TIP Dates* – The latest schedule of TIP hearings and other relevant dates as released by NCDOT was included in the agenda packets.
- e. *Bylaws / MOU Update* -- NCDOT has mandated that all RPO's update their bylaws and Memorandum of understanding this fiscal year. They have sent sample language, which has not been reviewed yet by staff, but this will require the re-adoption of the MOU by all member local governments. More to come on this in future meetings.
- f. *FY 2007-2008 Meeting Schedule* – The RTCC will continue to meet on the second Thursday of every other month. The meeting schedule for FY 2007-2008 was included in agenda packets.
- g. *Upcoming Transportation Conferences* – Information regarding the NC MPO/RPO Conference in October in Greensboro and the NADO Rural Transportation Conference in September in Chattanooga, TN, was included in the agenda packet.
- h. *Transportation Website* – The NC Association of RPO's website regarding transportation funding for non-TIP projects has been posted online. Some sections are still under development, but RTCC members were encouraged to look at the site and give feedback so that it will be a useful tool. Many forms and funding source descriptions were included on the page.

Other Business – J. Day thanked everyone for their participation in the RTCC, and stated that this participation makes the region a better place to live. T. Marrow thanked the committee for allowing him to serve as Chair for the past two years, and stated that it had been a pleasure to work so closely with NCDOT and other RTCC members. He announced that the next RTCC meeting would be held on September 13, 2007.

Adjournment – There being no further business, T. Marrow adjourned the meeting at 3:44 p.m.