



**North Carolina Association of RPO's  
January 28, 2005 Quarterly Meeting  
Triangle J COG Offices  
Raleigh, NC**

**Attendees**

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| 1. Ann Whitley, Upper Coastal Plain RPO  | 11. Geraldine Dumas, Kerr-Tar RPO      |
| 2. Atefe Northcutt, NCDOT                | 12. Greg Christo, Isothermal RPO       |
| 3. Brandon Shoaf, Albemarle RPO          | 13. Ivo Dernev, NCDOT                  |
| 4. Chris Padgett, Down East RPO          | 14. Jake Gilmer, Land-of-Sky RPO       |
| 5. Chris Rountree, Peanut Belt RPO       | 15. Jim Daughtry, Eastern Carolina RPO |
| 6. David Baird, High Country RPO         | 16. John Marshall, Unifour RPO         |
| 7. Dawn Qiu, Lake Norman/Rocky River RPO | 17. Matt Roark, Southwestern RPO       |
| 8. Ed Johnson, CAMPO                     | 18. Nicole Hay, Northwest Piedmont RPO |
| 9. Faye Lewis, Mid-Carolina RPO          | 19. Pat Strong, Triangle Area RPO      |
| 10. Gene Foxworth, Mid-East RPO          | 20. Shelby Powell, Kerr-Tar RPO        |
|  | 21. Travis Marshall, NCDOT             |

**Minutes**

**1. Minutes.** J. Marshall called the meeting to order and called for a motion to accept the minutes of the NCARPO October meeting. **Motion made by J. Gilmer to adopt the minutes as presented in the agenda packet; Second by J. Daughtry.** There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

**2. Bylaw Amendments.** S. Powell presented a proposed amendment to the NCARPO Bylaws to include the Immediate Past Chair as a member of the Executive Committee, and to officially begin the new terms of office for new NCARPO Officers as of January 1 following the election. **Motion made by J. Daughtry to adopt the bylaw amendments as presented; Second by P. Strong.** There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

**3. Legislative Subcommittee Report.** J. Gilmer stated there was no movement on federal transportation legislation, and that he had been trying to contact Caitlin Hughes, NCDOT Lobbyist, but had not gotten in touch with her prior to this meeting. P. Strong stated that the Highway Trust Fund Committee had not been active since our last meeting. The Joint Transportation Legislative Oversight Committee met on December 13, 2004 and covered questions about the environmental process involved in road building, and questioned why the state list of protected mussel species was so much longer than the federal protected list. P. Strong passed out copies of a presentation given by Lacy Love to the Committee, which outlined funding needs for maintenance in the future. P. Strong also updated the group on the Blue Ribbon Urban Needs group that had been meeting. He presented a Bill that would extend the Committee to May 1, 2005 to continue the Urban Mobility Needs Study. P. Strong also handed out the report created by the 2005 Alliance Leadership briefing the group on a tour to San Diego.

J. Gilmer asked if anyone had been invited to speak from the RPO perspective to the Blue Ribbon hearings. P. Strong stated that Rebecca Yarborough or someone from her office had been invited to speak. J. Gilmer stated that he had been invited to speak, and that he focused on small urban mobility needs, and spoke on behalf of all the RPO's in the state. P. Strong stated that the report will have a mainly urban focus.

J. Marshall asked if anyone had considered how RPO's will be funded when Secretary Tippet is no longer in office, and asked if the group should consider pushing legislation to stabilize our funding. T. Marshall stated that we would only need legislation if the Highway Trust Fund legislation changed to exclude RPO funding, but that he would bring the issue to the attention of Deputy Secretary Sheats. J. Marshall stated that RPO's were only funded up to 2006, and asked if we would need reappropriation after that. T. Marshall stated that our funds were directed by Governor Easley and not tracked specifically to any appropriation. J. Marshall asked when the RPO Association should start looking at the issue. T. Marshall stated that he would discuss it with Deputy Secretary Sheats, but that both he and Sheats were looking for alternate sources

of funding for RPO's. T. Marshall will check on the status of that and get back to the group. P. Strong stated that his RTAC had instructed the RTCC to look at the long-range funding issue because they are afraid of the growing technical support needs that will not be met by current financial support; the local legislators should also be involved in these discussions where possible. T. Marshall stated that the group should get back to Deputy Secretary Sheats to say why additional funding is needed, and what will be accomplished with that funding. J. Marshall asked if it was on the horizon to be able to bank funds from year to year. T. Marshall stated that if more money is allocated to RPO's, we would look at that issue, but currently the Highway Trust Fund is closed out each year and that is why we can not roll funds from year to year. E. Johnson stated that this was an MPO problem as well as an RPO problem because the PL funds assume you can conduct a study, hire a consultant, and do all of it within 12 months, and that is just not possible. The CAMPO group has spoken with Mike Bruff about that issue, and the MPO's support changes related to that issue.

**4. NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch Update.** T. Marshall stated that new budget numbers would be released soon, and he is expecting another 3% increase in funding due to inflation. He stated that S. Powell and J. Gilmer had attended a workshop focusing on MPO/RPO/NCDOT relationships related to the new CTP process, and that the CTP team will meet in February. This process is still moving along, and the NCARPO will be kept up to date as it progresses. J. Gilmer stated that the meeting was well-facilitated and allowed for good input. S. Powell agreed, stating that it looked like RPO's may get more of an opportunity for participation and input on local plans under the new process. T. Marshall stated that he is aware that the PWP needs re-working, and his group is looking at those issues. D. Baird stated that the Special Studies line item should be retained if any changes were made. J. Gilmer stated that the current PWP does not match work loads of the RPO's and it is confusing to the TCC, TAC, and financial officers at the COG.

**5. Logo Subcommittee Report.** N. Hay stated that Don Eggert had appointed her, Jim Daughtry, and Dawn Qiu to the logo selection subcommittee last year, and they now had four commendable submissions to bring to the group. Logos were submitted by Pat Strong, September Barnes, and Blair Israel. The subcommittee agreed that the entire TCC should vote on the logo since it will represent everyone. The logos were displayed on the screen. J. Marshall called for a vote on each logo. The first submission (map of NC with road in the center) received no votes. The second submission (map of NC with compass in the center) received no votes. The third submission (map of NC with "NCARPO" in the center) received five votes. The fourth submission (outline of "NCARPO" with illustrations in the center) received 12 votes. N. Hay stated that since the third and fourth logo choices had received split subcommittee votes, J. Marshall had taken the liberty of combining the two logos to produce something that we could all agree on. He also drafted letterhead using the combined logo. N. Hay stated that the designers had agreed to allow their logo designs to be manipulated to fit our needs. **Motion made by G. Foxworth to accept the combined logo as drafted by J. Marshall; Second by S. Powell.** There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously. N. Hay also added that she would get back to the group on the RPO-level Air Quality Training that she had mentioned on the email listserv some time back.

**6. Goals for the Association.** S. Powell stated that the RPO Association had been organized for over a year now, and that the Executive Committee, including herself as Secretary, J. Gilmer as Vice-Chair, J. Marshall as Chair, and Don Eggert as past Chair, had met to discuss some long and short term goals for the NC Association of RPOs.

*A. Funding Sources.* The first goal was to create a comprehensive document inclusive of all available funding sources for transportation projects, since RPO's were supposed to serve as a clearinghouse for that sort of information. E. Johnson said the Division offices control small urban and safety funds, and that there was a "never-ending report" that included all money spent on all projects in all the pots in the division office. J. Marshall stated that he had gotten questions about what pots are available for various projects. E. Johnson stated there is a public-private partnership document showing local and NCDOT sharing funding for particular projects. He stated that some MPO's a while back had developed a primer on various funding pots, but he could not remember which ones, as it had been 15 to 20 years ago when it was done, but he would inquire at the next MPO Association meeting about it. G. Christo stated that this goal could be expanded to include other data sources too, since the RPO is supposed to be that clearinghouse for its region, and the NCARPO could be the clearinghouse for the individual RPO's. M. Roark stated that we could pass information along on the listserv as it comes available. J. Marshall asked how much money Board members get in discretionary funds. E. Johnson stated that he thinks it is \$3million, but the projects individually are limited to \$150,000 - \$300,000 per project. T. Marshall stated that some small urban plans have funding sources or ideas in their appendices as well. P. Strong stated that Calvin Leggett would be a good starting point. T. Marshall stated there is no one person who knows all the funding sources. P. Strong stated that Stephanie Jackson would also be a good source for this information. S. Powell asked for volunteers to serve on this subcommittee along with the officers. M. Roark volunteered.

*B. TIP/BOT/RPO Meetings.* S. Powell stated the second goal discussed by the Executive Committee was to push the RPO/DOT Board member meetings to discuss the TIP. She stated that it might be a good short-term goal for the Association to present a feasible alternative to NCDOT to 20 individual RPO meetings. We could suggest a group of RPO's or have RPO's meet with MPO's. G. Christo said this was a good short-term goal and a long-term goal could be to get to the individual meetings. D. Baird stated that we could work along the boundaries that the TIP Unit was going to use to divide their work. E. Johnson stated that the meetings include looking at the current TIP and new TIP side by side, and decisions on what to do with the drafts are made later and later every year, so it would be helpful for RPOs to know what is coming. The need to minimize the number of meetings is there; this is a good goal for the organization. T. Marshall stated that RPO's could contact their MPO counterparts to try to attend their meetings, but the meetings are so long currently that multiple RPO's at one meeting may not work. J. Gilmer stated that this could be a goal of the organization and we could use future business meetings to discuss the in's and out's of it, and explore solutions to make it happen. This goal could also be combined with looking at how Board member attendance is across the state at RPO meetings.

*C. Presentations Posted on the Web.* S. Powell stated that another goal discussed by the Executive Committee was to create a collection of the powerpoint presentations we see at our quarterly meetings so that we could get the information to present to our own TCC or TAC members when necessary. She offered to look into having her COG website contain this information.

*D. GIS/Data Sharing/Coordination.* S. Powell stated that Paul Black had served as our GIS liaison for the RPO Association, and he was in contact with the RPO GIS people regularly, but the RPO Association may need to flesh out specific data needs and create solutions on how to get data, maintain data, and share data. G. Christo volunteered to lead this effort on a subcommittee. D. Baird volunteered to assist. E. Johnson stated that the MPO Association had these same issues and would like to work with the RPO Association on this effort. S. Powell asked if we needed to contact the MPO Association requesting a person to be assigned to this effort. E. Johnson stated that would be helpful, and that he would mention it at their upcoming meeting. J. Marshall asked if the group would like to see an update on the GIS material presented to us last April. The group consensus was that the GIS subcommittee could work on this outside the quarterly meetings and report to the full group as necessary. J. Marshall stated that he would contact Paul Black to determine if there was any work item he wished to report to the group related to his work as our GIS liaison.

*E. Other Goals.* S. Powell asked for other goals the group would like to see the NCARPO work towards. One member stated that RPO planners always need additional training. One member stated that we could work towards creating an RPO Association website. One member stated that work should continue on the MPO/RPO coordination on CTP's.

**7. Subcommittee Appointments.** J. Marshall stated that the following Subcommittee Appointments were made:

- Funding Subcommittee would include the Executive Committee and Matt Roark.
- Legislative Subcommittee would include Pat Strong, who would cover state and federal issues.
- GIS/Data Sharing Subcommittee would include Greg Christo, David Baird, Paul Black, and an MPO Participant TBD.

**8. Cell Phone List.** J. Marshall stated that there would be a sheet passed around for those who are interested to write their cell phone numbers so they could be contacted regarding last-minute changes in meeting times or locations for the group. The numbers would only be shared between those who put their names on the list.

**9. Other Business.** A. Whitley asked if NCDOT will pay a consultant to do a transportation plan for a local government. T. Marshall stated not usually, only in rare circumstances that really required immediate action was that allowed. The NCDOT is hiring additional traffic study staff to catch up on local plans.

**10. Adjournment.** There being no further business, J. Marshall adjourned the business meeting at 12:04 p.m.