



**North Carolina Association of RPO's
January 25, 2007 Quarterly Meeting
Triangle J Council of Governments
Durham, NC**

Attendees

1. Alex Rickard, Eastern Carolina RPO
2. Ann Whitley, Peanut Belt RPO
3. Carrie Runser-Turner, Land of Sky RPO
4. Chris Lukasina, Upper Coastal Plain RPO
5. Chris Rountree, Peanut Belt RPO
6. Cliff Kendall, Mid-East RPO
7. Craig Hughes, High Country RPO
8. Daniel Van Liere, Down East RPO
9. Don Eggert, Cape Fear RPO
10. Geraldine Dumas, Kerr-Tar RPO
11. Greg Christo, Isothermal RPO
12. Hanna Cockburn, Piedmont Triad RPO
13. Janet Robertson, Lumber River RPO
14. Joel Strickland, Mid-Carolina RPO
15. Marc Allred, Northwest Piedmont RPO
16. Pat Strong, Triangle J RPO
17. Shelby Powell, Kerr-Tar RPO
18. Brandon Herring, NCDOT TPB
19. Carlos Moya, NCDOT TPB
20. Elena Talanker, NCDOT TPB
21. Elina Zlotchenko, NCDOT TPB
22. Hemal Shah, NCDOT TPB
23. Katherine English, NCDOT TPB
24. Matt Day, NCDOT TPB
25. Travis Marshall, NCDOT TPB
26. Tyler Bray, NCDOT TPB

Minutes

Welcome

S. Powell called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m..

Minutes

S. Powell called for a motion to accept the minutes of the NCARPO October 2006 meeting. **A motion was made by G. Christo to adopt the minutes as presented; Second by D. Van Liere.** Discussion: none. There being no discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

MPO Update

E. Johnson provided attendees updates on several items. The MPO board is meeting tomorrow. The MPO has been asked to brief the TIP committee of the Board of Transportation on several items, including TIP coordination regarding air quality conformity issues and public hearing notices for the draft 07-13 TIP. The MPO was upset that there was little notice that 09-15 input would be accepted at the draft 07-13 meetings and has insisted on a 6 month process with a written schedule. The MPO Association is also working on a standard CTP project information form, which could be used to build a statewide database of all documented plans for MPOs and RPOs. The MPOs legislative agenda for this year includes improving the openness of the transportation planning process, gap money on turnpikes, and a review of the equity formula. C. Hughes pointed out that a review of the equity formula can be a touchy subject in rural areas, especially in counties where 1 large project can skew the rate of return calculations. E. Johnson commented that he understands that concern and that the various needs addressed by transportation projects, such as economic prosperity, congestion, etc., are all different and shouldn't be commingled. The goal is an equity formula for various needs. D. Eggert mentioned an interest at the local level in raising local funds to help move projects forward. E. Johnson agreed this is an option that would allow MPOs and RPOs a say in how local funds are spent. E. Johnson added that the MPO Conference location for this year has not been selected and he will update us later on that.

Transportation Planning Branch Update

E. Zlotchenko provided attendees updates on several items. There have been several staffing changes in TPB: Tammye Fontenot is no longer with RPOs and will be with the Jacksonville MPO and Tyler Bray is now coordinating Cape Fear RPO, Lumber River RPO, and Mid-Carolina RPO. E. Zlotchenko also introduced Carlos Moya, who is new to TPB and will be coordinating Down East RPO and Eastern Carolina RPO. TPB will be holding internal training for RPO and MPO Coordinators regarding invoice review. This training will be adjusted for RPO planners and presenting at the April

NCARPO meeting. Invoices are due February 10 and deliverables should be included. Tier designation has been released and is in a new format, with Tiers I, II, and III only. Once the RPO funding information is available, TPB will inform us of the new calculations. E. Zlotchenko recently sent out an email regarding solicitation of TCSP Program Grant Applications for FY 2007. She has received lots of questions and is trying to get clarification of how the process will work. She is unsure whether RPOs can fill out applications to send to TIP units for their consideration or if RPOs can submit applications directly to FHWA. The deadline is March 8. E. Zlotchenko also stated that the RPO funding information is not yet available but as soon as she has an update she will let us know.

Statewide RTAC Association Update

At the October NCARPO meeting, H. Cockburn distributed a discussion paper outlining the concept of a state-wide MPO/RPO Transportation Advisory Committee. Members were requested to share the information with their TACs to determine the level of interest, and address any next steps in January. S. Powell asked for feedback on the proposal. D. Eggert stated that his TAC did not have many comments but were not adverse to the concept. His COG Director asked that the LRO Directors be kept informed. C. Runser-Turner stated that her RPO felt that although improved communication between MPOs and RPOs would be beneficial, establishing a committee with meeting dates and additional responsibilities would add another layer of complication to the system. Land-of-Sky RPO is happy with the current system, in which RPO Coordinators take issues back to their committees before the NCARPO takes action on them. D. Eggert suggested the committee could be voluntary. C. Runser-Turner stated that if the committee were taking action on legislative issues on behalf of all RPOs, full participation by all RPOs would be necessary. D. Van Liere stated that his TAC Chair is in favor of the idea sharing concept. S. Powell agreed that information sharing is important. H. Cockburn stated that the next step will be to take the concept to the MPO and continue to get feedback from the RPOs.

RPO Self-Assessment Update

D. Eggert provided copies of AASHTO's "Non-Metropolitan Local Consultation Process: A Self-Assessment Tool for States". D. Eggert was asked to review the self-assessment tool at the NCARPO October meeting. It is a self-assessment tool for states and may be a useful tool that individual RPOs could use to see how they are doing. E. Zlotchenko mentioned that TPB is also working on this issue and has hired a professor from Elizabeth City University to investigate methods in other states and develop a tool for use by RPOs and TPB Coordinators.

Committee Reports

Legislative – P. Strong provided an update on several issues that have been discussed at recent meetings of the Joint Legislative Committee on Transportation. Copies of a proposal for merging the Ecological Enhancement Program and the Clean Water Management Trust Fund were circulated recently. If you did not receive it let P. Strong know. The General Assembly is going to hire a consultant to look at the possibility. Other issues include innovative transportation funding ideas, a debate on how best to clear right-of-way so that outdoor advertising will be visible, DMV identity theft and fraud, and equity in paving of secondary roads. S. Powell mentioned that P. Strong has been the sole member of the legislative committee for some time if anyone wants to help him out. P. Strong said it has not been too much work. He added that committee meeting attendance has been high recently, especially due to concerns about funding.

RPO Manual Subcommittee

S. Powell reported that at the RPO Administrative Manual Work Session an RPO Manual Subcommittee was proposed. Suggested committee members are S. Powell, H. Cockburn, C. Runser-Turner, J. Marshall, G. Christo, D. Eggert, J. Robertson, M. Allred, and E. Davis. The Committee will meet quarterly and work together to revise the existing manual to improve it. **D. Eggert made a motion to accept the proposed RPO Manual Subcommittee membership, second by A. Rickard.** Discussion: none. Motion carried unanimously.

Future Topics and Meeting Locations

S. Powell asked that members submit topic suggestions for future meetings to her. The April Quarterly meeting will be held in Asheville. C. Runser-Turner will distribute lodging and meeting information soon. The July Quarterly meeting will be in Fayetteville. The October MPO meeting may be in Asheville, but this has not been confirmed. S. Powell pointed out that if the MPO Conference is in Asheville, it is in a separate fiscal year from the April quarterly meeting in Asheville and should therefore have a smaller impact on travel budgets. T. Bray suggested that individual RPOs may want to invite Joe Hummer to present information about superstreets or Benjetta Johnson to discuss roundabouts.

Other Items. D. Eggert circulated a sign up sheet for RPO members to list cell phone numbers. S. Powell will compile the list and distribute it only to those who sign up. J. Robertson asked who updates the NCDOT RPO contact information. T.

Marshall indicated that any updates to contact information should be sent to T. Marshall or E. Zlotchenko, who will pass it on to the appropriate person for posting to the website.

Adjournment. With no other business to consider, S. Powell adjourned the meeting at 4:45p.m.