



**North Carolina Association of RPO's
July 29, 2005 Quarterly Meeting
High Country COG Offices
Boone, NC**

Attendees

1. Ann Whitley, Peanut Belt RPO
2. Bob Bacon, Triangle J COG
3. Dan Thomas, NCDOT TPB
4. Dana Stoogenke, Mid-Carolina RPO
5. Darius Sturdivant, NCDOT
6. David Baird, High Country RPO
7. David Bender, NCDOT
8. Dawn Qiu, Lake Norman and Rocky River RPO's
9. Don Eggert, Cape Fear RPO
10. Eddie Dancausse, FHWA
11. Faye Lewis, Mid-Carolina RPO
12. Geraldine Dumas, Kerr-Tar RPO
13. Greg Christo, Isothermal RPO
14. Hanna Cockburn, Piedmont Triad RPO
15. Jaime Adrignola, NCDOT TPB
16. Janet Robertson, Lumber River RPO
17. Jim Daughtry, Eastern Carolina RPO
18. Jim Stokoe, Land-of-Sky RPO
19. John Marshall, Unifour RPO
20. Jon Beck, Land-of-Sky COG
21. Katherine English, NCDOT TPB
22. Marc Allred, Northwest Piedmont RPO
23. Matt Roark, Southwestern RPO
24. Nicole Hay, Northwest Piedmont RPO
25. Pat Strong, Triangle Area RPO
26. Paul Black, Upper Coastal Plain RPO
27. Rhett Fussell, NCDOT TPB
28. Roger Sheats, NCDOT
29. Scott Huffman, High Country COG
30. September Barnes, Triangle J COG
31. Shelby Powell, Kerr-Tar RPO
32. Terry Arellano, NCDOT TPB
33. Tom Tyre, Southwestern RPO
34. Travis Marshall, NCDOT

Minutes

Welcome. J. Marshall called the meeting to order at 10:50 a.m. and thanked High Country COG for hosting this meeting.

Minutes. J. Marshall called for a motion to accept the minutes of the NCARPO April 2005 meeting. **Motion made by J. Robertson to adopt the minutes as presented in the agenda packet; Second by G. Christo.** There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Nominating Committee. J. Marshall stated that the NCARPO would need to hold elections for the Executive Committee in October. He appointed a Nominating Committee to consist of Don Eggert, Janet Robertson, and Jim Daughtry. He stated that a slate of nominations would be presented at the October 2005 Business Meeting in Greenville and the election would be held at that time.

Highway Trust Fund Resolution. D. Eggert stated that the Wilmington MPO had adopted a resolution similar to the one distributed to the NCARPO at the meeting. His BOT representative stated that the adoption of the resolution would be a good thing for the Cape Fear RPO. As such, D. Eggert wanted to bring the resolution before the NCARPO for consideration as well. J. Marshall stated that the Association could take action now or could review the resolution with their respective RPO's and take action in October. The general consensus was to consider taking action in October.

Collaboration Project. P. Black gave an overview of the work being done by a committee to follow up on the May 13, 2005 Kick-off meeting for the RPO/MPO/NCDOT Collaboration Project. Materials had been emailed to the NCARPO members for review and comment prior to this meeting. T. Marshall stated that any comments on these materials could be sent to him. T. Marshall worked with Warren Miller of Fountainworks, Inc to develop the matrices on the communication points in the CTP and TIP processes. At the last subcommittee meeting two MPO's, 3 RPO's and 3 NCDOT staff had been represented. T. Marshall stated that he would send out some ballfield issues developed by the subcommittee for the whole group to consider. S. Powell stated that the subcommittee would meet again in September, and that a final update would be

given to the group at the MPO Conference in October. P. Black stated that this process will help develop some standards for communication across the state for all the planning organizations.

MPO Association Update: H. Cockburn stated that the next NC AMPO meeting will be August 11 in Greensboro. J. Marshall stated that he would send the letter requesting better access to GIS data from NCDOT to NC AMPO for their consideration at that meeting. The NCARPO had agreed to send this letter at their April meeting.

Subcommittee Reports:

GIS Subcommittee – G. Christo stated that the GIS Subcommittee had been discussing issues related to Paul Black's presentation during the quarterly meeting. Sidewalk standards will be discussed at the LRO GIS meeting in August. Statewide TAZ's should be doable in a year and a half. H. Cockburn stated that you needed to get information to the Census Bureau a year and a half before the census if you wanted it incorporated in their data collection. P. Black stated that should not be a problem. P. Black also stated that the NCDOT GIS Unit had not sent a representative to this meeting. They have discovered various duplicate datasets and are still trying to get a list of datasets as the NCARPO discussed at their April 2004 meeting. T. Marshall stated that a letter from the NCARPO to the GIS Unit might put pressure on them to release that data. T. Marshall asked if there was a dataset of signals. M. Roark stated there was on the internal NCDOT website. G. Christo stated that he has a copy of that dataset.

Financing Subcommittee -- M. Roark stated that a lot of paperwork and information had been collected from NCDOT, but funding streams are constantly changing and this project will require more interviews with NCDOT staff and may require asking touchy questions. We need to look at options for a final output to product to result from this effort. All the MPO's, RPO's and NCDOT want this information but no one has been able to collect it all yet. This subcommittee may need additional resources and ideas. P. Black stated that Jim Trogdon, formerly Division 4 Engineer, had moved to work at the NC Legislature and he may be a good resource for this, as well as a good speaker for a future NCARPO meeting. J. Marshall stated that the subcommittee had also met with Calvin Leggett and Mike Stanley about this issue. J. Marshall thanked M. Roark for taking the lead on this project.

Legislative Subcommittee – P. Strong stated that he had sent out several items of interest to the group, including Federal Aid 101 documents. He suggested that we approach FHWA about having a speaker present information in this document and about reauthorization to the NCARPO at a future meeting. The reauthorization that was passed in the past few days contains language to move the minimum guarantee up to 92%. Probably about 60 days after the legislation is signed, FHWA will put it on their website. P. Strong will send a notice to the listserv when it becomes available. Other interesting legislative items were:

- In the NC budget, about \$252 million was scheduled to come out of the \$1.089 billion Trust Fund to go to the General Fund this year.
- HB 749/SB 655 provides authorization to local governments to enter into partnership agreements for highway construction, and is being considered in the Finance Committee now
- HB 750/SB 657 is under consideration for redefining state roads to eliminate the urban component and have that mileage reassigned to the primary and secondary road system
- GARVEE bonds are being considered. These bonds would allow FHWA to advance the state a certain amount of money within the reauthorization period for the state to issue bonds against; this money can be used to advance construction projects. Eight states used this program during TEA-21 and it seemed to have positive results. If NCDOT goes with the GARVEE bond concept, it would allow approximately \$800 million to be bonded during this 6-year reauthorization period.
- It is expected that NC will get about 20% more in funds in SAFETEA-LU than it did in TEA-21.

P. Black asked if all the turnpike slots had been filled. P. Strong said that five have been assigned, and candidates for the rest must be in the TIP well into the NEPA process.

NCDOT TPB Update: T. Marshall reviewed several items:

- The accounts for the GIS and General Assembly grants would be closed out within a few weeks. If anyone has outstanding invoices for these grants, they should get them to T. Marshall soon.
- All RPO's need to ensure that they have sent their End of Year reports and invoices to their Coordinator since they are due at the end of July.
- Regarding Jaime Adrignola's presentation during the quarterly meeting, if Board of Transportation members are not attending their RPO meetings or being responsive to their RPO's, T. Marshall needs to know about this as well.

- T. Marshall has been in contact with FHWA to determine training opportunities. If anyone sees a FHWA training class they would like to attend, notify T. Marshall so that he can try to bring it to NC. P. Black asked if it was acceptable to attend training sponsored by other states, such as a pedestrian planning workshop in Virginia. T. Marshall stated that was acceptable. T. Arellano stated that there was an FHWA-sponsored Air Quality 101 training scheduled in Raleigh next week. P. Strong mentioned an NHI class dealing with the four-step modeling process, and the class is usually four days long. He asked if anyone would be interested in attending that. M. Roark questioned if RPO Planners would benefit since we do not do much modeling. H. Cockburn stated that FHWA has a really good modeling class too. J. Marshall stated that four days was too long to be out of the office at training. T. Marshall said he would investigate a less-intensive training class in modeling for RPO Planners.
- The MPO/RPO/NCDOT Collaboration Project is ongoing. The new CTP process is also ongoing, with Hanna Cockburn representing RPO's on the committee. A product on the CTP process is expected within six months. D. Eggert asked if there was a timeline for making RPO's signatory on Merger 01 Process projects. H. Cockburn stated that she had been made a signatory because it was a new project in her area and she was involved in all Merger 01 meetings from the beginning of the process.
- PDEA Branch Managers have been instructed to try to give RPO's more timely meeting notices. H. Cockburn asked if the new structure of PDEA would affect the pre-set east and west meeting dates for concurrence. T. Marshall said he would check on that. T. Arellano stated that the RPO Coordinators should be getting project engineer lists to everyone soon, as Beverly Williams had discussed at the April NCARPO quarterly meeting. J. Adrignola stated that there was an effort underway to get more accurate merger meeting information on the PMii database. There is not currently an easy way to determine which projects are merger projects and which are not.
- The RPO Coordinators at NCDOT have begun having internal meetings so everyone could be on the same page.
- Many RPO Coordinators have been asking for more specific PWP's with deliverables listed. Deliverables include maps, presentations, priority lists, and databases. Having deliverables will help justify RPO's and help extend our funding streams; it also helps in NCDOT coordination of RPO's. J. Marshall stated that it would be easier to identify deliverables on the quarterly reports rather than the PWP because of things that crop up throughout the year. T. Marshall stated that the PWP list of deliverables would give you something to aim for and could be revised as those types of requests come in. As your priorities change, your PWP can change throughout the year, as long as you notify NCDOT of the changes.

Next Meeting. J. Marshall stated that the January 2006 NCARPO meeting would be held at the Triangle J COG offices in RTP and invited anyone with topics of interest to contact him. There will be a NCARPO Business meeting immediately preceding the MPO Conference in Greenville on October 26, 2005.

Adjournment. J. Marshall adjourned the meeting at 12:02 p.m.