

Cape Fear RPO
Brunswick County ❖ Columbus County
Pender County

Rural Transportation Advisory Committee
March 11, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Members Present

George Brown, Pender County
Giles Byrd, Columbus County
Craig Caster, Boiling Spring Lakes
Don Helms, Surf City
John Lennon, NC Board of Transp.
Bruce Maxwell, St James

Fred McCoy, Pender County
Wilfred Robbins, Burgaw
Edwin Russ, Columbus County
Frank Williams, Brunswick County
Jackie Williams-Rowland, Brunswick

Non-members Present

Stephanie Ayers, NC Ports
Joe Bailey, NCDOT Division 6
James Burke, Cape Fear RPO
Nastasha Earle-Young, NCDOT TPB
Raymond Honbarrier, NCDOT TPB

Chris May, Cape Fear COG
Patrick Riddle, NCDOT Division 3
Allen Serkin, Cape Fear RPO
Scott Walston, NCDOT TPB

I. START-UP

- 1. Call to order**
- 2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance** –Having reached a quorum, Mr. Williams called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.
- 3. Ethics awareness and conflict of interest reminder** – Mr. Williams read the reminder below. No conflicts of interest were identified.

In accordance with the State Government Ethic Act, it is the duty of every Committee member to avoid conflicts of interest. Does any Committee member have any known conflict of interest with respect to any matters coming before the Committee today? Ifso, please identify the conflict and refrain from any participation in the particular matter involved.

- 4. Additions or corrections to the agenda** – Items on the agenda were re-ordered to accommodate the schedule of a member who is directly impacted by a project. The change in order is reflected in these minutes. *Mr. McCoy made a motion to approve*

- the updated agenda, Mr. Helms seconded the motion. The motion carried.*
5. **Acceptance of the minutes** – *Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the minutes, Mr. Russ seconded the motion. The motion carried.*
 6. **Public comment** – No public comment.
 7. **RTAC Bylaws** – Mr. Serkin explained that RPO staff have been working on updating the RTAC bylaws to reflect necessary and desired changes. The changes are primarily about eliminating term limits for the chair. *Mr. Byrd made a motion to adopt the new RTAC Bylaws, Mr. Helms seconded the motion. The motion carried.*
 8. **RTCC Bylaws** – Mr. Serkin explained that RPO staff have been working on updating the RTCC bylaws to reflect necessary and desired changes. Most of the changes simply sought to streamline the minutes. *Mr. Maxwell made a motion to adopt the RTCC Bylaws, Mr. McCoy seconded the motion. The motion carried.*
 9. **Election of Officers** – For the position of Chair, Mr. Caster nominated Mr. Williams, which was seconded by Mr. McCoy. Mr. Russ made a motion to close the nominations, which was seconded by Mr. Byrd. The motion carried. Mr. Williams was selected to serve as Chair. Mr. Russ made a motion to nominate Mr. Mann for Vice-Chair, which was seconded by Mr. Byrd. Mr. Helms made a motion to close nominations, which was seconded by Mr. Brown. The motion carried. Mr. Mann was selected to serve as Vice-Chair.
 10. **State Ethic Filings** – Mr. Serkin reminded the members that the deadline for filing their Statement of Economic Interest and Real Estate Disclosure is April 15, 2016.

II. OLD BUSINESS

11. **Prioritization 4.0 Local Methodology** – Mr. Serkin explained that the deadline for submitting our local methodology for prioritizing projects in P4.0 is April 1, 2016. Staff developed a draft methodology with a subcommittee of RTCC members. The draft methodology was conditionally approved by NCDOT in December. Mr. Brown asked about changes to safety and Peak Traffic criteria, to which Mr. Lennon responded that it was unlikely to take effect in P4.0, and equally unlikely in P5.0 because of built in resistance in the larger cities.

Mr. Serkin also noted that if the RTAC can approve its priorities early, that the counties will have greater flexibility in approving their scores. Mr. Williams stated that he had invited Brunswick County municipalities to discuss priorities, and encouraged other counties to do the same. He also expressed the importance of having RPO staff explain STI to boards and decision makers who may not be as familiar with the process.

Mr. Lennon and Mr. Riddle explained that Board of Transportation members used to have a small pot of money with which to address short term needs. This used to be \$2 million, but is now \$150,000, which cannot address even small needs.

Mr. Helms made a motion to approve the Local Methodology, Mr. Maxwell seconded the motion. The motion carried.

III. NEW BUSINESS

12. 2016-2017 Planning Work Program and 5-Year Planning Calendar – Mr. Serkin explained the purpose of the PWP and 5-year Calendar. Mr. May wanted to take the opportunity to make RTAC members aware of upcoming dues increases for RPO participation. Mr. Serkin noted that Transportation Planning Branch had already approved both documents. *Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the PWP and 5-year Planning Calendar, Mr. Brown seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

13. P4.0 Preliminary Regional Impact Point Assignments – Mr. Serkin explained the deadline for assigning local input points for Regional Impact-tier projects is May 31st. Mr. Maxwell Asked if any projects approved in P3.0 would be up for evaluation in P4.0, to which Mr. Serkin replied that non were because all of the RPO's funded projects were scheduled in the first 5-years of the programmed horizon and were considered "committed." *No action was requested or taken.*

14. NC Ports TIGER Grant Application – Ms. Ayers made a short, informal presentation to the RTAC on a proposed TIGER Grant which would ready the Port of Wilmington for PanaMax vessels, then requested a resolution of support. *Mr. Byrd made a motion to adopt the resolution, Mr. Helms seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

IV. WRAP-UP

15. Reports/Updates -- NCDOT Division staff and others updated the committee on various projects and on-going issues.

16. General Discussion – Mr. Lennon noted that the Board of Transportation was considering allowing for "fees in lieu" to address poorly connected bike/ped networks across the state. They would work as regional fees that may not serve a particular development, but still help the overall system.

17. Adjournment – There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes prepared by James Burke on May 10, 2016.