

Cape Fear RPO

Brunswick County ❖ Columbus County
Pender County

Rural Transportation Advisory Committee
May 12, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Voting Members Present

JV Dove, Southport
Don Helms, Surf City
Terry Mann, Whiteville
Bruce Maxwell, St. James
Fred McCoy, Pender County

Wilfred Robbins, Burgaw
Frank Williams, Brunswick County
Jackie Williams-Rowland, Brunswick
Landon Zimmer, NC BOT

Others Present

Karen Collette, NCDOT Division 3
Allen Pytcher, NCDOT Division 3
Nazia Sarder, NCDOT TPB

Allen Serkin, Cape Fear RPO
Gideon Smith, Cape Fear COG
Darius Sturdivant, NCDOT Division 6

1. **Introduction and quorum** – Having reached a quorum, Mr. Williams called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM. The attendees introduced themselves.
2. **Ethics awareness and conflict of interest statement** – Mr. Williams read the statement to the RTAC. No conflicts were raised and no members recused themselves from any votes.
3. **Changes or additions to the agenda** – Mr. Serkin requested amending the agenda to add an item to discuss to the NC Senate's proposed budget. *Mr. Mann made a motion to amend the agenda as presented, Mr. Helms seconded the motion. The motion carried.*
4. **Approval of the minutes** – *Mr. Maxwell made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, Mr. McCoy seconded the motion. The motion carried.*
5. **Public Comment** – There was no comment from the public.
6. **State Ethics Filings** – Mr. Serkin presented updates regarding the status of the State Ethics filings. Mr. Williams stated that he made contact with the State Ethics Commission to offer his opinion of the challenges of filing the online paper work and the need for a more user friendly process. Mr. Serkin informed members that two members have resigned as RTAC alternates and there are now two vacant positions.
7. **Cape Fear Regional Bicycle Plan Presentation** – Mr. Serkin presented the background, purpose, and progress made on the Regional Bicycle Plan. Mr. Williams asked if the shared bike trails would connect to mountain bike trails, and if they were primarily designed for

recreation or transportation purposes. Mr. Serkin clarified that the routes in the Regional Bicycle Plan are primarily designed for transportation use. Mr. Serkin mentioned that future road projects identified by the Regional Bicycle Plan should be considered when NCDOT plans a project. *No action was necessary.*

8. **FY 16/17 Planning Work Program (PWP) Amendment** – Mr. Serkin presented a revised PWP showing how the budget has been adjusted to satisfy particular budget categories. The rationale was presented behind these budget changes. *Mr. McCoy made a motion to approve the amendment, Mr. Helms seconded the motion. The motion carried.*
9. **FY 17-18 Planning Work Program (PWP)** – Mr. Serkin presented the draft PWP for the upcoming fiscal year. Mr. Serkin explained the additional funds approved by NCDOT and how they will be allocated. Mr. Serkin mentioned that the additional funds were mostly allocated to Data Collection and Assessment to purchase traffic counters and start a traffic count collection program to supplement NCDOT's current traffic count program. *Mr. Helms made a motion to accept the revisions, Ms. Williams-Rowland seconded the motion. The motion carried.*
10. **FY 17/18 – 22/23 Five Year Planning Calendar** – Mr. Serkin provided a summary of the tasks the CFRPO proposes to undertake over the next five years. *Mr. McCoy made a motion to accept the proposed five year planning calendar, Mr. Helms seconded the motion. The motion carried.*
11. **P5.0 Alternate Criteria** – Mr. Serkin explained the deadline for approval of alternate criteria is September 15th. Mr. Serkin summarized the difference between the alternate criteria and default criteria, and explained that CFRPO projects would have scored better with the default criteria than with the alternate criteria. Mr. Serkin recommended that 5% from Benefit-Cost be added to Congestion at the Regional tier, and 5% from Congestion and be added to Benefit-Cost at the Division tier. Mr. Serkin concluded that this will encourage more expensive projects at the Regional tier and more affordable projects at the Division tier. Mr. Williams recommended not to vote of the P5.0 resolution and strike the 3rd and 4th whereas clauses in the resolution supporting the construction of I-74 along the US-74 corridor in Brunswick and Columbus Counties. *Mr. Helms made a motion to accept the resolution, Mr. Mann seconded the motion. The motion carried. Mr. Helms made a motion to accept Mr. Williams' recommendation, Mr. Mann seconded the motion. The motion carried.*
12. **P5.0 Project Modifications and Deletions** – Mr. Serkin mentioned that the deadline for project modifications and deletion is July 30th. Mr. Serkin recommended that I-74 east of Bolton should be downgraded from Interstate standards to Freeway standards. Mr. Williams asked how the new commercial development at Maco Road and US 74/76 would affect the feasibility of upgrading the area from to Interstate standards. Mr. Serkin responded that planning will be necessary to ensure private properties will not be adversely affected. He concluded that receiving funding for the project is a priority, then as project development ensues, matters regarding private properties will be addressed. *Mr. Mann made a motion for the modifications and deletions, Mr. Helms seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

13. **P5.0 New Project Solicitation** – Mr. Serkin explained that the deadline to approve the list of new project submittals for funding P5.0 is September 15th. Mr. Serkin stated that the CFRPO can submit 13-15 proposed projects to NCDOT for this upcoming year. Mr. Helms asked Mr. Serkin to send an email regarding new project solicitation. Mr. Serkin asked the members to submit a new project list to the CFRPO by July 21st so that it can be included in the RTCC/RTAC packets for August. *No action necessary.*
14. **Cape Fear Regional Bicycle Plan** – Mr. Serkin requested a motion to recommend approval of the attached resolution adopting the plan. *Mr. McCoy made a motion for the Cape Fear Regional Bicycle Plan resolution approval, Mr. Maxwell seconded the motion. The motion carried.*
15. **Resolutions to the NC Senate’s Approved Budget** – Mr. Serkin explained the changes in the Senate’s Budget for the term and mentioned that the Advanced Right-of-Way Acquisitions will benefit RPOs and MPOs. Mr. Serkin mentioned the proposal reduces the Tier I local match from 20% to 5%, and NCDOT will pay the 15% difference. Mr. Serkin explained that having a Tier I county in the CFRPO helps all other counties in the CFRPO. Mr. Williams recommended that the corridor development units, reducing local match, and the Advanced Right-Of-Way Acquisitions are the most important. Mr. Williams recommended to accept the resolutions but remove the last whereas clause in Section 34.17. The RTAC directed Mr. Serkin to send the proposed resolutions to NC Senators, Representatives, the Secretary of Transportation and the BOT. *Mr. Maxwell made a motion to accept the proposed resolutions, if the last whereas clause of Section 34.17 is removed, Mr. McCoy seconded the motion. The motion carried.*
16. **Reports/Updates** – Mr. Serkin gave the CFRPO update. Mr. Pytcher gave the Division 3 update. Mr. Sturdivant gave the Division 6 update. Ms. Sarder gave the Transportation Planning Branch update.
17. **Adjournment** – *There being no further discussion, Mr. McCoy made a motion to adjourn, Ms. Williams-Rowland seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.*

Minutes prepared by Gideon Smith on May 12, 2017 and approved by the RTAC August 18, 2017,