

Cape Fear RPO

Brunswick County ❖ Columbus County
Pender County

Rural Transportation Coordinating Committee
November 1, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Voting Members Present

Stephanie Ayers, NC Ports
Helen Bunch, Brunswick County
Harry Foley, Lake Waccamaw
Yvonne Hatcher, Brunswick Transit
Joy Jacobs, Columbus Co. Transportation
Robert Lewis, Whiteville

Pat O'Mahony, Pender County
Jeff Repp, Boiling Spring Lakes
Nazia Sarder, NCDOT TPD
Allen Serkin, Cape Fear RPO
Darius Sturdivant, NCDOT Division 6
Jake Vares, Oak Island

Others Present

Gary Brown, St. James
Trey Burke, Chadbourn

Brian Slattery, Brunswick Beacon
Gideon Smith, Cape Fear COG

1. **Introduction and quorum** – Having reached a quorum, Mr. Serkin called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM. The attendees introduced themselves.
2. **Changes or additions to the agenda** – Mr. Serkin added a resolution requesting the North Carolina Department of Transportation to designate US 74 from Whiteville to I-140 and I-140 from US 74 to US 17 as “Future 1-74”. The additional was discussed between items 7 and 8 of the agenda. *Ms. Ayers made a motion to approve the additions to the agenda, Mr. Repp seconded the motion. The motion carried.*
3. **Approval of the minutes** – There were no changes to the minutes. *Mr. Repp made a motion to approve the minutes, Ms. Bunch seconded the motion. The motion carried.*
4. **Public Comment** – There was no comment from the public.
5. **P5.0 Draft Local Input Methodology** – Mr. Serkin informed the members that he received an email from the Prioritization Office regarding the various formatting changes that have been made for submitting the local input methodology. Mr. Serkin presented the draft methodology to discuss the content for submittal. He explained that the methodology is the same as last year with minor modifications. Mr. Serkin explained that in P3.0 all funded projects in the RPO were committed and therefore not subject to reprioritization for P4.0. He then explained that in P4.0 many funded projects in the RPO are not committed and therefore are subject to reprioritization for P5.0. Mr. Serkin outlined his proposed modification to the project development criterion of the local methodology intended to improve the score of

funded projects and to ensure their continued funding in P5.0. He explained that the rest of the methodology remains essentially unchanged. *Ms. Bunch made a motion to recommend submitting the draft local methodology to NCDOT for conditional approval, Ms. Hatcher seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

6. **Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant Resolution** -- Mr. Serkin explained the background and details of the Town of Topsail Beach Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant application and told members that the deadline is November 9, 2017. He explained that the Town has applied for this grant multiple times without success. *Mr. O'Mahony made a motion to recommend approval of the resolution supporting the Town of Topsail Beach application for a NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant, Mr. Repp seconded the motion. The motion carried.*
7. **Future I-74 Resolution** – Mr. Serkin explained the resolutions that the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (WMPO) and the Cape Fear Rural Transportation Organization (CFRPO) have adopted since to address the resolution. Mr. Serkin explained the resolution and noted it requests that US 74 from Whiteville to I-140 and I-140 from US 74 to US 17 is designated as “Future 1-74.” *Mr. Foley made a motion to accept and submit the resolution, Ms. Ayers seconded the motion. The motion carried.*
8. **2018 Meeting Calendar** – Mr. Serkin discussed the 2018 Meeting Calendar and mentioned that the RTCC can either meet in April or May, depending on the comments from the members. He mentioned that the schedule is based on the Prioritization schedule. Mr. Serkin explained that the RTCC typically does not hold meetings in consecutive months, but it would be beneficial for the P5.0 process. *Mr. Foley made a motion to accept the 2018 Meeting Calendar with the second meeting of the year in May rather than April, Ms. Bunch seconded the motion. The motion carried.*
9. **Call for Special Studies** – Mr. Serkin informed the RTCC that NCDOT typically holds an annual call for special studies funded with FHWA State Planning & Research (SPR) funds. He explained that the new NC budget includes language to have NCDOT cover 75% of the 20% local match for RPOs with a Tier 1 county like Columbus. Mr. Serkin stated that studies funded in the RPO now only require a 5% local match. Proposed special studies concepts should be submitted to Mr. Serkin by January 15, 2018 for RTAC approval in February.
10. **RTCC Municipal Elections** – Mr. Serkin explained that the elections will be the first order of business at the next meeting in February 2018. Mr. Serkin recommended that Mr. Vares remain as the Brunswick Municipal 1 seat because of his attendance rate. Mr. Serkin also recommended that Mr. Lloyd remains as the Brunswick Municipal Alternate 1 because of attendance rate. Mr. Serkin recommended that Mr. Lewis remains as the Columbus Municipal 1 seat, and Mr. Rademacher remains as the Pender Municipal 1 seat. Mr. Serkin encouraged non-voting members to attend the next meeting. Mr. Vares asked if there was a cap on the number of terms serving as a seat in the RTCC. Mr. Serkin explained that there is no cap and the only requirement is that there are two municipal representatives per county.

11. **Reports/Updates** – Mr. Serkin gave an update on Prioritization 5.0 and mentioned that the local input methodology deadline (4/1/2018) is also when the Prioritization Office will release quantitative project scores. Mr. Serkin gave an update on the Cape Fear Regional Bicycle Plan and noted that the grant is complete and the plan has been adopted by the majority of the jurisdictions containing recommended regional bicycle routes.

Mr. Pytcher was not present to give the NCDOT Division 3 update, but provided a written update which was provided in the agenda packet.

Mr. Sturdivant summarized the NCDOT Division 6 update.

Ms. Sarder gave an update on the Columbus County and Brunswick County CTPs. Ms. Sarder informed the RTCC that the one of two project engineers working on the Columbus County CTP left NCDOT and the other is working in a different capacity, but will complete the project. She mentioned that the Statewide Freight Plan is under FHWA review and the Wilmington MPO CTP will begin in 2018. Ms. Sarder noted that the first round of STC corridor studies have been assigned to consultants who and will provide their scope of work by the end of October 2018 or early November 2017. The US 74 corridor has been identified as high priority and will be in the first round of studies. Public outreach is scheduled to begin in early 2018. Ms. Sarder concluded by explaining that NCDOT is currently establishing long-range planning performance measures for 2018.

There were no updates from the WMPO or GSATS.

12. **Adjournment** – There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:04 AM.

Minutes prepared by Gideon Smith on November 2, 2017 and approved by the RTCC on February 7, 2018.