

Cape Fear RPO

Brunswick County ❖ Columbus County
Pender County

Rural Transportation Coordinating Committee February 7, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Voting Members Present

Stephanie Ayers, NC Ports
Helen Bunch, Brunswick County
Joy Jacobs, Columbus Co. Transportation
Robert Lewis, Whiteville
Thomas Lloyd, Southport
Pat O'Mahony, Pender County

Jeff Repp, Boiling Spring Lakes
Behshad Norowzi, NCDOT TPD
Alan Pytcher, NCDOT Division 3
Allen Serkin, Cape Fear RPO
Darius Sturdivant, NCDOT Division 6

Others Present

None

1. **Introduction and quorum** – Having reached a quorum, Mr. Serkin called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. The attendees introduced themselves.
2. **Election of new municipal representatives** – Mr. Serkin explained the municipal representation process. Mr. Lloyd was elected to the Brunswick Municipal 1 seat and Jacob Vares was elected as the Brunswick Municipal Alternate 1 seat. Mr. Lewis was re-elected to the Columbus Municipal 1 seat. No Pender municipal members were in attendance to elect a representative to the Pender Municipal 1 seat.
3. **Changes or additions to the agenda** – Mr. Serkin added a presentation by Darius Sturdivant and Alan Pytcher of the High Impact/Low Cost program and projects between items 7 and 8 of the agenda. *Ms. Bunch made a motion to approve the additions to the agenda, Ms. Ayers seconded the motion. The motion carried.*
4. **Approval of the minutes** – There were no changes to the minutes. *Mr. Repp made a motion to approve the minutes, Mr. O'Mahony seconded the motion. The motion carried.*
5. **Public Comment** – There was no comment from the public.
6. **Presentation on Division Corridor Development Engineers** – Mr. Pytcher explained to the committee that he has been hired as the new DCDE for Division 3. He explained that the role and responsibilities are still evolving, but that he reports to the STIP unit in Raleigh and not the Division 3 Engineer. He explained that he is tasked with helping RPOs and small MPOs with improving project submittals to Prioritization and finding non-STI funding for projects. He added that he expects to assist with improving public involvement to ensure local support for funded projects. Ms. Ayers commented that a clear definition of what is

meant by a corridor is needed. Ms. Bunch requested that the DCDE be heavily involved in Brunswick County's prioritization meetings.

7. **Presentation on High Impact/Low Cost projects** – Mr. Sturdivant explained the Mobility/Modernization Fund, the process for selecting projects and evaluation criteria for the High Impact/Low Cost program, and the funding availability for HILC projects. He then summarized the Division 6 HILC projects approved for construction by the Board of Transportation. Mr. Pytcher then summarized the Division 3 HILC projects approved for construction.
8. **P5.0 Local Input Prioritization Methodology** – Mr. Serkin presented the proposed methodology and explained the formatting and content modifications made to satisfy NCDOT. *Mr. Repp made a motion to recommend approval of the local methodology to the RTAC, Mr. Lloyd seconded the motion. The motion carried.*
9. **Draft FY 2018-19 Planning Work Program** -- Mr. Serkin presented the draft PWP and the formatting changes from PWPs of prior years. *Mr. Repp made a motion to recommend submittal of the draft PWP to NCDOT for approval, Ms. Bunch seconded the motion. The motion carried.*
10. **Ferry Report to the JLPEOC** – Mr. Serkin summarized the NC General Assembly Program Evaluation Division's Final Report to the Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee on NCDOT ferry operations. He highlighted the reduction in off-peak crossings, increase in fare rates for tolled routes, and long range ferry plan recommended in the report. The RTCC recommended by consensus that Mr. Serkin draft a letter from the RTAC to Julie White at NCDOT (and carbon copy Sen. Rabon and Rep. Iler) recommending that the long range plan recommended by the report should precede any reduction in ferry service on the Southport-Ft. Fisher route and that any increase in fares should continue to be dedicated for vessel replacement on the route where the fares are collected, pursuant to NCGS 136-82(d).
11. **Call for Special Studies** – Mr. Serkin reminded the RTCC about the FHWA State Planning & Research (SPR) funds and highlights that the RPO would now only require a 5% local match for any special studies. Ms. Ayers explained that she would contact Mr. Serkin about the Ports partnering on a potential project.
12. **Reports/Updates** – Mr. Serkin gave an update on Prioritization 5.0, the data and cost review process, and the schedule. He summarized the status of the Columbus County and Brunswick County CTPs and reminded committee members about the March 23rd deadline for the Watch4MeNC program. Mr. Pytcher presented the Division 3 update. Mr. Sturdivant presented the Division 6 update. Mr. Norowzi presented the TPD update. There were no updates from the WMPO or Grand Strand MPO.
13. **Adjournment** – There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 12:01 PM.

Minutes prepared by Allen Serkin on February 7, 2018 and approved by the RTCC on May 2, 2018.