

The Cape Fear Rural Transportation Planning Organization serves as the intergovernmental organization for local elected officials, the North Carolina Department of Transportation, and residents of Brunswick, Columbus and Pender Counties to work cooperatively to address transportation issues.

**Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC)  
Meeting Minutes  
February 18, 2022 • 9:00 AM  
Cape Fear Council of Governments • Wilmington, NC**

**Voting Members Present**

Frank Williams, Brunswick County  
Mike Forte, Brunswick County  
Dave DeLong, St. James  
Glenn Marshall, Sandy Creek  
Terry Mann, Whiteville

Jackie Williams-Rowland, Brunswick  
George Brown, Pender County  
Fred McCoy, Pender County  
Vernon Harrell, Burgaw  
Grady Hunt, NCDOT BoT

**Others Present**

Chad Kimes, NCDOT Division 3  
Drew Cox, NCDOT Division 6  
Darius Sturdivant, NCDOT Division 6  
Bill Hammond, NCDOT Division 6  
Ken Clark, NCDOT Division 6  
Nazia Sarder, NCDOT TPD  
Tony Sumter, NCDOT IMD

Chance Lambeth, Congressman Rouzer  
Stephanie Ayers, NC Ports  
Alrik Lunsford, NC CETC  
Olivia Dawson, Burgaw  
Joe Hatem, Southport  
Patrick Flanagan, Cape Fear RPO

**I. START-UP**

- 1. Call to Order** – RTAC Chair, Frank Williams, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.
- 2. Roll Call** – Patrick Flanagan took a roll call of all attendees.
- 3. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance** – Frank Williams led the group in an invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 4. Ethics awareness & conflict of interest statement** – Frank Williams read the ethics awareness statement.
- 5. Additions or corrections to the agenda** – There were no changes to the agenda. *Mr. Terry Mann made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Glenn Marshall seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken*

*Frank Williams, Yes  
Mike Forte, Yes  
Dave DeLong, Yes  
Glenn Marshall, Yes*

*Terry Mann, Yes  
Jackie Williams-Rowland, Yes  
George Brown, Yes  
Fred McCoy, Yes*

Vernon Harrell, Yes

Grady Hunt, Yes

*The motion passed.*

- 6. Approval of Minutes** – The November 12, 2021 minutes were considered. *Mr. George Brown made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Mike Forte seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.*

Frank Williams, Yes

Mike Forte, Yes

Dave DeLong, Yes

Glenn Marshall, Yes

Terry Mann, Yes

Jackie Williams-Rowland, Yes

George Brown, Yes

Fred McCoy, Yes

Vernon Harrell, Yes

Grady Hunt, Yes

*The motion passed.*

- 7. Public comment** – There were no comments from the public.
- 8. Election of Officers** – The current officers were discussed. Both are willing to serve again if the group sees fit. The Chair asked for nominations.

*There were no nominations. Mr. George Brown made a motion to re-elect the current officers. Mr. Dave DeLong seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.*

Frank Williams, Yes

Mike Forte, Yes

Dave DeLong, Yes

Glenn Marshall, Yes

Terry Mann, Yes

Jackie Williams-Rowland, Yes

George Brown, Yes

Fred McCoy, Yes

Vernon Harrell, Yes

Grady Hunt, Yes

*The motion passed.*

## II. PRESENTATIONS

- 9. Brunswick County CTP** – Patrick Flanagan gave an update on the Brunswick County CTP. He talked about the upcoming public involvement phase and asked the RTAC to review the materials and return any comments by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Frank Williams expressed his concerns with the CTP not covering the entire county in its study area. Mr. Flanagan told the group that Wilmington MPO staff is participating in the steering committee and coordination is happening to make sure recommendations from both plans aren't in opposition to each other. Mr. Williams said it is important from the Brunswick County perspective that the plan reflect the county-wide basis. The documents can be found at [https://connect.ncdot.gov/projects/planning/Pages/CTP-Details.aspx?study\\_id=Brunswick%20County](https://connect.ncdot.gov/projects/planning/Pages/CTP-Details.aspx?study_id=Brunswick%20County).

**10. Eastern North Carolina Clean Fuels Coalition** – Alrik Lunsford from the North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center gave a presentation on the Clean Fuels Coalitions in North Carolina. He reported on an effort by the Clean Energy Technology Center to form additional coalitions in other parts of the state. He talked about the purpose of the coalition and the benefits it has for its members. Alrik answered questions from the group clarifying how to join and what members get from joining. Mr. Williams suggested including agricultural interests and chambers of commerce in the coalition as well.

### III. OLD BUSINESS

**11. Remote Participation Policy** – Patrick informed the group that the COG attorney was reviewing if the current RTAC meeting bylaws would cover the group after the emergency declaration is rescinded.

### IV. NEW BUSINESS

**12. NC Ports Grant Resolution** – Patrick Flanagan presented a requested from the NC Ports for a resolution of support for their various grant applications to the USDOT for a new Port of Wilmington intermodal facility. The resolution presented covers any USDOT grants they might apply for in the coming grant windows. *Mr. George Brown made a motion to approve the resolution and Mr. Fred McCoy seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.*

*Frank Williams, Yes  
Mike Forte, Yes  
Dave DeLong, Yes  
Glenn Marshall, Yes  
Terry Mann, Yes*

*Jackie Williams-Rowland, Yes  
George Brown, Yes  
Fred McCoy, Yes  
Vernon Harrell, Yes  
Grady Hunt, Yes*

*The motion passed.*

**13. Eastern North Carolina Clean Fuels Coalition Letter of Support** – Mr. Flanagan clarified that the RTCC recommended submitting the Letter of Support and becoming a “sign-on” stakeholder of the Coalition. Mr. Williams voiced his opinion that being at the table would help to make sure the groups discussed during the presentation would be represented in the Coalition. *Mr. George Brown made a motion to become a Sign-on stakeholder and submit a Letter of Support that Chair Williams will draft for the group. Mr. Terry Mann seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.*

*Frank Williams, Yes  
Mike Forte, Yes  
Dave DeLong, Yes  
Glenn Marshall, Yes  
Terry Mann, Yes*

*Jackie Williams-Rowland, Yes  
George Brown, Yes  
Fred McCoy, No  
Vernon Harrell, No  
Grady Hunt, Yes*

*The motion passed.*

## V. REPORTS/UPDATES

- Cape Fear RPO
  - NC 210 East Coast Greenway Feasibility Study: The COG approved the contract, and it has been sent to the Consultant for their signature.
  - STIP amendments and revisions: Changes to the STIP were highlighted for the group
- NC Ports (Port of Wilmington) – Stephanie Ayers showed the group the new automated container gate that has recently come online.
- NCDOT Division 3 (Brunswick & Pender) – Patrick Flanagan gave an update. The NC 211 construction project has been awarded and is the biggest dollar construction project awarded in our area. The B section of the Hampstead bypass was also awarded recently. The Pender County members thanked Chad Kimes for all his work in keeping these projects moving forward.
- NCDOT Division 6 (Columbus) – Darius Sturdivant told the group about the Delco project now being open to traffic. The 701 Bypass project in Whiteville is underway now. Patrick followed up on a question at the last meeting regarding the 701 project.
- NCDOT Transportation Planning Division (TPD) – Nazia Sarder gave an update on the ongoing CTPs.
- NC Board of Transportation – Grady Hunt updated the group on the Board’s activity around the STIP recently. He talked about the consensus the group arrived at on how to develop the STIP that will be released later this year.

## V. OTHER

**14. Open discussion** – Glenn Marshall had a question about what would happen to projects in North Carolina if the Federal gas tax was put on hold.  
Fred McCoy expressed concern about alternative fuel adoption effect on revenue from transportation given most of the funds come from gas tax.  
Patrick Flanagan informed the group about the upcoming NCAMPO Conference being hosted by the Wilmington MPO.

**15. Adjourn** – *The meeting was adjourned at 10:13 AM*