

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

September 15, 2023 • 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
Lavern Coleman, Columbus County

Terry Mann, Whiteville
Jackie Williams-Rowland, Brunswick
Fred McCoy, Pender County
Jerry Groves, Pender County
Vernon Harrell, Burgaw

Others Present

Joseph Hatem, Southport
Rich Alt, Southport
Michelle Howes, NCDOT Div. 3
Caitlin Melvin, NCDOT Div. 3
Chad Kimes, NCDOT Div. 3

Darius Sturdivant, NCDOT Div. 6
Bill Hammond, NCDOT Div. 6
Nazia Sarder, NCDOT TPD
Allen Serkin, Cape Fear COG
Sam Boswell, Cape Fear RPO

I. START-UP

- 1. Call to Order** – RTAC Chair, Mr. Frank Williams, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.
- 2. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance** – Mr. Mike Forte led the group in an invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3. Roll Call** – RPO Staff took a roll call of all attendees.
- 4. Ethics Awareness & Conflict of Interest Statement** – Mr. Frank Williams read the ethics awareness statement.
- 5. Additions or Corrections to the Agenda** – There were no changes to the agenda. *Mr. Fred McCoy made a motion to adopt the agenda with the requested amendment. Mr. Terry Mann seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.*

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Frank Williams, Yes
Mike Forte, Yes
Dave DeLong, Yes
Glenn Marshall, Yes
Lavern Coleman, Yes

Terry Mann, Yes
Jackie Williams-Rowland, Yes
Fred McCoy, Yes
Jerry Groves, Yes
Vernon Harrell, Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

6. **Approval of Minutes** – The August 11, 2023 meeting minutes were considered. *Mr. Mike Forte made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Jackie Williams-Rowland seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.*

Frank Williams, Yes
Mike Forte, Yes
Dave DeLong, Yes
Glenn Marshall, Yes
Lavern Coleman, Yes

Terry Mann, Yes
Jackie Williams-Rowland, Yes
Fred McCoy, Yes
Jerry Groves, Yes
Don Helms, Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

7. **Public Comment** – There were no comments from the public at this meeting.

II. PRESENTATIONS

8. **East Coast Greenway Feasibility Studies** – RPO Staff provided a presentation to the RTAC about the two greenway feasibility studies completed in the RPO planning area within the past few years. The NC 211 ECG Feasibility Study in Brunswick County was completed in late 2021. The NC 210 ECG Feasibility Study in Pender County was completed in early 2023.

III. NEW BUSINESS

9. **Adoption of NC 211 East Coast Greenway Feasibility Study** –RPO Staff requests adoption of the preferred alignment as identified by the feasibility study. This action is taken in combination with the following agenda item.

- 10. Adoption of NC 210 Greenway Feasibility Study** – RPO Staff requests adoption of the preferred alignment as identified by the feasibility study. *Mr. Terry Mann made a motion to adopt both greenway feasibility studies. Mr. Fred McCoy seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.*

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

*Terry Mann, Yes
Jackie Williams-Rowland, Yes
Fred McCoy, Yes
Jerry Groves, Yes
Don Helms, Yes*

The motion passed unanimously.

- 11. GREAT NC Application Resolution of Support** – NCDOT and the Great Trails State Coalition have partnered to apply for USDOT's 2023 Neighborhood Access and Equity (NAE) Program's Regional Partnerships Challenge Grant. Their application is titled Growing Rural Equity and Access to Transportation in North Carolina (GREAT-NC) and would include the design work for 13 greenway segments in North Carolina, including the alignment between Southport and Supply. *Mr. Mike Forte made a motion to approve the resolution of support. Mr. Terry Mann seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.*

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

*Terry Mann, Yes
Jackie Williams-Rowland, Yes
Fred McCoy, Yes
Jerry Groves, Yes
Don Helms, Yes*

The motion passed unanimously.

- 12. RTAC 2023 Meeting Calendar Update** – The current meeting date is scheduled for Wednesday, November 15, but needs to be moved to accommodate multiple voting members. *Mr. Jerry Groves made a motion to change the November meeting date to Monday, November 20th. Mr. Vernon Harrell seconded that motion. A roll call vote was taken.*

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

*Terry Mann, Yes
Jackie Williams-Rowland, Yes
Fred McCoy, Yes
Jerry Groves, Yes
Don Helms, Yes*

The motion passed unanimously.

13. P7.0 Draft Project List & Discussion – RPO Staff presented the recommended project submittal lists for Prioritization 7.0 and requested RTAC approval.

Prior to reviewing each mode, RPO Staff requested a motion that, following today's meeting, any additional project submittals may be added on a first come first served basis until that mode reaches its limit of 19 new submittals. *A motion was made by Mr. Mike Forte and seconded by Mr. Terry Mann. A roll call vote was taken.*

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

*Terry Mann, Yes
Jackie Williams-Rowland, Yes
Fred McCoy, Yes
Jerry Groves, Yes
Don Helms, Yes*

The motion passed unanimously.

Aviation P7.0 Submittals

RPO Staff presented the Aviation project list, which had no changes since the draft list presented in August. *Mr. Terry Mann made a motion to approve the list. Mr. Fred McCoy seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.*

Bicycle & Pedestrian P7.0 Submittals

RPO Staff presented the Bicycle & Pedestrian project list and highlighted the changes made to the list since the August meeting which included project swaps in Brunswick and Pender Counties as well as project additions in Columbus County. *Ms. Jackie Williams-Rowland made a motion to approve the list. Mr. Fred McCoy seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.*

Ferry P7.0 Submittals

RPO Staff presented the Ferry project list and highlighted the additions to the list since the August meeting which were made at the Ferry Division's request. *Mr. Fred McCoy mad a motion to approve the list. Mr. Glenn Marshall seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.*

Highway P7.0 Submittals

RPO Staff presented the Highway project list and highlighted the changes made to the list since the August meeting with included project swaps in Brunswick County and project amendments in Columbus County. *Mr. Terry Mann made a motion to approve the list. Mr. Fred McCoy seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.*

Rail P7.0 Submittals

RPO Staff presented the Rail project list and highlighted additions to the list since the August meeting which were made at the Rail Division's request. *Mr. Fred McCoy made a motion to approve the list. Ms. Jackie Williams-Rowland seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.*

Transit P7.0 Submittals

RPO Staff presented the Transit project list and highlighted additions to the list since the August meeting which included new projects in all three counties. *Mr. Terry Mann made a motion to approve the list. Mr. Vernon Harrell seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.*

IV. REPORTS/UPDATES

- **Cape Fear RPO** – RPO Staff provided updates on the 2024-2033 STIP.
- **NC Ports (Port of Wilmington)** – There was no update by the Port.
- **NCDOT Ferry Division** – There was no update by the Ferry Division.
- **NCDOT Integrated Mobility Division (IMD)** – There was no update by IMD.
- **NCDOT Division 3 (Brunswick & Pender)** – Michelle Howes gave an update Division 3 projects.
- **NCDOT Division 6 (Columbus)** – Darius Sturdivant gave an update on Division 6 projects.
- **NCDOT Transportation Planning Division (TPD)** – RPO Staff provided a brief TPD update on the status of CTPs across the RPO area.
- **NC Board of Transportation** – There was no update by the Board member.

VI. OTHER

14. Open discussion – There was no additional discussion.

15. Adjourn – *The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 AM.*

Approved by the RTAC at a regular meeting on Monday, November 20, 2023.

Signed:


Frank Williams, RTAC Chair

Attest:


Sam Boswell, Secretary