

The Cape Fear Rural Transportation Planning Organization exists to serve 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 Coordinating Committee (RTCC) Meeting Minutes April 5, 2023 • 10:00 AM Held virtually via Zoom

Voting Members Present

Helen Bunch, Brunswick County
Travis Henley, Southport
Mark Bloomer, Boiling Spring Lakes
Gary Lanier, Columbus County
Robert Lewis, Whiteville
Pat Garrell, Chadbourn
Greg Feldman, Pender County
Amy Kimes, Surf City
Gage King, Henderson Field
Adrienne Cox, NCDOT Division 3

Darius Sturdivant, NCDOT Division 6
Nazia Sarder, NCDOT TPD
Jim Rupkalvis, MOTSU
Mark Hoeweler, GSATS
Yvonne Hatcher, Brunswick County Transit
Joy Jacobs, Columbus County Transit
Jim Longenbach, PAS TRANS
Stephanie Ayers, NC Ports
Sam Boswell, Cape Fear RPO

Others Present

Doug Shipley, Topsail Beach
James Gantt, Burgaw

Sam Shore, Cape Fear COG
Allen Serkin, Cape Fear COG

I. INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

- 1. Call to Order** – The meeting was held via video conference on Zoom. Having reached a quorum, Sam Boswell called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.
- 2. Roll Call** – A roll call was taken of attendees.
- 3. Additions or Corrections to the Agenda** – Staff recommended an additional agenda item to discuss a meeting calendar change for later this year.

Helen Bunch made a motion to discuss calendar changes at Agenda Item 14 and shift the remaining Agenda Items accordingly. Stephanie Ayers seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

*Helen Bunch, Yes
Travis Henley, Yes
Mark Bloomer, Yes
Gary Lanier, Yes
Robert Lewis, Yes*

*Pat Garrell, Yes
Greg Feldman, Yes
Amy Kimes, Yes
Gage King, Yes
Adrienne Cox, Yes*

*Darius Sturdivant, Yes
Nazia Sarder, Yes
Jim Rupkalvis, Yes
Mark Hoeweler, Yes
Yvonne Hatcher, Yes*

Joy Jacobs, Yes
Jim Longenbach, Yes

Stephanie Ayers, Yes
Sam Boswell, Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes – The minutes of the February 1, 2023, RTCC meeting were presented.

Stephanie Ayers made a motion to approve the minutes. Mark Bloomer seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Helen Bunch, Yes
Travis Henley, Yes
Mark Bloomer, Yes
Gary Lanier, Yes
Robert Lewis, Yes
Pat Garrell, Yes
Greg Feldman, Yes

Amy Kimes, Yes
Gage King, Yes
Adrienne Cox, Yes
Darius Sturdivant, Yes
Nazia Sarder, Yes
Jim Rupkalvis, Yes
Mark Hoeweler, Yes

Yvonne Hatcher, Yes
Joy Jacobs, Yes
Jim Longenbach, Yes
Stephanie Ayers, Yes
Sam Boswell, Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

5. Public Comment – There were no comments from the public.

II. PRESENTATIONS

There was no presentation for this meeting.

III. REGULAR BUSINESS

6. FY 2023-24 Planning Work Program ... -- Staff requested a motion to recommend approval of the FY 2023-24 PWP to the RTAC for their approval. *Yvonne Hatcher made the motion and Gary Lanier seconded. A roll call vote was taken.*

Helen Bunch, Yes
Travis Henley, Yes
Mark Bloomer, Yes
Gary Lanier, Yes
Robert Lewis, Yes
Pat Garrell, Yes
Greg Feldman, Yes

Amy Kimes, Yes
Gage King, Yes
Adrienne Cox, Yes
Darius Sturdivant, Yes
Nazia Sarder, Yes
Jim Rupkalvis, Yes
Mark Hoeweler, Yes

Yvonne Hatcher, Yes
Joy Jacobs, Yes
Jim Longenbach, Yes
Stephanie Ayers, Yes
Sam Boswell, Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

7. Carbon Reduction Program Project Prioritization – Staff explained that NCDOT has required RPOs to rank their submitted projects. Since there is no existing ranking methodology, RPO staff will explore possible ranking methodologies using criteria such as total carbon

reduction, cost (carbon reduction to cost ratio), and equity. Staff will send findings to the RTCC for comments prior to presenting them to the RTAC.

8. **P7.0 Carryover Projects** – NCDOT is permitting MPOs, RPOs, and Divisions to select 2 new projects submittals from P6.0 to carryover to P7.0 without counting toward the maximum number of P7.0 project submittals. The 2 default projects (*based on their P6.0 Quantitative Scores*) are **H183735** (*NC 211 widening in Brunswick County*) and **H184205** (*US 701 Bypass in Columbus County*). It is possible that H183735 will be automatically reprioritized because of its status as a sibling project. RPO staff will seek further clarification from NCDOT on that matter. If H183735 will be automatically reprioritized, then staff recommends selecting **H184166** (*NC 87 widening in Brunswick County*) as the second Carryover project.

Travis Henley made a motion to recommend to the RTAC that H183735 and H184205 be selected as Carryover Projects unless H183735 is automatically carried over as a sibling project, in which case H184166 will be selected as Carryover. Gary Lanier seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

*Helen Bunch, Yes
Travis Henley, Yes
Mark Bloomer, Yes
Gary Lanier, Yes
Robert Lewis, Yes
Pat Garrell, Yes
Greg Feldman, Yes*

*Amy Kimes, Yes
Gage King, Yes
Adrienne Cox, Yes
Darius Sturdivant, Yes
Nazia Sarder, Yes
Jim Rupkalvis, Yes
Mark Hoeweler, Yes*

*Yvonne Hatcher, Yes
Joy Jacobs, Yes
Jim Longenbach, Yes
Stephanie Ayers, Yes
Sam Boswell, Yes*

The motion passed unanimously.

9. **Port of Wilmington Resolution of Support** – The NC State Ports Authority has requested a resolution of support for a grant application to relocate the north gate at the Port of Wilmington. Staff presented a draft resolution to the RTCC.
10. **Columbus County Microtransit Feasibility Study Resolution of Support** – Columbus County Transportation has requested a resolution of support to apply for NCDOT’s Microtransit Feasibility Study Grant program. Staff presented a draft resolution to the RTCC.
11. **Monarch FY 2023 FTA Section 5310 Grant Funds Resolution** – Monarch has requested a resolution in support for their application for FTA 5310 grant funds. Staff presented a draft resolution to the RTCC.
12. **PAS-TRAN FY 2022 Section 5310 Grant Funds Resolution** – PAS-TRAN has requested a resolution in support for their application for FTA 5310 grant funds. Staff presented a draft resolution to the RTCC.

Jim Longenbach made a motion to recommend to the RTAC that they approve all four resolutions of support. Mark Bloomer seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

*Helen Bunch, Yes
Travis Henley, Yes
Mark Bloomer, Yes
Gary Lanier, Yes
Robert Lewis, Yes
Pat Garrell, Yes
Greg Feldman, Yes*

*Amy Kimes, Yes
Gage King, Yes
Adrienne Cox, Yes
Darius Sturdivant, Yes
Nazia Sarder, Yes
Jim Rupkalvis, Yes
Mark Hoeweler, Yes*

*Yvonne Hatcher, Yes
Joy Jacobs, Yes
Jim Longenbach, Yes
Stephanie Ayers, Yes
Sam Boswell, Yes*

The motion passed unanimously.

13. 2020 Census Discussion – Allen acknowledged the discussions surrounding MPO expansion following the results of the 2020 Census. Staff noted that important considerations on this topic include staff resources at the MPOs compared to the RPOs, impacts on the Prioritization process, and voting rights of member governments.

14. Cape Fear RPO 2023 Meeting Calendar Adjustments – Staff proposed an addition to the RPO’s 2023 Meeting Calendar to account for the P7.0 project submittal window. In past Prioritization cycles, the RPO has held RTCC/RTAC meetings in consecutive months during the project submittal window to allow additional time to consider project submissions. The P7.0 project submittal window is set for July-September of this year, and the RPO only has one meeting currently scheduled in that timeframe (September).

Gary Lanier made a motion to amend the meeting calendar and hold an additional RTCC meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 2. Jim Rupkalvis seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

*Helen Bunch, Yes
Travis Henley, Yes
Mark Bloomer, Yes
Gary Lanier, Yes
Robert Lewis, Yes
Pat Garrell, Yes
Greg Feldman, Yes*

*Amy Kimes, Yes
Gage King, Yes
Adrienne Cox, Yes
Darius Sturdivant, Yes
Nazia Sarder, Yes
Jim Rupkalvis, Yes
Mark Hoeweler, Yes*

*Yvonne Hatcher, Yes
Joy Jacobs, Yes
Jim Longenbach, Yes
Stephanie Ayers, Yes
Sam Boswell, Yes*

The motion passed unanimously.

15. Reports/Updates

- Cape Fear RPO
 - NC 210 ECG Feasibility Study: Staff informed the group that the study has been completed and that it will be presented to both Pender County and the Town of Surf City soon.
 - CTP updates: CTP updates will be covered by Nazia’s TPD report.
 - STIP amendments and revisions: Staff did not have significant amendments or revisions to discuss.

- NC Ports (Port of Wilmington): There was no update from the Ports.
- NC Ferry (Fort Fisher to Southport): There was no update from the Ferry Division.
- NCDOT Division 3 (Brunswick & Pender): Adrienne Cox gave an update on the Division 3 projects.
- NCDOT Division 6 (Columbus): Darius Sturdivant gave an update on the Division 6 projects.
- NCDOT Transportation Planning Division (TPD): Nazia gave more details on the status of the Brunswick County and Columbus County CTPs. Columbus County's committee plans to meet once more in May. Brunswick County will have 3 in-person public involvement meetings in May as well as opportunities for virtual public engagement. Nazia also provided updates on the travel demand model for the 2050 Wilmington MTP.
- NCDOT Integrated Mobility Division (IMD): There was no update from IMD.
- Wilmington Area MPO (WMPO): There was no update from WMPO.
- Grand Strand MPO (GSATS): There was no update from GSATS.

IV. OTHER

16. Open discussion: There was no additional discussion.

17. Adjourn – *The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM.*