

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 June 7, 2023 • 10:00 AM Held virtually via Zoom

Voting Members Present

Helen Bunch, Brunswick County
Travis Henley, Southport
Jeff Repp, St. James
Gary Lanier, Columbus County
Pat Garrell, Chadbourn
Justin Brantley, Pender County
Amy Kimes, Surf City
Doug Shipley, Topsail Beach
Adrienne Cox, NCDOT Division 3

Darius Sturdivant, NCDOT Division 6
Behshad Norowzi, NCDOT TPD
Jim Rupkalvis, MOTSU
Vanessa Lacer, WMPO
Mark Hoeweler, GSATS
Yvonne Hatcher, Brunswick County Transit
Joy Jacobs, Columbus County Transit
Stephanie Ayers, NC Ports
Sam Boswell, Cape Fear RPO

Others Present

Mark Bloomer, Boiling Spring Lakes
Nicole Morgan, Boiling Spring Lakes
Gordon Hargrove, Boiling Spring Lakes
Matt Kirkland, Oak Island
Gilbert Combs, Burgaw
Michelle Howes, NCDOT Division 3

Kirsten Spirakis, NCDOT Division 3
Ken Clark, NCDOT Div. 6, District 3
Nazia Sarder, NCDOT TPD
Kim Nguyen, NCDOT IMD
Catherine Peele, Ferry Division
Reed Butler, NC Ports

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** – There were no changes to the agenda. *Helen Bunch made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Gary Lanier seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.*

*Helen Bunch, Yes
Travis Henley, Yes
Jeff Repp, Yes
Gary Lanier, Yes
Pat Garrell, Yes*

*Justin Brantley, Yes
Amy Kimes, Yes
Doug Shipley, Yes
Adrienne Cox, Yes
Darius Sturdivant, Yes*

*Behshad Norowzi, Yes
Jim Rupkalvis, Yes
Vanessa Lacer, Yes
Mark Hoeweler, Yes
Yvonne Hatcher, Yes*

Joy Jacobs, Yes

Stephanie Ayers, Yes

Sam Boswell, Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

- 4. **Approval of Minutes** – The minutes of the April 5, 2023, RTCC meeting were presented. Mark Bloomer made a motion to approve the minutes. Stephanie Ayers seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Helen Bunch, Yes

Travis Henley, Yes

Jeff Repp, Yes

Gary Lanier, Yes

Pat Garrell, Yes

Justin Brantley, Yes

Amy Kimes, Yes

Doug Shipley, Yes

Adrienne Cox, Yes

Darius Sturdivant, Yes

Behshad Norowzi, Yes

Jim Rupkalvis, Yes

Vanessa Lacer, Yes

Mark Hoeweler, Yes

Yvonne Hatcher, Yes

Joy Jacobs, Yes

Stephanie Ayers, Yes

Sam Boswell, Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

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

II. PRESENTATIONS

- 6. **Prioritization 101** – In preparation for the upcoming Prioritization 7.0 project submittal window, RPO staff provided an overview of the NCDOT’s Prioritization process and a look into the RPO’s role within that process. Topics covered included: basic Prioritization terminology, a history of Prioritization and the STI Law, funding categories and percentages as dictated by the STI Law, project scoring, an overview of the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), carryover projects, and how many new project submittals and local input points the Cape Fear RPO will receive in P7.0.

III. REGULAR BUSINESS

- 7. **Prioritization 7.0 Discussion** – Staff outlined the next steps in the P7.0 Cycle: developing new project submittals lists. RPO staff will work with each County to set up a meeting with the RPO municipalities to rank the project needs of each County. Project lists will be curated primarily from the following lists: P6.0 New Submittals, P7.0 Holding Tank Projects, and CTP Projects. These 3 lists will then be combined into a single RPO list for the TAC to approve the RPO’s P7.0 New Project Submittals.
- 8. **FY 2022-23 Planning Work Program Amendment** – Staff requested a motion to recommend approval of a FY 2022-23 PWP Amendment to the RTAC for their approval. Vanessa Lacer made the motion and Helen Bunch seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Helen Bunch, Yes

Travis Henley, Yes

Jeff Repp, Yes

Gary Lanier, Yes

Pat Garrell, Yes

Justin Brantley, Yes

Amy Kimes, Yes

Doug Shipley, Yes

Adrienne Cox, Yes

Darius Sturdivant, Yes

Behshad Norowzi, Yes

Vanessa Lacer, Yes

Mark Hoeweler, Yes
Yvonne Hatcher, Yes

Joy Jacobs, Yes
Stephanie Ayers, Yes

Sam Boswell, Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

9. **PAS-TRAN FY 2025 Section 5310 Grant Funds Resolution** – PAS-TRAN has requested a resolution in support for their next FTA 5310 grant application (Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities). Staff presented a draft resolution to the RTCC and requested a motion to recommend RTAC approval. *Stephanie Ayers made a motion and Amy Kimes seconded. A roll call vote was taken.*

Helen Bunch, Yes
Travis Henley, Yes
Jeff Repp, Yes
Gary Lanier, Yes
Pat Garrell, Yes
Justin Brantley, Yes

Amy Kimes, Yes
Doug Shipley, Yes
Adrienne Cox, Yes
Darius Sturdivant, Yes
Nazia Sarder, Yes
Vanessa Lacer, Yes

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

The motion passed unanimously.

IV. REPORTS/UPDATES

10. Reports/Updates

- Cape Fear RPO
 - Staff provided updates on upcoming regional events, RPO activities, and Carbon Reduction Program funds.
 - Staff provided updates on Brunswick & Columbus Counties' CTPs.
- NC Ports (Port of Wilmington): Stephanie Ayers provided NC Ports updates and thanked the RPO for its recent resolution of support.
- NC Ferry (Fort Fisher to Southport): There was no update from the Ferry Division.
- NCDOT Division 3 (Brunswick & Pender): Adrienne Cox gave Division 3 updates.
- NCDOT Division 6 (Columbus): Darius Sturdivant gave Division 6 updates.
- NCDOT Transportation Planning Division (TPD): Nazia gave more details on the status of the Brunswick County and Columbus County CTPs. Both plans are being revised in response to public feedback received. Pender County CTP expected to start later this year.
- NCDOT Integrated Mobility Division (IMD): Kim Nguyen provided IMD updates.
- Wilmington Area MPO (WMPO): Vanessa Lacer provided WMPO updates.
- Grand Strand MPO (GSATS): There was no update from GSATS.

IV. OTHER

11. **Open discussion:** Darius Sturdivant added that the Board of Transportation officially approved the 2024-2033 STIP and the Workgroup recommendations for P7.0 (*as of 6/6/2023*).

12. **Adjourn** – *The meeting was adjourned at 11:19 AM.*