

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  
November 1, 2023 • 10:00 AM  
Held virtually via Zoom**

**Voting Members Present**

Helen Bunch, Brunswick County  
Mo Meehan, Southport  
Jeff Repp, St. James  
Robert Lewis, Whiteville  
Pat Garrell, Chadbourn  
Adam Moran, Pender County  
Amy Kimes, Surf City  
Doug Shipley, Topsail Beach  
Adrienne Cox, NCDOT Division 3

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

**Others Present**

Matt Kirkland, Oak Island  
Kirsten Spirakis, NCDOT Div. 3, District 1  
Ken Clark, NCDOT Div. 6, District 3

Bill Hammond, NCDOT Division 6  
Kim Nguyen, NCDOT IMD

**I. INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS**

- 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.
- Roll Call** – A roll call was taken of attendees.
- Additions or Corrections to the Agenda** – There were no changes to the agenda. *Vanessa Lacer made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Nazia Sarder seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.*

*Helen Bunch, Yes  
Mo Meehan, Yes  
Jeff Repp, Yes  
Robert Lewis, Yes  
Pat Garrell, Yes  
Adam Moran, Yes*

*Amy Kimes, Yes  
Adrienne Cox, Yes  
Darius Sturdivant, Yes  
Nazia Sarder, Yes  
Jim Rupkalvis, Yes  
Vanessa Lacer, Yes*

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

*The motion passed unanimously.*

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4. **Approval of Minutes** – The minutes of the September 6, 2023, RTCC meeting were presented. *Stephanie Ayers made a motion to approve the minutes. Helen Bunch seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.*

*Helen Bunch, Yes  
Mo Meehan, Yes  
Jeff Repp, Yes  
Robert Lewis, Yes  
Pat Garrell, Yes  
Adam Moran, Yes*

*Amy Kimes, Yes  
Adrienne Cox, Yes  
Darius Sturdivant, Yes  
Nazia Sarder, Yes  
Jim Rupkalvis, Yes  
Vanessa Lacer, 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.
6. **Vacancies and Appointments** – RPO Staff reviewed committee appointments and upcoming vacancies. Municipal seats that require new appointments or renewals will be addressed in the first meeting of 2024. *There was no action taken at this time.*

## II. PRESENTATIONS

7. **The Importance of Long-Range Planning: Burgaw Bypass Case Study** – RPO Staff provided a presentation on the history of the Burgaw Bypass and its relevance to the long-range planning efforts conducted by the RPO and its members. The Burgaw Bypass was studied extensively from the mid-90s and into the 2000s, and was even funded for right-of-way and construction in the STIP. However, the project was ultimately removed from the STIP in 2011 and from updates to the Pender County CTP in 2015. Many of the issues the Bypass was intended to address still linger, however, and conversations about this project and other alternatives will continue as the Pender County CTP update is set to begin in the coming months.

## III. REGULAR BUSINESS

8. **2024 Cape Fear RPO Meeting Schedule** – RPO Staff presented a draft version of the 2024 meeting schedule. The committee decided that RTCC meeting dates in April and July need to be revisited and discussed again in February (the first meeting of 2024). The committee also discussed altering the meeting start time from 10:00am to 10:30am to reduce existing conflicts for some committee members. RPO Staff recommended that the schedule be approved with the following notes: April and July meeting dates will be discussed further, and the meeting

time will be moved to 10:30am. *Adam Moran made a motion to approve that recommendation, and Vanessa Lacer seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.*

*Helen Bunch, Yes  
Mo Meehan, Yes  
Jeff Repp, Yes  
Robert Lewis, Yes  
Pat Garrell, Yes  
Adam Moran, Yes*

*Amy Kimes, Yes  
Doug Shipley, Yes  
Adrienne Cox, Yes  
Darius Sturdivant, Yes  
Nazia Sarder, Yes  
Jim Rupkalvis, Yes*

*Vanessa Lacer, Yes  
Yvonne Hatcher, Yes  
Joy Jacobs, Yes  
Stephanie Ayers, Yes  
Sam Boswell, Yes*

*The motion passed unanimously.*

#### **IV. REPORTS/UPDATES**

##### **9. Reports/Updates**

- Cape Fear RPO: Staff provided updates on additions and modifications to the STIP.
- NC Ports: There were no updates from the Ports.
- Ferry Division: There were no updates from the Ferry Division. The Ferry Division will be providing a more extensive presentation to the RTAC on Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup>.
- 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 Sarder gave updates on the Brunswick, Columbus, and Pender County CTPs.
- NCDOT Integrated Mobility Division (IMD): Kim Nguyen provided IMD updates. IMD Staff will provide a more extensive presentation to the RPO committees in early 2024.
- Wilmington Area MPO (WMPO): Vanessa Lacer provided WMPO updates.
- Grand Strand MPO (GSATS): There were no updates from GSATS.

#### **IV. OTHER**

**10. Open discussion:** There was no additional discussion.

**11. Adjourn** – *The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 AM.*