

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 5, 2024 • 10:30 AM Held virtually via Zoom

### Voting Members Present

Helen Bunch, Brunswick County  
Mo Meehan, Southport  
Jeff Repp, Saint James  
Robert Lewis, Whiteville  
Adam Moran, Pender County  
Amy Kimes, Surf City  
Ron Meredith, Burgaw  
Adrienne Cox, NCDOT Division 3

Philip Hart, NCDOT Division 6  
Behshad Norowzi, NCDOT TPD  
Vanessa Lacer, WMPO  
Mark Hoeweler, GSATS  
Joy Jacobs, Columbus County Transit  
Tricell Merrit, PAS-TRAN  
Sam Boswell, Cape Fear RPO

### Others Present

Matt Kirkland, Oak Island  
Doug Shipley, Topsail Beach  
Michelle Howes, NCDOT Division 3  
Ken Clark, NCDOT Div. 6, District 3

Bill Hammond, NCDOT Division 6  
Kim Nguyen, NCDOT IMD  
Crew Detamore, NC Ports  
Ty Cheek, Kerr-Tar 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 10:30 AM.
- 2. Roll Call** – A roll call was taken of attendees.
- 3. Additions or Corrections to the Agenda** – There were no changes made to the agenda. *Amy Kimes made a motion to approve the agenda. Adrienne Cox seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.*

*Mo Meehan, Yes  
Jeff Repp, Yes  
Robert Lewis, Yes  
Adam Moran, Yes  
Amy Kimes, Yes*

*Ron Meredith, Yes  
Adrienne Cox, Yes  
Philip Hart, Yes  
Behshad Norowzi, Yes  
Mark Hoeweler, Yes*

*Joy Jacobs, Yes  
Tricell Merritt, Yes  
Sam Boswell, Yes*

*The motion passed unanimously.*

4. **Approval of Minutes** – The minutes of the March 27, 2024, RTCC meeting were presented. *Mo Meehan made a motion to approve the minutes. Adam Moran seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.*

*Mo Meehan, Yes  
Jeff Repp, Yes  
Robert Lewis, Yes  
Adam Moran, Yes  
Amy Kimes, Yes*

*Ron Meredith, Yes  
Adrienne Cox, Yes  
Philip Hart, Yes  
Behshad Norowzi, Yes  
Mark Hoeweler, Yes*

*Joy Jacobs, Yes  
Tricell Merritt, Yes  
Sam Boswell, Yes*

*The motion passed unanimously.*

5. **Public Comment** – There were no comments from the public.
6. **Vacancies and Appointments** – Due to staff changes around the region, there were 2 voting seats on the RTCC that needed to be replaced.

**Columbus County**

Robert Lewis made a motion on behalf of Columbus County members for Jason Robinson (Town of Chadbourn) to be appointed as Columbus County Municipal Voting 2. Sam Boswell seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

*Robert Lewis, Yes  
Sam Boswell, Yes*

*Joy Jacobs, Yes*

The motion passed unanimously.

**Pender County**

Adam Moran made a motion on behalf of Pender County members for Ron Meredith (Town of Burgaw) to be appointed as Pender County Municipal Voting 2. Tricell Merritt seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

*Adam Moran, Yes  
Amy Kimes, Yes  
Ron Meredith, Yes*

*Doug Shipley, Yes  
Tricell Merritt, Yes*

The motion passed unanimously.

**II. PRESENTATIONS**

There were no scheduled presentations for this meeting.

**III. REGULAR BUSINESS**

7. **FY23-24 Planning Work Program Amendment** – Final amendments to the adopted PWP for the current fiscal year must be submitted to NCDOT by June 30. RPO staff presented an

amendment that would transfer funds from the “Program and Project Development” line item to “Prioritization” in order to align the budget with the RPO’s planning activities. The RPO’s total budget remains unchanged. *Vaness Lacer made a motion to recommend approval of the amended PWP to the RTAC, and Amy Kimes seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.*

*Mo Meehan, Yes  
Jeff Repp, Yes  
Robert Lewis, Yes  
Adam Moran, Yes  
Amy Kimes, Yes*

*Ron Meredith, Yes  
Adrienne Cox, Yes  
Philip Hart, Yes  
Behshad Norowzi, Yes  
Vanessa Lacer, Yes*

*Mark Hoeweler, Yes  
Joy Jacobs, Yes  
Tricell Merrit, Yes  
Sam Boswell, Yes*

*The motion passed unanimously.*

- 8. Pender County Comprehensive Transportation Plan** – The Pender County CTP will be a multi-modal long-range transportation plan that identifies existing and future needs of the transportation network, including improvements to highways, public transportation, rail, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, and the ferry system. Existing and anticipated travel demand for this plan is derived from the Wilmington Travel Demand Model, which includes all of Pender County.

A steering committee for the Pender County CTP began meeting earlier in 2024 and has outlined preliminary objectives, goals, and a vision for the future transportation network in Pender County. To supplement the committee’s expertise, they have created and published a public survey to be completed by residents and visitors of Pender County. This survey is available to be completed online, and paper copies are also available if needed. Paper copies can be picked up at the Cape Fear COG office or the Pender County Planning & Community Development Department office. The survey will be conducted from June 1<sup>st</sup> through September 1<sup>st</sup>. Results from this public survey will be used to form conceptual project recommendations to improve the transportation network in Pender County.

- 9. Prioritization 7.0 Quantitative Scores** – RPO Staff presented updates on the P7.0 cycle. On Friday, May 24, 2024, NCDOT released the quantitative scores for P7.0 projects. For eligible Statewide Mobility projects, NCDOT also indicated whether projects scored high enough to be selected for funding in the Draft 2026-2035 STIP. Preliminary schedules for selected projects are not yet available but will be provided with the release of the Draft 2026-35 STIP in January 2025.

Along with the project quantitative scores, NCDOT provided funding projections for the all 22 STI funding categories (Statewide, 7 Regions, and 14 Divisions). While these funding projections will continue to change over time, RPO staff and members can use this information (as provided in the agenda packet) to guide Local Input Point assignment decisions. The P7.0 Regional Impact Local Input Point assignment window began on Tuesday, May 28<sup>th</sup> and ends on Friday, August 30<sup>th</sup>. RPO staff will coordinate with each County to determine project priorities for P7.0 projects (as outlined in the RPO’s P7.0 LIP Methodology) before the RTCC and RTAC August meetings.

## IV. REPORTS/UPDATES

### 10. Reports/Updates

- **Cape Fear RPO:** Staff provided updates on the Draft Southern North Carolina Passenger Rail Feasibility Study, revisions to the 2024-2033 STIP, and the status of projects submitted for Carbon Reduction Program funding.
- **NC Ports:** There were no updates from the Ports.
- **Ferry Division:** There were no updates from the Ferry Division.
- **NCDOT Division 3 (Brunswick & Pender):** Adrienne Cox gave Division 3 updates.
- **NCDOT Division 6 (Columbus):** Philip Hart gave Division 6 updates.
- **NCDOT Transportation Planning Division (TPD):** Behshad Norowzi gave updates on the Brunswick, Columbus, and Pender County CTPs.
- **NCDOT Integrated Mobility Division (IMD):** There were no updates from IMD.
- **Wilmington Area MPO (WMPO):** Vanessa Lacer provided WMPO updates.
- **Grand Strand MPO (GSATS):** Mark Hoeweler provided GSATS updates.

## IV. OTHER

11. **Open discussion** – There was no additional discussion.

12. **Adjourn** – *The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM.*