

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 Advisory Committee (RTAC) Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2024 • 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
Jeff Winecoff, Boiling Spring Lakes

Terry Mann, Whiteville
Garry Keaton, Sandyfield
William Rivenbark, Burgaw

Others Present

Rebecca Kelley, Southport
Michelle Howes, NCDOT Div. 3
Adrienne Cox, NCDOT Div. 3
Bill Hammond, NCDOT Div. 6
Ken Clark, NCDOT Div. 6

Nazia Sarder, NCDOT TPD
Kelsey Hoover, NCDOT TPD
Michael Raynor, NCDOT TPD
Allen Serkin, Cape Fear COG
Sam Boswell, Cape Fear RPO

I. START-UP

1. **Call to Order** – RTAC Chair Frank Williams called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.
2. **Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance** – RTAC Chair Frank Williams 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. Terry Mann made a motion to adopt the agenda. Mr. Dave DeLong seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.*

*Frank Williams, Yes
Mike Forte, Yes*

*Dave DeLong, Yes
Jeff Winecoff, Yes*

*Terry Mann, Yes
Garry Keaton, Yes*

William Rivenbark, Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

6. **Approval of Minutes** – The August 16, 2024 meeting minutes were considered. *Mr. Mike Forte made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Jeff Winecoff seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.*

Frank Williams, Yes

Jeff Winecoff, Yes

William Rivenbark, Yes

Mike Forte, Yes

Terry Mann, Yes

Dave DeLong, Yes

Garry Keaton, Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

7. **Public Comment** – There were no comments from the public at this meeting.
8. **Vacancies and Appointments** – RPO Staff reviewed RTAC appointments and upcoming vacancies. Committee seats that require new appointments or reappointments will be addressed in the first meeting of 2025. *There was no action taken on this topic.*

II. PUBLIC HEARING

9. **Presentation: Cape Fear RPO P7.0 Division Needs Local Input Points** – RPO Staff provided an overview of the Prioritization process including when projects were submitted for the P7.0 cycle and how the RPO has followed its Local Input Point methodology since receiving the project scores in May 2024. Staff discussed the primary differences between the Regional Impact and Division Needs funding categories and explained that there are some projects eligible to receive Division points that were not eligible when the RPO assigned Regional points in August. Staff also explained the differences in the local methodology between the Regional and Division categories – the criteria remained the same, the weight of the P7.0 Quantitative Score decreased, and the weight of Division and County priorities increased for projects in the Division Needs category.

Following the overview of the methodology, RPO staff presented the RTCC-recommended point assignments. The point assignments recommended by the RTCC differ slightly from the results of the methodology, and the RTCC’s justification was to include a few of the top-scoring bike/ped projects since this funding category is the only time that those projects are eligible for points in Prioritization. As RPO Staff outlined the projects recommended for local input points, Adrienne Cox and Michelle Howes helped to explain the cost estimation process for these projects – cost estimates will continue to be updated throughout the project’s life cycle, and the RPO and Division coordinate closely with a team at NCDOT who is dedicated specifically to keeping cost estimates updated. It is normal for a project’s cost to increase as it moves further along in project development.

Rebecca Kelley asked whether B230582 would place the multi-use path on the north or south side of E Oak Island Drive, and staff responded that the current plan is for that path to go on the north side of the street. Oak Island is currently conducting a corridor study of that area to finalize their plans for a sidewalks and multi-use paths along E Oak Island Drive. Staff further clarified that multi-use paths are generally around 10 feet wide and are intended for pedestrians and cyclists, but not golf carts.

RPO Staff concluded with a look at the remaining P7.0 schedule and notified the RTAC that the P8.0 Workgroup has begun meeting, and information from that group will be coming in the near future. The Draft 2026-2035 STIP is expected to be released in January 2025.

10. **Public Comment** – The RTAC Chair opened the public hearing for members of the public to provide comments on the point assignments. Allen Serkin asked NCDOT representatives whether the storm damage from PTC-8 and Hurricane Helene will have significant impacts to projects in Prioritization. Michelle Howes responded that there has not been enough data collected at this point to fully know the answer to that question. There were no further comments or questions from the public and the Chair closed the public hearing.

III. NEW BUSINESS

11. **P7.0 Regional Impact Local Input Points** – The P7.0 Regional Impact Local Input Point assignment window is from Monday, Sept. 23rd through Friday, Nov. 29th. Cape Fear RPO staff, with assistance from NCDOT and RPO members, has evaluated projects according to the Local Input Point methodology approved by NCDOT and the RTAC in April 2024. *Mr. Mike Forte made a motion to approve the Division Needs point assignments as presented. Mr. William Rivenbark seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.*

<i>Frank Williams, Yes</i>	<i>Jeff Winecoff, Yes</i>	<i>William Rivenbark, Yes</i>
<i>Mike Forte, Yes</i>	<i>Terry Mann, Yes</i>	
<i>Dave DeLong, Yes</i>	<i>Garry Keaton, Yes</i>	

The motion passed unanimously.

12. **Cape Fear RPO Legislative Agenda** – RTAC Chair Frank Williams introduced the topic of a legislative agenda for the RPO at the end of August’s RTAC meeting. Since then, RPO Staff has researched whether other RPOs across the state have adopted a legislative agenda; there are many MPOs that do so. Mr. Williams presented a draft list of legislative priorities to the committee – this list was developed by a workgroup of RTAC members prior to the full committee meeting. *Mr. Mike Forte made a motion to approve the list of legislative priorities as presented, and Mr. Terry Mann seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.*

<i>Frank Williams, Yes</i>	<i>Mike Forte, Yes</i>	<i>Dave DeLong, Yes</i>
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Jeff Winecoff, Yes
Terry Mann, Yes

Garry Keaton, Yes
William Rivenbark, Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

13. **RTAC 2024 Meeting Calendar** – The Cape Fear RTAC is currently scheduled to meet on Friday, November 15th, however due to scheduling conflicts, RPO staff and the RTAC Chair have recommended cancelling the meeting and resuming in 2025. *Mr. Terry Mann made a motion to cancel the November meeting, and Mr. Jeff Winecoff seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.*

Frank Williams, Yes
Mike Forte, Yes
Dave DeLong, Yes

Jeff Winecoff, Yes
Terry Mann, Yes
Garry Keaton, Yes

William Rivenbark, Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

14. **RTAC 2025 Meeting Calendar** – A draft meeting calendar for 2025 was considered. RTAC Chair Frank Williams requested the June RTAC meeting date be moved from Friday, June 13th to Friday, June 20th. *Mr. William Rivenbark made a motion to approve the amended 2025 meeting calendar. Mr. Terry Mann seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.*

Frank Williams, Yes
Mike Forte, Yes
Dave DeLong, Yes

Jeff Winecoff, Yes
Terry Mann, Yes
Garry Keaton, Yes

William Rivenbark, Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

IV. REPORTS/UPDATES

15. Reports/Updates

- **Cape Fear RPO** – RPO Staff provided various updates on ongoing and upcoming items.
 - Revisions to 2024-2033 STIP: Updates were provided in the agenda packet.
 - Staff gave a reminder that the RPO is able to do the following: submit applications for SPR planning grant funds for work like greenway feasibility studies (e.g., East Coast Greenway studies), perform vehicle traffic counts upon request, and provide special presentations to local boards and councils.
 - Staff worked with NCDOT and Boiling Spring Lakes to adjust a resurfacing contract for NC 87 to include turning lanes at Fifty Lakes Drive. BSL Mayor Jeff Winecoff and Representative Charlie Miller were vital in obtaining the necessary funding to add these improvements to the existing maintenance

contract. Staff reminded the RTAC that these are windows of opportunity for incremental improvements to take advantage of.

- NCDOT's Advance NC Transportation website – a new resource for the public to engage with to learn more about new approaches to transportation funding.
- **NC Ports (Port of Wilmington)** – There was no additional update by the Port.
- **NCDOT Ferry Division** – There was no update by the Ferry Division.
- **NCDOT Division 3 (Brunswick & Pender)** – Adrienne Cox gave an update on Division 3 projects, as included in the agenda packet. This update included a report on repairs from PTC-8, which has been sent by NCDOT – RPO Staff will send a copy of the report to RTAC members following the meeting.
- **NCDOT Division 6 (Columbus)** – Bill Hammond gave an update on Division 6 projects, as included in the agenda packet.
- **NCDOT Transportation Planning Division (TPD)** – Nazia Sarder provided TPD updates for CTPs across the RPO area, as included in the agenda packet.
- **NCDOT Integrated Mobility Division (IMD)** – RPO Staff reported that IMD is working on finalizing the details of Southport's and Oak Island's Multimodal Planning Grant awards and that studies should be able to kick off by late 2024 or early 2025.
- **NC Board of Transportation** – There was no update by the Board member.

VI. OTHER

16. **Open Discussion** – RTAC Chair Frank Williams shared updates about the recent Cape Fear Memorial Bridge public meetings. While this project is outside the RPO planning area, its impacts to the transportation network are significant to RPO members.

William Rivenbark raised safety concerns about N Wright St / Old Savannah Rd (SR 1345) near Burgaw. There are issues with two close sharp turns and traffic in the area will only increase with the new Law Enforcement Center coming in. RPO Staff confirmed that this problem area can be further studied when the Pender County CTP steering committee resumes meeting in the coming months.

Jeff Winecoff noted that improvements to NC 87 (e.g., widening to 3-lanes) are increasingly important when weather events shut down NC 211. Mike Forte added that Sunny Point should remain as collaborators/stakeholders on any improvements to NC 87. Frank Williams agreed and encouraged RPO Staff to continue evaluating additional ways to address evacuation traffic in southeastern Brunswick County.

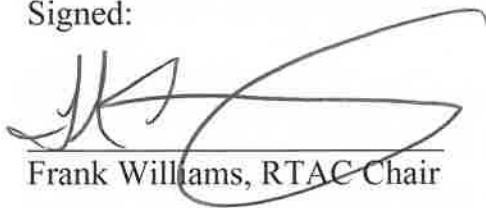
Rebecca Kelley asked NCDOT to clarify whether maintenance crews working in Western North Carolina are causing delays to NC 211 construction or funding. Michelle

Howes said that while NCDOT maintenance crews are being sent to help in WNC, the contractor and crew working on the NC 211 project were not. They remain focused on delivering the widening of NC 211 from Southport to NC 906 / Midway Rd.

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

Approved by the RTAC at a regular meeting on Friday, February 14, 2025.

Signed:



Frank Williams, RTAC Chair

Attest:



Sam Boswell, Secretary