

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 October 2, 2024 • 10:30 AM Held virtually via Zoom

Voting Members Present

Helen Bunch, Brunswick County
Mo Meehan, Southport
Jeff Repp, Saint James
Dylan Bowen, Columbus County
Robert Lewis, Whiteville
Adam Moran, Pender County
Amy Kimes, Surf City
Ron Meredith, Burgaw
Adrienne Cox, NCDOT Division 3
Bill Hammond, NCDOT Division 6

Nazia Sarder, NCDOT TPD
Jim Rupkalvis, MOTSU
Greer Templer, WMPO
Mark Hoeweler, GSATS
Yvonne Hatcher, BTS
Joy Jacobs, CCT
Tricell Merritt, PAS-TRAN
Stephanie Ayers, NC Ports
Sam Boswell, Cape Fear RPO

Others Present

Gary Lanier, Columbus County
Doug Shipley, Topsail Beach
Michelle Howes, NCDOT Division 3
Ken Clark, NCDOT Div. 6, District 3

Kim Nguyen, NCDOT IMD
Kelsey Hoover, NCDOT TPD
Michael Raynor, NCDOT TPD

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 10:31 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. *Robert Lewis made a motion to approve the agenda. Stephanie Ayers seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.*

*Mo Meehan, Yes
Jeff Repp, Yes
Dylan Bowen, Yes
Robert Lewis, Yes
Adam Moran, Yes*

*Amy Kimes, Yes
Ron Meredith, Yes
Adrienne Cox, Yes
Bill Hammond, Yes
Nazia Sarder, Yes*

*Jim Rupkalvis, Yes
Greer Templer, Yes
Mark Hoeweler, Yes
Joy Jacobs, Yes
Tricell Merritt, Yes*

Stephanie Ayers, Yes

Sam Boswell, Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

- 4. **Approval of Minutes** – The minutes of the August 7, 2024, RTCC meeting were presented. Nazia Sarder made a motion to approve the minutes. Adam Moran seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Mo Meehan, Yes

Ron Meredith, Yes

Mark Hoeweler, Yes

Jeff Repp, Yes

Adrienne Cox, Yes

Joy Jacobs, Yes

Dylan Bowen, Yes

Bill Hammond, Yes

Tricell Merritt, Yes

Robert Lewis, Yes

Nazia Sarder, Yes

Stephanie Ayers, Yes

Adam Moran, Yes

Jim Rupkalvis, Yes

Sam Boswell, Yes

Amy Kimes, Yes

Greer Templer, 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 2025. There was no action taken.

II. PRESENTATIONS

There were no scheduled presentations for this meeting.

III. REGULAR BUSINESS

- 7. **P7.0 Division Needs Local Input Points** – The P7.0 Division Needs Local Input Point assignment window is from Monday, Sept. 23rd through Friday, Nov. 29th. RPO Staff, with assistance from NCDOT and RPO members, has evaluated projects according to the Local Input Point methodology approved by NCDOT and the Cape Fear RTAC in April 2024.

RPO Staff presented the results of the methodology and discussed draft point assignments with the RTCC. The committee observed that the methodology awarded a disproportionate number of preliminary points to Aviation projects while not selecting any Bicycle/Pedestrian projects. RPO Staff also noted that a few projects with preliminary Division points already received Regional points and would more appropriately be funded through that category anyway (e.g., H090287-G and H090806-A). RPO Staff recommended a few changes to the methodology’s preliminary points as follows: move 100 points from both H090287-AG and H090806-A and assign them to B230582 and B150520, which were the highest scoring bike/ped projects. Also, move the remaining 80 points from A230640 and assign them to B230762. RPO Staff proposed that these changes would spread out local input points more evenly geographically while also still capturing the top projects from each mode.

Adam Moran and Mo Meehan both agreed with the need to redistribute points to bike/ped projects. Mo Meehan further noted that while she would love to see points put towards a Southport project, she sees the value in supporting projects all across the RPO boundary. Helen Bunch asked for clarification regarding project A191821 to make sure this project is not designed just for a single aircraft. RPO Staff responded that the project description was just unclear; this project is not designed for a singular aircraft, but to make improvements that allow for larger types of aircraft to use the airport facility.

Adam Moran made a motion to recommend approval of the adjusted point assignments to the RTAC, and Helen Bunch seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

*Helen Bunch, Yes
Mo Meehan, Yes
Jeff Repp, Yes
Dylan Bowen, Yes
Robert Lewis, Yes
Adam Moran, Yes
Amy Kimes, Yes*

*Ron Meredith, Yes
Adrienne Cox, Yes
Bill Hammond, Yes
Nazia Sarder, Yes
Jim Rupkalvis, Yes
Greer Templer, Yes
Mark Hoeweler, Yes*

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

The motion passed unanimously.

- 8. 2025 Cape Fear RPO Meeting Schedule** – RPO Staff presented a draft meeting schedule for RTCC and RTAC meetings. Staff noted that this schedule excludes references to the P8.0 schedule as those dates/deadlines have yet to be announced. *Stephanie Ayers made a motion to approve the RTCC meeting schedule as presented, and Amy Kimes seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.*

*Helen Bunch, Yes
Mo Meehan, Yes
Jeff Repp, Yes
Dylan Bowen, Yes
Robert Lewis, Yes
Adam Moran, Yes
Amy Kimes, Yes*

*Ron Meredith, Yes
Adrienne Cox, Yes
Bill Hammond, Yes
Nazia Sarder, Yes
Jim Rupkalvis, Yes
Greer Templer, Yes
Mark Hoeweler, Yes*

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

The motion passed unanimously.

IV. REPORTS/UPDATES

9. Reports/Updates

- **Cape Fear RPO:** Staff provided updates on the revisions to the 2024-2033 STIP. Staff reviewed the various resources available to RPO members upon request such as submittal proposals for additional planning grant funds, performing vehicle traffic counts, and providing presentations both in RPO meetings and to local boards/committees. Lastly,

Staff reviewed the Advance NC Transportation initiative regarding transportation funding sources.

- **NC Ports:** Strike, no activity at the Port currently.
- **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):** Bill Hammond gave Division 6 updates.
- **NCDOT Transportation Planning Division (TPD):** Nazia Sarder gave updates on the Brunswick, Columbus, and Pender County CTPs as well as the Wilmington Travel Demand Model.
- **NCDOT Integrated Mobility Division (IMD):** Kim Nguyen gave IMD updates. Agreements for Multimodal Planning Grants.
- **Wilmington Area MPO (WMPO):** Greer Templer provided WMPO updates.
- **Grand Strand MPO (GSATS):** Mark Hoeweler provided GSATS updates.

IV. OTHER

- 10. Open Discussion** – Adam Moran asked about procedures involving roll calls for voting items in RTCC meetings. RPO Staff agreed to look into the matter and see whether these meetings require roll calls with every item. Additional guidance for these meeting logistics will be provided in the next RTCC meeting.

Helen Bunch thanked NCDOT Division 3 on behalf of Brunswick County for the incredible response shown by NCDOT and their partners following the PTC-8 storm/flooding damage in September. NCDOT crews have been working extremely hard to repair Brunswick County's road network.

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