

Minutes of the Rural Technical Coordinating Committee (RTCC) Meeting
October 25, 2017
11:00 a.m.

Call to Order

The October 25, 2017 RTCC meeting was held at the Albemarle Commission Building, in Hertford, NC and was opened and called to order by RTCC Chairman Rhett White at 11:05 a.m.

Roll Call

It was determined a quorum was present with the following TCC members in attendance: Chairman Rhett White, Town of Columbia; Dan Scanlon, Currituck County; Shelley Cox, Pasquotank County; Kevin Howard, Gates County; Andy Stewart, Town of Kitty Hawk; Donna Creef, Dare County; Bill Rich, Hyde County; Melissa Dickerson, Town of Manteo; Frank Heath Perquimans County; Elizabeth Bryant, Town of Edenton; Wes Haskett, Town of Southern Shores; Joe Heard, Town of Duck; Natalie Rountree, Gates County; Andy Garman, Town of Nags Head; Curtis Potter, Washington County; Jerry Jennings, NCDOT Division 1; Mark Eatman, NCDOT-TPB; Gretchen Byrum, NCDOT-Division 1.

Agenda Approval

Chairman White called for a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of another item, the Hyde County Pedestrian Planning Application. A motion to approve the agenda with the addition of one item was made by Natalie Rountree and seconded by Shelley Cox, and unanimously carried.

Approval of July 26, 2017 RTCC Minutes

Chairman White called for a motion to accept the minutes as presented. It was noted that Shelley Cox, Pasquotank County was at the meeting but not listed as attending. A motion to approve the minutes with the addition of Shelley Cox as attending was made by Bill Rich; his motion was seconded by Donna Creef, and unanimously carried.

Alternate Criteria

The ARPO Director shared information regarding the Alternate Criteria. The ARPO Director stated that Division 1 and 4 met to discuss the possibility of adopting alternative criteria for the regional and division funding for P 5.0. It was noted that Chairman Griffin sent a letter to the Strategic Prioritization Office at the end of August regarding the fact the ARPO Boards would be notified of the criteria change. A motion was made by Bill Rich to approve the Region and Division Alternate Criteria; his motion was seconded by Natalie Rountree, and unanimously carried.

City of Elizabeth City Pedestrian Planning Grant Resolution

Chairman White stated that the City of Elizabeth City is applying for a Pedestrian Plan Grant from NCDOT. He noted that the process requires approval from the RPO RTAC Board. City of Elizabeth City officials in attendance stated that the funds will be used to identify pedestrian walkways throughout the city. A motion was made by Shelley Cox to approve the application; her motion was seconded by Andy Stewart, and unanimously carried.

2018 Legislative Agenda

The ARPO Director provided the Board with 2017 Legislative Priorities. After discussion the RTCC agreed to the following wording/changes to one of the six items:

- Ensure funding for future interstate I-87 from the Hampton Roads region in Virginia to Raleigh, NC.

A motion was made by Joe Heard proposing that the changes be presented to the legislature; his motion was seconded by Dan Scanlon and unanimously carried.

NCDOT Travel and Meal Policy

Chairman White introduced the item noting in late June, the NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch stated that MPOs and RPOs must now follow the NCDOT travel, per diem hotel and per diem meal policy. After discussion, it was recommended that a letter be sent to the DOT Chief Deputy Secretary Howard stating concerns with this change as follows:

1. The current NCDOT travel policy does not make sense as COG's do not have a fleet of vehicles at our disposal to use instead of our private vehicles.
2. The policy negatively affects RPO's. In rural areas, some RPO Directors can drive over 100 miles per day just to and from a meeting in their own region.
3. Although we receive state funds, we are not state employees. We are employees of the COG we are sited under and must follow their travel policy and per diem policy. The attached NCDOT "consultants" per diem policy makes more sense to apply to us.
4. Rural areas do not have the availability of 24-hour rental car businesses.
5. If we have to attend a meeting overnight, blocks of hotel rooms are reserved by the person putting on the meeting. If the hotel does not offer state rates, RPO Directors will be forced to pay the difference out of pocket.

A motion was made by Donna Creef to send a letter to the Deputy Secretary; her motion was seconded by Curtis Potter and unanimously carried.

Hyde County Bicycle Planning Grant Resolution

Chairman White stated that Hyde County is applying for a Pedestrian Plan Grant from NCDOT. He noted that the process requires approval from the RPO RTAC Board. It was noted that funds would be used to develop a comprehensive Pedestrian Plan for Ocracoke Village that expands upon the Hyde County Comprehensive Transportation Plan of 2012. A motion was made by Donna Creef to approve the application; her motion was seconded by Shelley Cox, and unanimously carried.

Public Comments

Chairman White opened the floor for public comments and there being no public comments closed the floor.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, Chairman White adjourned the meeting at 11:47 pm.

Lunch and Presentations

NCDOT Update – Discussion/Presentation

TPB Update

ARPO Update

Minutes of the Rural Technical Coordinating Committee (RTAC) Meeting April 26, 2017 1:00 pm

Call to Order

The October 25, 2017 RTAC meeting was held at the Albemarle Commission Building, in Hertford, NC and was opened and called to order by RTAC Vice-Chairman Leroy Spivey at 12:55 p.m.

Roll Call

It was determined a quorum was present with the following RTAC members in attendance: Vice-Chairman Leroy Spivey, Jeff Smith, Chowan County; Bill Sexton, Washington County; Paul Beaumont, Currituck County; Tom White, Camden County; Wally Overman, Dare County; and Allan Moran, NCDOT BOT.

RTAC Non-Voting members in attendance: John Ratzenberger, Town of Nags Head; Lynne McClean, Town of Kitty Hawk.

Alternates in attendance: Patti Kersey, Chowan County;

Agenda Approval

Vice-Chairman Spivey called for a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of another item, the Hyde County Pedestrian Planning Application. A motion to approve the agenda with the addition of one item was made by Jeff Smith and seconded by Tom White, and unanimously carried.

Approval of July 26, 2017 RTCC Minutes

Vice-Chairman Spivey called for a motion to accept the minutes as presented. It was noted that Lynne McClean was at the July meeting but not listed as attending. A motion to approve the minutes with the addition of Lynne McClean as attending was made by Tom White; his motion was seconded by Bill Sexton, and unanimously carried.

Alternate Criteria

The ARPO Director shared information regarding the Alternate Criteria. The ARPO Director stated that Division 1 and 4 met to discuss the possibility of adopting alternative criteria for the regional and division funding for P 5.0. It was noted that Chairman Griffin sent a letter to the Strategic Prioritization Office at the end of August regarding the fact the ARPO Boards would be notified of the criteria change. A motion was made by Tom White to approve the Region and Division Alternate Criteria; his motion was seconded by Patti Kersey, and unanimously carried.

City of Elizabeth City Pedestrian Planning Grant Resolution

Vice-Chairman Spivey stated that the City of Elizabeth City is applying for a Pedestrian Plan Grant from NCDOT. He noted that the process requires approval from the RPO RTAC Board. City of Elizabeth City officials in attendance stated that the funds will be used to improve pedestrian walkways throughout the city. A motion was made by Wally Overman to approve the application; his motion was seconded by Bill Sexton, and unanimously carried.

2018 Legislative Agenda

The ARPO Director provided the Board with 2017 Legislative Priorities. After discussion the RTAC agreed to the following wording/changes to one of the six items:

- Ensure funding for future interstate I-87 from the Hampton Roads region in Virginia to Raleigh, NC.

A motion was made by Paul Beaumont proposing that the changes be presented to the legislature; his motion was seconded by Tom White and unanimously carried.

NCDOT Travel and Meal Policy

The ARPO Director introduced the item noting that after the in June, the NCDOT Transportation Planning Board stated that MPOs and RPOs must now follow the NCDOT travel, per diem hotel and per diem meal policy. After discussion, it was recommended that a letter be sent to the DOT Chief Deputy Secretary Howard stating concerns with this change as follows:

1. The current NCDOT travel policy does not make sense as COG's do not have a fleet of vehicles at our disposal to use instead of our private vehicles.
2. The policy negatively affects RPO's. In rural areas, some RPO Directors can drive over 100 miles per day just to and from a meeting in their own region.
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A motion was made by Wally Overman to send a letter to the Deputy Secretary; his motion was seconded by Jeff Smith and unanimously carried.

Hyde County Bicycle Planning Grant Resolution

Vice-Chairman Spivey stated that Hyde County is applying for a Pedestrian Plan Grant from NCDOT. He noted that the process requires approval from the RPO RTCC Board. It was noted that funds would be used to develop a comprehensive Pedestrian Plan for Ocracoke Village that expands upon the Hyde County Comprehensive Transportation Plan of 2012. A motion was made by Bill Sexton to approve the application; his motion was seconded by Tom White, and unanimously carried.

Public Comments

Mr. Griffin opened the floor for public comments. John Ratzenberger noted that he is not running for re-election and stated what a pleasure it was to serve on the RTAC Board. Vice-Chairman Spivey thanked Mr. Ratzenberger for his service to the Region.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, Vice-Chairman Leroy Spivey adjourned the meeting at 1:17 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra Powers
Albemarle Commission
Program Administrative Coordinator

For
Angela Welsh, Secretary
ARPO Director