**RPO Committee Meetings**

**September 18, 2013**

**11:30 a.m.**

The RPO meeting was held at the Eastern 4-H Center in Tyrrell County. Tyrrell County Commissioner Leroy Spivey welcomed those present. He introduced new Tyrrell County Manager David Clegg and recognized the outgoing manager, Ken Windley.

**RTCC Meeting**

RTCC Chairperson Angela Welch opened the RTCC meeting and asked for introductions from those present. She called on Jerry Jennings for introductions of the DOT representatives not usually in attendance. They were Harold Thomas, Director of the NC Ferry Division and Jed Dixon with the Ferry Division – Richard Walls, DOT Deputy Secretary and Sterling Baker with DOT.

Also present were Malcolm Fearing, Division 1 Representative, Sue Powell, NC DOT Mobility Planning Branch, Nazia Sarder NC DOT Planning Branch (replacing Kerry Morrow) Behshad Norowzi, Planning Branch, Gretchen Byrum, Planning Engineer , Patrick Flanagan, Down East RPO, Justin Oakes, Peanut Belt RPO, Bryant Buck, Mid-East RPO, Mary Helen Goodloe, Tom Murphy, Vicky G. Burris.

RTCC members present were W.J. “Bill” White,Town of Creswell; Leroy Spivey, Tyrrell County; Shelley Cox, Pasquotank County; Bert Bank, Albemarle Commission; Bill Rich, Hyde County; Jerry Rhodes, Washington County; Sam Barrow, Town of Edenton; Zee Lamb, Chowan County; Greg Loy, Town of Kill Devil Hills; Wes Haskett, Town of Southern Shores; Jack Shea, Dare County; Dan Scanlon, Currituck County; Gary Perry, Town of Kitty Hawk.

Other DOT representatives recognized were Sue Powell, Gretchen Byrum; Nazia Sarder (replacing Kerry Morrow; Behshad Norowzi; and Malcolm Fearing representing District 1.

Guests present were Mary Helen Goodloe, Tom Murphy, and Vicky G. Burris.

Ms. Welch called for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Jerry Rhodes made the motion to approve. His motion was seconded by Leroy Spivey and unanimously carried.

Ms. Welch called for a motion to approve the June 19, 2013 minutes. A motion was made by Wes Haskett to approve the minutes as presented. His motion was seconded by Leroy Spivey and unanimously carried.

With no public comments offered Chairperson Welch called for a motion to adjourn. Leroy Spivey moved to adjourn and Wes Haskett seconded the motion.

**Presentations and Lunch** –

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|  | State  Highway | Regional (based on population)  Highway | Division  Highway |
| Funding | 40% | 30% | 30% |
| Mode | All | All | All |
| Criteria | 100% Data driven (includes DOD Highway network, intrastate…) , RPO and DOT not allowed input into score, scored higher if community brings money to the table to pay for a portion of the project.  Division 1 projects which are currently in the State level category are the Mid-Currituck Bridge and US 64/Alligator River Bridge. | 70% data driven and 30% based on RPO and DOT input.  Includes all of Region “A” which includes DOT Division 1(Dare, Currituck, Camden, Pasquotank, Gates, Perquimans, Chowan, Washington, Tyrell and Hyde; as well as Bertie, Hertford, Northampton,& Martin) AND DOT Division 4 (Edgecombe, Halifax, Johnston, Nash, Wayne and Wilson) | 70% data driven and 30% based on RPO and DOT input.    Only includes DOT Division 1(Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans Tyrrell and Washington; as well as Bertie, Hertford, Northampton,& Martin) |
| Data breakdown criteria (RPO’s and MPO’s were given the opportunity to define their own quantitative criteria and formulas for Region and Division needs projects) | Projects will go through a “normalization” process. Historically, 94%-96% went to highways and the rest to other modes. Now 90% to highways, a minimum of 4% to other modes and 6% will compete in the data driven process. They are still working on the scoring formula. | 20% Benefit-Cost  15% Congestion  15% Safety  10% Lane  10% Shoulder  (Resolution Adopted by RTAC June 19, 2013) | 10% Benefit-Cost  10% Congestion  10% Safety  10% Lane  10% Shoulder  (Resolution Adopted by RTAC June 19, 2013) |
| Other notes(Other modes) | Ferry Capital Improvement projects are not included in the 90% highway funds and will have to be funded at the Division level. | New Ramp & Gantry  Modernization or expansion of Ferry Shipyard(includes support vessels(i.e., vessel lift, barges,etc) | Ferry Capital Improvement projects will have to be funded at the Division level. |

New STI formula (which replaced the Equity Formula) is only for Capital Improvements. All Capital Improvement money is now being put into 1 pot and split: State 40%, Region 30% and Division 30%. Operations and Maintenance is a separate pot of money.

Projects can funnel down from State to Regional to Division but cannot funnel up.

* 1. Ex: If the Mid-Currituck Bridge is not funded at the State level, it can be funded at the Regional or Division level. However, Ferry Capital Improvements cannot be funded at the state level.

1. All projects scheduled to be let by July 1, 2015 are safe and will be funded.

Gretchen Byrum will be working on some maps and other information of projects which will have to go back through the prioritization process because they are not being let by July 1, 2015. They will be given to RPO members when complete. (**See attached Active Division One Projects)**

Jed Dixon- Ferry update

* 1. Army Corps has been using Hurricane Sandy relief money to dredge the channel for the last 2 months. It’s still a volatile area and once the relief money dries up, Corps money does not look promising. They are hoping the channel will show some stability over the winter.
  2. Refurbished emergency ramps in Rodanthe and Hatteras ramp refurbishment have been completed and tested. Costs for these ramp improvements were approximately $1 million each.
  3. The Cherry Branch, Swan Quarter and Currituck Ferry Operations Buildings are scheduled to be replaced before the July 1, 2015 deadline. They will have to replace more in the coming years and they will not be replaced at the State funding level. There are 22 vessels in the fleet with an average age of 20 years and they have to keep 19-20 running May through September.

**RTAC Meeting**

Chairperson Lloyd Griffin opened the RTAC meeting with the following RTAC members present:

J.D. Melton, Town of Creswell; Butch Petrey, Currituck County; Anson Byrd, Hyde County; Larry Lawhon, Town of Southern Shores; Jack Shea, Dare County; Lloyd Griffin, Pasquotank County; Sam Barrow, Town of Edenton; Joe Heard, Town of Kitty Hawk, Sam Barrown, Town of Edenton..

A work group was established, by RTAC Chairman, Lloyd Griffin to discuss possible funding solutions for Ferry replacement. The workgroup meeting has been tentatively scheduled for October 3 in Dare County. \*\*Ferry funding Public Hearings, in each County affected will have to be held by March 1, 2014. Those serving as Work Group members are:

Hyde County – Commissioner Anson Byrd and Manager Bill Rich.

Dare County- Commissioner Jack Shea and Kill Devil Hills Planning Director Greg Loy

Currituck County- Commissioner Butch Petrey and County Manager Dan Scanlon

Jed Dixon, Ferry Division

Albemarle RPO Planner, Steve Lambert

RTCC Chair, Angela Welsh

* 1. The next RPO meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 20, 2013 in Dare County. The agenda will be forwarded to RPO members by Albemarle RPO Planner Steve Lambert.

1. With no further business to conduct, Chairman Griffin adjourned the meeting.