**Minutes of the Rural Technical Coordinating Committee (RTCC) Meeting**

**October 21, 2015**

**11:00 a.m.**

The October 21, 2015 RTCC meeting held at the Dare County Administration Building in Manteo NC 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; Donna Creef, Dare County; Dan Porter, Camden County; Dan Scanlon, Currituck County; Bill Rich, Hyde County; Shelley Cox, Pasquotank County; Kaitlen Alcock, City of Elizabeth City; Natalie Rountree, Gates County; Erin Burke, Town of Manteo; Wes Haskett, Town of Southern Shores; Kevin Howard, Chowan County; Jerry Jennings, NCDOT Division 1; Frank Heath, Perquimans County; Joe Heard, Town of Duck; Lee Cowlig, NCDOT- TPB and Gretchen Byrum, NCDOT Division 1

**Agenda Approval**

Chairman White called for a motion to accept the agenda as presented. A motion to accept the agenda was made by Dan Scanlon seconded by Wes Haskett, and unanimously carried.

**Approval of July 22, 2015 TCC Minutes**

Chairman White called for a motion to accept the minutes. A motion to adopt the minutes was made by Dan Porter, seconded by Natalie Rountree, and unanimously carried.

**Camden CTP Amendment endorsement**

Chairman Rhett White called on a Camden County representative to provide a brief overview of the Camden County CTP Amendment. Camden County TCC representative, Dan Porter stated there was a new highway recommendation for the highway map and the routes from the Albemarle Regional Bicycle Plan were added to the Bicycle maps. Chairman White called for a motion. Donna Creef made a motion to recommend endorsement of the Camden CTP Amendment. Her motion was seconded by Natalie Rountree and with no discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

**Currituck CTP Amendment endorsement**

Chairman Rhett White called on a Currituck County representative to provide a brief overview of the Currituck County CTP Amendment. Currituck County TCC representative, Dan Scanlon stated there was a new highway recommendation, which matched up to the new Camden County highway recommendation, for the highway map and the routes from the Albemarle Regional Bicycle Plan were also added to the Bicycle maps. Chairman White called for a motion. Wes Haskett made a motion to recommend endorsement of the Currituck CTP Amendment. His motion was seconded by Natalie Rountree and with no discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

**Chowan CTP endorsement**

Chairman Rhett White called on a Chowan County representative to provide a brief overview of the Chowan County CTP. Chowan County TCC representative, Kevin Howard gave a brief overview of the CTP and stated the Chowan Board of Commissioners had adopted the CTP at their regular meeting that Monday night. Angela Welsh stated the endorsement is contingent upon the Town of Edenton adopting the CTP at their October 26, 2015 regular meeting. Chairman White called for a motion. Dan Scanlon made a motion to recommend endorsement of the Chowan CTP. His motion was seconded by Dan Porter and with no discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

**Corolla (Currituck) pedestrian grant application resolution**

Chairman White called on the Planning Director, Angela Welsh, to provide an overview of this item. She explained Currituck County was applying for grant funds to draft a Pedestrian Plan from the NCDOT- Bicycle and Pedestrian Division and the application process requires endorsement of the application by the RPO. She went on to say Currituck was first looking to complete the pedestrian plan for the unincorporated area of Corolla but was advised to complete a plan for the entire county by the NCDOT- Bicycle and Pedestrian Division. She showed the revised resolution of endorsement to the RTCC Board. The resolution stated it was a resolution in support of the countywide plan instead of only the unincorporated area of Corolla. Chairman White called for a motion. Bill Rich made a motion to recommend approval of the revised resolution. His motion was seconded by Erin Burke and with no discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

**P4.0 project list final approval**

Chairman White called on Ms. Welsh to provide an overview of this item. Ms. Welsh stated the project list, for the P4.0 cycle, was tentatively approved by the RTAC at their July 22, 2015 meeting. She stated since the tentative approval of the project list, the Town of Edenton revised one of their existing Bicycle and Pedestrian projects and Perquimans County decided to keep one of their road widening projects on the list instead of deleting it. Ms. Welsh went on to say the ARPO held a required 30 day public comment period from September 15, 2015 through October 15, 2015 and only received one comment from the Outer Banks National Scenic Byway Dare County Committee’s in support of two projects on Hatteras island. Chairman White called for a motion. Donna Creef made a motion to approve the P4.0 project list. Her motion was seconded by Natalie Rountree and unanimously carried.

**Methodology tentative approval**

Chairman White called on the Planning Director to provide an overview of this item. Ms. Welsh stated during August and September, Staff met with workgroups, comprised of RTCC and RTAC members, to review and/or revise the ARPO’s point assignment methodology. After compiling comments, received in the workgroup sessions, Staff drafted the methodology and submitted it to the Transportation Planning Branch for review and they have approved of it. There were numerous revisions to the ARPO’s Methodology and it was consensus to go through them one by one. The RTCC moved through the revisions and provided their comments and requested revisions be made. Ms. Welsh stated the criteria and methodology will be released for a 30 day public comment period sometime in November of 2015 and be brought back before both the RTCC and RTAC Board in January for final approval. Chairman White called for a motion. Bill Rich made a motion to tentatively approve the Methodology with the requested revisions. His motion was seconded by Frank Heath and unanimously carried.

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

With no further business to discuss, Chairman White asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dan Porter made a motion to adjourn the meeting. His motion was seconded by Wes Haskett. The meeting was adjourned at 12:03 pm.

**Lunch and Presentations**

**Division 1 Report**

Jerry Jennings provided a presentation on the additional revenue provided in the State budget for transportation needs. Malcolm Fearing provided an update on the additional revenue for transportation needs and ferry discussions.

**Ferry Division Report**

Ed Goodwin provided an update on Ferry Division needs and funding.

**NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch Report**

Lee Cowlig gave a brief update on Comprehensive Transportation Plans (CTP) work in the ARPO region.

**ARPO Director Report**

Angela Welsh gave a brief update on the progress of the Regional Bicycle Website.

The Albemarle Commission Attorney, Dwight Wheless provided his interpretation of the ARPO’s Bylaws regarding whether the RTCC must first review and act on items added to the RTAC agenda before the RTAC Board considers them. Article IV “Agendas” applies to the RTCC and the RTAC and requires that an agenda list “items for consideration by the Committee” and allows additional items to be placed on the agenda at the “…beginning of a regular meeting with the affirmative vote of fifty percent(50%) plus one (1), of the voting membership of both the RTCC and RTAC. [Comment: I think the correct way to interpret the “and” is that the requirement is the same for each independent committee and the action of one does not require the same action by the other.]

**Minutes of the Rural Technical Advisory Committee (RTAC) Meeting**

**October 21, 2015**

**1:00 p.m.**

**Call to Order**The October 21, 2015 TAC meeting held at the Dare County Administration Building in Manteo NC was opened and called to order by RTAC Chairman Lloyd Griffin at 1:05 p.m.

**Roll Call**

It was determined a quorum was present with the following RTAC voting members in attendance: Chairman Lloyd Griffin, Pasquotank County; Leroy Spivey, Tyrrell County; Jeff Smith, Chowan County; Jack Shea, Dare County; Matt Peeler, Perquimans County; Vance Aydlett, Currituck County; Ben Simmons, Hyde County; and Malcom Fearing, Board of Transportation member.

RTAC Non-voting members in attendance: Larry Lawhon, Town of Southern Shores; Gary Perry, Town of Kitty Hawk; Brandy Rheubottom, Kill Devil Hills; and John Ratzenberger, Nags Head

Alternates in attendance:

Wally Overman, Dare County and Paul O’Neal, Currituck County

**Agenda Approval**

Chairman Griffin called for a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Jeff Smith made a motion to amend the agenda and add a ferry tolling resolution and discussion. His motion was seconded by Jack Shea and was thought to have failed with a 5-2 vote. A Roll Call vote was requested but the TAC Chairman decided it was not needed. Note: Upon further review by staff, during the meeting, it was realized the vote was 6‐2 in favor of adding the resolution and discussion to the agenda which was the 50% +1 vote needed to do so, For: Smith, Peeler, Griffin, Shea, Spivey, Fearing Against: Simmons, Aydlett. The TAC Chairman was notified along with the rest of the TAC Board of the correction and Board discussion ensued, however, a vote was not taken on the resolution nor was the resolution taken off the floor. Upon consultation with Dwight Wheless, Attorney for the Albemarle Commission, this item will be added as “Old Business” to the TAC’s January meeting agenda.

The Chairman asked for a motion to compile items 5 through 8 as consent agenda items. A motion was made by Jack Shea, seconded by Matt Peeler, and unanimously carried.

**Approval of July 22, 2015 TAC Minutes**

Chairman Griffin called for a motion to accept the minutes as presented. A motion to adopt the minutes as presented was made by Jack Shea, seconded by Matt Peeler, and unanimously carried.

**P4.0 project list final approval**

Chairman Griffin asked Ms. Welsh to provide a brief overview of this item. Ms. Welsh stated the project list was tentatively approved by the RTAC at their July 22, 2015 meeting. She stated there were two revisions to the list since tentative approval and the ARPO had held the required 30 day public comment period. She stated the RTCC recommended approval of the P4.0 project list. Chairman Griffin called for a motion. Matt Peeler made a motion to approve the P4.0 project list. His motion was seconded by Jack Shea and unanimously carried.

**Methodology tentative approval**

Chairman Griffin called on Ms. Welsh to provide a brief review of the methodology and she stated the RTCC recommended approval with minor revisions. Jeff Smith asked Ms. Welsh to clarify one part of the methodology and also had a minor revision for her to make to it. Chairman Griffin called for a motion. Jack Shea made a motion to approve with the minor revision. His motion was seconded by Matt Peeler and unanimously carried.

**Ferry discussion**

The Board began to discuss the need for new and replacement ferry vessels and how to fund them. Chairman Griffin called on both voting and non-voting RTAC members to take part in the discussion. Concerns were expressed that if the Hatteras-Ocracoke route was tolled, the toll money collected would not be enough to cover all of the costs of the new and replacement ferry vessels needed and the additional funds would still have to come out of the Division pot of money. The Board also discussed how their decision would affect the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) grant the ferry division applied for. There was discussion about asking Legislators to try, again, to designate a line item in the State budget for new and replacement ferry vessels so they would not have to compete in the “Division” pot of money as well. There were also concerns expressed that legislators have had time to identify alternative sources to fund new and replacement ferry vessels and they have not been able to do so. A suggestion was proposed that the RTAC hold off on voting on tolling the route until after the 2016 short session to give legislators additional time to find alternative funding sources for new and replacement ferry vessels. Other concerns expressed were with new and replacement ferry vessels having to compete under the STI law, the ferry system may not be able to maintain an adequate level of service if the ferries don’t score well enough to be funded. There were also concerns expressed about how much the tolls would actually generate and a suggestion that the passenger ferries be tolled and the traditional ferries not be tolled.

Note: Upon further review by staff, during this discussion, it was realized the vote was 6‐2 in favor of adding the resolution and discussion to the agenda which was the 50% +1 vote needed to do so, For: Smith, Peeler, Griffin, Shea, Spivey, Fearing Against: Simmons, Aydlett. The TAC Chairman was notified along with the rest of the TAC Board of the correction and Board discussion ensued, however, a vote was not taken on the resolution nor was the resolution taken off the floor. Upon consultation with Dwight Wheless, Attorney for the Albemarle Commission, this item will be added as “Old Business” to the TAC’s January meeting agenda.

**Public Comments**

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

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to conduct, Chairman Griffin declared the meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Welsh, Secretary

ARPO Director