

**Minutes of the
Albemarle Rural Transportation Planning Organization (RPO)
Joint Meeting of Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) and
Rural Technical Coordinating Committee (RTCC)
June 13, 2007
1:00 p.m.**

Call to Order

A joint RTAC and RTCC meeting was held at the Albemarle Commission in Hertford on June 13, 2006 at 1:00 p.m. Chairman Charles Ward called the meeting to order.

Agenda Approval

The agenda was approved as presented following a motion by Lloyd Griffin and seconded by Melvin Jeralds.

Approval/Adoption of October 11, 2006 Minutes

The minutes of the October 11, 2006 Albemarle Rural Planning Organization meeting were unanimously adopted as written following a motion to adopt by Rhett White and a second to the motion J.D. Melton.

Those present were Lloyd Griffin, Pasquotank County; Jo Ann Morris, Town of Hertford; Paul Fredette, City of Elizabeth City; John Stockton, Town of Kitty Hawk; Dan Porter, Camden County; Randall Woodruff, Camden County; J. D. Melton, Town of Creswell; Melvin Jeralds, Camden County; Bill White, Town of Creswell; Brian Roth, Town of Plymouth; Rhett White, Town of Columbia; George G. Owens, Sr., Town of Columbia; Alice Armstrong, Hyde County; Bobby Darden, Perquimans County; Webb Fuller, Southern Shores; and Charles Ward, Perquimans County. DOT representatives present were Barry Hobbs and Kerry Vallant.

Introduction

Chairman Ward introduced Adrian Cox as the new Albemarle RPO Coordinator who began his employment with the Albemarle Commission on May 29, 2007. He noted Mr. Cox is a recent graduate of Appalachian State University completing a Master of Public Administration degree with a concentration in town, city and county management. Chairman Ward stated Mr. Cox felt it necessary to have the Albemarle RPO Committees meet as quickly as possible in order for them to again have an active role in regional transportation concerns.

Mr. Cox thanked everyone for their attendance and expressed his appreciation for having the opportunity to serve as their RPO Coordinator.

Contact Information Update

To assist in having an up-to-date roster on both RTCC and RTAC members, Mr. Cox distributed an information sheet for Committee members to complete and return to him.

2007-2008 PWP

Copies of the 2007-2008 PWP were presented for Committee approval. Mr. Cox explained there was a change in the five year planning calendar to include Comprehensive Transportation Plans.

Webb Fuller reported some of the counties in the Albemarle RPO have discussed the possibility of forming a separate RPO. Reasons cited by Mr. Fuller this action is being considered are the diversified transportation needs in the ten county region which make it difficult to determine what transportation requests should be included on the prioritization list as well as the inconvenience of the distance some members have to travel to attend the meetings.

J.D. Melton stated the lack of directional signs on Interstate 64 are a major hindrance to travelers getting to their destinations and feels this should be a priority issue. He said many people are having to stop and ask directions to the Outer Banks, Plymouth, Edenton, etc. He added he believes the highway improvement requests will carry more weight if they are supported by the entire region.

Mr. Cox apologized for the late notice of this meeting, but said he plans to have meetings scheduled well in advance in the future. The urgency to have the RPO meet as soon as possible necessitated the short notice for today's meeting. He said the initial steps he is considering for this year are to make the RPO a more viable service to the region and a resource to local governments. He stated it may be more productive if individual RTAC and RTCC meetings are held and perhaps some of the RTCC meetings could be conducted via telephone conferences.

Chairman Ward said Mr. Cox is taking steps to move the Albemarle RPO forward and he would like to give Mr. Cox additional time to make this RPO a viable service to the region. He added he agreed with Mr. Melton that it is advantageous to present a plan that is supported by the entire region.

Chairman Ward called for a motion to adopt the FY 2007-2008 PWP as presented by Mr. Cox. A motion was made by Lloyd Griffin to adopt the Plan. His motion was seconded by J.D. Melton and unanimously carried.

NC-DOT Division 1 Project Update

Barry Hobbs, NC DOT Engineer, provided an update on Albemarle RPO projects. Mr. Hobbs welcomed questions from the floor and provided a written summary of his presentation. (See attached)

Transportation Planning Update

Kerry Valiant with NC DOT Planning Board offered a transportation planning update. She noted that a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has to be written. Ms. Valiant explained DOT's role in working with counties and towns on their

Comprehensive Transportation Plans (CTP). Questions regarding RPO's signing off on priority lists to submit to the TIP were also raised.

New Business

The date for the next meeting was addressed by Mr. Cox. A recommendation was made by Lloyd Griffin to alternate future RPO meeting locations. Committee members concurred with this recommendation and Rhett White offered to have the next meeting in Columbia's Town Hall Building.

The date for the next meeting was set for Thursday, September 13, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. to be held in Columbia's Town Hall building.

Mr. Cox opened the floor for any questions, comments or suggestions.

The issue of holding separate RTAC and RTCC meetings was discussed. Chairman Ward stated he would like to see joint meetings held until the Albemarle RPO is on track.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned.