**RPO Minutes**

**June 19, 2013**

**Call to Order**

The RPO meeting was held in Hertford at the Albemarle Commission at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 19, 2013 and RPO Coordinator Steve Lambert opened the meeting by welcoming those present. He explained the meeting is not following the usual agenda, but will begin with him presenting the new Strategic Funding Formula. Mr. Lambert said for the past two months he has been part of a work group getting up to date information on the new formula. Mr. Lambert used a power point to present

Mr. Lambert said the main focus of today’s meeting, in addition to explaining the funding formula information, is to adopt a resolution on regional Division 1 criteria which includes Division 1 and 4.

As noted by Mr. Lambert, All projects are lumped into the same category with three different funding sources – statewide, regional, and divisional and is data driven. He noted that recently a group met to work on what is considered to be the best criteria for the regions involved. The group was comprised of representatives from MPO’s, Albemarle RPO, Mid-East RPO, Goldsboro RPO, Rocky Mount RPO, Peanut Belt RPO, Upper Coastal Plain RPO, Eastern Carolina RPO and a small portion of the Capital area RPO. Engineers from these regions were also in attendance. Mr. Lambert stated this group is the only group to work together and come to a unanimous agreement on how to rank quantitative criteria and formulas.

Mr. Lambert, through a power point presentation, (which was distributed to committee members) provided information on highway scoring quantitative criteria; highway – congestion; benefit cost (travel time); highway – economic competitiveness; Highway safety; Highway –pavement condition; Highway – lane width; Highway-shoulder width; Highway – multimodal (freight & military); and Highway – accessibility/connectivity. Jerry Jennings assisted Mr. Lambert in his presentation and at the conclusion of the presentation the floor was open for questions that were fielded by both Mr. Lambert and Mr. Jennings.

Key dates given by Mr. Lambert are:

* July 10 - the present work group sends their recommendations to the Board of Transportation for review
* August 7 - the Board of Transportation approves recommendations to submit to JLTOC
* August 15 - DOT presents to JLTOC which is a 30 day review period
* Oct 1 recommendations are sent for approval
* Jan 2, 2014 - the new SPOT 3.0 goes live
* Between August 2014 and January 2015, DOT will work on a GIS based system for project entry and scoring

**Lunch – 12:00 noon**

Mr. Lambert introduced Malcolm Fearing and Mr. Fearing stated his contact information is available and he welcomes input from the RPO Committees. He said he has been given the opportunity to speak for 5 to 8 minutes at the July DOT Board meeting in Raleigh about Division 1 issues. He said he has identified the following as critical issues - Oregon Inlet and Highway 12, Mid-Currituck Co. Bridge, the shoaling of Hatteras and Ocracoke, the Causeway Bridge (Highway 158) in Elizabeth City. He asked if the members are comfortable with him advocating these issues.

Mr. Lambert asked for the RPO members to notify him by email of any issues they consider critical and he would pass this info on to Mr. Fearing.

**RTCC Meeting**

**June 19, 2013**

**12:30 p.m.**

The June 19, 2013 RTCC meeting held in Hertford at the Albemarle Commission Building was called to order by Chairperson Angela Welsh.

It was noted a quorum was present with the following members in attendance: Dan Scanlon, Currituck Co.; Donna Creef, Dare County; Leroy Spivey, Tyrrell Co. (serving as RTCC and RTAC member); Jerry Rhodes, Washington County; Bert Banks, Albemarle Commission; Frank Heath, Perquimans County; Morgan Jethro, Elizabeth City; serving as alternate for Paul Fredette on both RTCC and RTACC) Sam Barrow, Edenton (serving as RTCC and RTAC member) Angela Welsh, Nags Head; and DOT representatives Gretchen Byrum, Planning Engineer; Malcolm Fearing, DOT Board member; Jerry Jennings, Division 1 Engineer; Sue Powell, Mobility Dev. Spec., and Beshad Norowzi, DOT Planning Branch

**Approval of May 8, 2013 RTAC Agenda**

A motion was made by Jerry Rhodes to approve the May 8, 2013 agenda. His motion was seconded by Frank Heath and unanimously carried.

Mr. Lambert presented the following resolution for acceptance by the RTCC and submission to the RTAC for approval.

**Resolution Adopting Criteria for the Quantitative Evaluation of Regional Impact Projects and Division Need Projects to Address the Strategic Prioritization Funding Plan for Transportation Investments for Region A and Division 1**

**WHEREAS,** the Albemarle Rural Planning Organization provides transportation planning services for the counties of Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell and Washington; and

**WHEREAS,** HB 817 outlines the Strategic Prioritization Funding Plan for Transportation Investments; and

**WHEREAS**, based on this legislation quantitative, qualitative and local input criteria shall be used to rank Regional Impact Projects and Division Need Projects; and

**WHEREAS,** Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), Rural Transportation Planning Organizations (RPOs) and the NC Department of Transportation Division Engineers have been given an opportunity to define their own quantitative criteria and formulas for the quantitative evaluation of Regional Impact Projects and Division Needs Projects using the criteria outlined by the Strategic Planning Office of Transportation Work group; and

**WHEREAS**, the Albemarle RPO is located in R as defined by the legislation and the NC Department of Transportation; and

**WHEREAS,** a set of criteria has been proposed to evaluate Regional Impact Projects for R jurisdictions based on the following quantitative criteria: 20% Benefit-Cost; 15% Congestion; 15% Safety; 10% Lane Width and 10% Shoulder Width; and

**WHEREAS,** the Albemarle RPO is located in Division 1 of the NC Department of Transportation; and

**WHEREAS**, a set of criteria has been proposed to evaluate Division Needs Projects for Division 1 jurisdiction based on the following quantitative criteria: 10% Benefit-Cost; 10% Congestion; 10% Safety; 10% Lane Width and 10% shoulder Width; and

**NOW THEREFORE**, be it resolved by the Albemarle Rural Planning Organization’s Transportation Advisory Committee hereby supports the criteria for the quantitative evaluation of Regional Impact Projects and Division Need Projects to address the Strategic Transportation Investment for Region R, and Division 1.

Following a discussion, a motion was made by Frank Heath to recommend submitting the resolution to the RTAC for approval. Mr. Heath’s motion was seconded by Bert Banks and unanimously carried.

**Public Comments**

No comments were offered.

**Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss the Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned.

**RTAC Meeting**

**June 19, 2013**

**1:00 p.m.**

The June 19, 2013 RTAC meeting held in Hertford at the Albemarle Commission Building was called to order by Chairman Lloyd Griffin.

It was noted a quorum was present with the following members in attendance: Lloyd Griffin, Pasquotank Co.; J. D. Melton, Creswell; Bill Sexton, Washington Co.; Wes Haskett, Southern Shores; Brandi Rheubottom, Kill Devil Hills; Leroy Spivey, Tyrrell Co. (serves on RTCC and RTAC); Morgan Jethro, Elizabeth City, alternate for Paul Fredette (serves on RTCC and RTAC) Butch Petrey, Currituck Co.; Ed Muzzulin, Perquimans Co.; Sam Barrow, Edenton (serves on RTCC and RTAC); and DOT representatives Gretchen Byrum, Planning Engineer; Sue Powell, Mobility Dev. Spec.; Malcolm Fearing, DOT Board member; Jerry Jennings, Division 1 Engineer; and Beshad Norowzi, DOT Planning Branch

**Approval of May 8, 2013 RTAC Agenda**

The agenda as presented was approved.

A motion to approve the resolution adopting criteria for the quantitative evaluation of regional impact projects to address the strategic prioritization funding plan for transportation investments for Region A, and Division 1 as recommended by the RTCC was made by Ed Muzzulin, seconded by Bill Sexton, and unanimously carried.

Chairman Griffin noted the Albemarle Commission Board will be voting on the budget for FY 2013-2014 at their meeting tomorrow evening and he stated he feels the budget for the RPO is being overly used for direct and indirect cost and has the potential to negatively impact RPO services.

Mr. Griffin said there are projects in the region that will benefit from working together regionally. He asked Mr. Lambert to update the Committee on the progress of current projects. Mr. Lambert reported the Camden County CTP should be adopted locally in the next few months – the Pasquotank County CTP will start up this summer with the first meeting anticipated to be held in August - Chowan and Perquimans Counties are experiencing a delay in the startup of their CTP due to not having a staff person on board to coordinate these two projects – a draft of the Bike Plan should be finished within the year.

Mr. Norowzi commented that Chowan and Perquimans Counties should see progress on their projects within the next two months.

Mr. Fearing said if the RPO members would like additional funding information, he would contact Mr. Foster who is DOT’s Chief Financial Officer and ask him to have a representative from his department come to this region to present. The forum best suited for the region should be determined by the interested parties.

With no further business to discuss, Chairman Griffin declared the meeting adjourned.