

Minutes of the Rural Technical Coordinating Committee (RTCC) Meeting

October 10, 2018

10:00 a.m.

Call to Order

The October 10, 2018 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 10:05 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; Dan Porter, Camden County; Shelley Cox, Pasquotank County; Andy Stewart, Town of Kitty Hawk; Donna Creef, Dare County; Bill Rich, Hyde County; Frank Heath, Perquimans County; Elizabeth Bryant, Town of Edenton; Joe Heard, Town of Duck; Natalie Rountree, Gates County; Andy Garman, Town of Nags Head; Curtis Potter, Washington County; Kermit Skinner, Town of Manteo; Phil Geary, NCDOT-TPB; Jerry Jennings, NCDOT Division 1; Brooks Braswell, NCDOT Division 1.

Agenda Approval

Chairman White called for a motion to approve the agenda as written. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Curtis Potter, Washington County, and seconded by Bill Rich, Hyde County. Motion unanimously carried.

Approval of April 25, 2018 Minutes

Chairman White called for a motion to accept the minutes as presented. A motion to approve the minutes Joe Heard, Town of Duck, and seconded by Donna Creef, Dare County. Motion was unanimously carried.

Local Input Methodology scores and Division local input points Approval

Chairman White noted that the Division scores were included in their agenda packets. He said the action needed this morning was to approve it. Chairman White asked Director Welch to give a brief report. Director Welch announced that there are three ARPO projects tentatively funded in the Regional Impact category for region "A" which includes NCDOT Divisions 1 and 4. Director Welch stated that the dates listed on the spreadsheet are preliminary and are subject to change prior to the Draft STIP being released in January, 2019. The projects are:

1. F172163 – Hatteras-South Dock passenger ferry (FY2027 construction)
2. HO90139 – US158 (Shortcut Road) widen to multi-lanes east of NC34 in Belcross in Camden County to NC168 in Currituck County (FY2025 construction). Director Welch noted that this was the project that Currituck County put its allocation points on their portion but couldn't put any on the Camden portion, so this actually the Camden portion of the project.

3. HO90284 – Intersection improvements at US158 and NC12 in Dare County (FY2029 construction). Director Welsh said that this project has caused some confusion because we're not funding projects just for construction; we are funding them all the way from design to construction. Because of that, we don't know exactly what the project is going to look like yet. There are a few projects that we have heard concerns about from local governments and citizens.

Director Welsh explained that in 2016 during the SPOT 4.0 process, the RTAC board asked that staff work with the Division and forward recommendations to the RTCC and RTAC Boards in the P 5.0 process rather than Board members placing points on projects during meetings. A motion was made and carried at the April 25, 2018 meeting to approve the Regional Impact Methodology Scores and to assign local input points to the Regional Impact projects. Director Welsh noted that a scored project for the Town of Edenton, needs to be removed because the Town of Edenton decided at their meeting last night that they could not proceed with the project at this time since they don't have the 20% match. Director Welsh said there will have to be a conversation at a later date about where those 100 points will go. Director Welsh noted that there are 1300 points available on the RPO level.

The projects and scoring are as follows:

1. The Hyde County airport project to extend the runway 300 feet at approach end of Runway 11 for a total runway length of 5,000 feet was given 50 points. This is a high scoring Division and RPO project.
2. The Cyprus Knee Trail Project to construct 20,200 feet of sidewalk on west side of US158 from Cypress Knee Trail to Jejac Street was given 100 points. This is a high scoring Division and RPO project.
3. Another 100 points has been assigned to the construction of a multi-use path on US158/Nags Head between Gull and Hollowell Street. This is a high scoring RPO project.
4. Next project is 100 points to the NC12 project to construct sidewalk on west side of NC12 from Driftwood Drive to Curlew Street, another high scoring RPO project.
5. The Cedar island-Ocracoke Ferry project was given 50 points and is a high scoring Division and RPO project. This project is for a replacement vessel, Sound Class Ferry for the M/C Silver Lake.
6. Highway projects scored include 100 points for the New Hope Road in Perquimans County for the purpose of converting an at-grade intersection to an interchange. This project was already in the STIP for the developmental phase so we had to score it to make sure it moves forward to construction phase.
7. The next project is also in Perquimans County for converting at-grade intersection to an interchange at Harvey Point and Wayne Fork Road. The project was given 100 points. This project is in the STIP and design work is underway.
8. The next project is in Pasquotank County for a proposed US 17 Bypass to US 17 Bypass to upgrade the roadway and new route extension. This a high scoring RPO project.
9. A Gates and Chowan county project on Gliden Road was given 100 points to widen the pavement; including 12 foot lanes, 2 foot paved shoulders, 4 foot earthen shoulders, and replace the concrete box culverts. Board member Natalie Rountree, Gates County, asked why this project was given points when under the column "Reason for placing local input points on project", it says the project is not applicable due to cost. Director Welsh responded that in 2016, there was a twenty million dollar limit placed on projects that could be scored. This project is at 26 million. The methodology adopted does allow, if necessary, for the RPO to deviate if there is good justification for it.

10. The next project was given 100 points. It is an upgrade of the roadway with wider shoulders and new culverts, curve alignment, intersection improvements on Seymour Drive and two bridge replacements in Camden County between US158 and Trotman Road in Shiloh. This project is in the current STIP and design work is underway.
11. A 100 points was given to widen paved and unpaved shoulders to minimum standards on existing 2-lane road in Perquimans County between Woodland Church Road and Woodville Road. This is a Corridor Continuity Project.
12. In Washington County, 100 points was given for the purpose of widening paved and unpaved shoulders to minimum standards on an existing 2-lane road and to repair structural deficiency on Roper Newland Road between A Canal Road and Shore Drive. This is a high scoring Division and RPO project.
13. Another Washington County project was given 100 points to widen the road from 20 to 24 feet and improve select curves as well as align intersection with NC45 at NC32 and improve the railroad crossing on Morattock Road between Long Ridge Road and NC32 South. This is a high scoring Division and RPO project.
14. In Tyrrell County, 100 points was given to widen existing pavement to provide 5-foot paved shoulders and 4-6 foot earthen shoulders on the end four lanes in Columbia at the Alligator River Bridge. This is a high scoring Division and RPO project.

Director Welsh said the board will have to go back and allocate the 100 points from the Edenton project. Andy Stewart clarified that those projects that score the highest are the ones that get transferred to the STIP, correct? Director Welsh replied that is correct, and the local government would be responsible for 20% of the cost of bicycle and pedestrian projects. Before that happens the Division will come to the local government to enter in an agreement and let them know what their portion of the cost of the project will be. Patti Kersey, Chowan County asked that if the project is not rated, do they roll over into the next round of funding. Director Welsh answered yes.

Discussion ensued on how the methodology was developed. Director Welsh explained the Division receives a limited amount of funding that the 80 or 100 million dollar projects were taking, leaving no funding opportunities for the smaller projects. Breaking the large projects up into smaller projects will possibly get them a higher scoring and will have a better chance of being funded.

Andy Stewart, Town of Kitty Hawk, asked if the Board could add 50 points each to the projects that only have 50 points. Director Welsh said yes, you can do that or you can look at other projects and see if there are other projects you would want to advance, keeping in mind that all the bicycle and pedestrian projects require a 20% match. Director Welsh stated that the Board will meet in April of 2019 to begin this process again and another option is not to allocate the points since it's not required that you have to allocate the whole 1300 points.

Motion by Donna Creef, Dare County to put 50 points on the Hyde County Airport project and 50 points on the Cedar island-Ocracoke Ferry project bringing these project scores up to 100 points each. Bill Rich, Hyde County seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

It was brought to the Board's attention that since the Cedar Island-Ocracoke Ferry Project is a split project with Carteret County, the board cannot put the additional 50 points on that project but Director Welsh stated that if the board wanted to donate the 50 points to Carteret County, they could do so and Carteret County could put it on the project.

A motion was made by Andy Stewart, Town of Kitty Hawk, to donate 50 points to Down East RPO for the Cedar Island-Ocracoke Ferry Project. The motion was seconded by Donna Creel, Dare County. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Dan Porter, Camden County, to approve the Division needs and methodology scores as amended. Motion was seconded by Natalie Rountree, Gates County. Motion carried unanimously.

Harbortown Ferry Project Update

Director Welsh stated that at the April 25 2018 meeting, the RTCC and RTAC boards indicated concern over where the funding for the ferries would come from as well as if Professor Didow wanted them to become part of the state ferry system. The boards expressed concerns about the lack of transparency on the project and indicated that many questions still needed to be answered by Professor Didow. Director Welsh reported that the House Select Committee on Strategic Transportation Planning and Long Term Funding Solutions met in August, 2018, where Professor Didow was asked how much of the project was to be completed with private funds and how much with public funds. Professor Didow didn't answer the question, instead asked to be informed what grant money available and he would apply for it. Director Welsh said that she spoke with Assistant Ferry Director Jed Dixon who stated that Professor Didow has yet to reach out to the ferry division regarding the project.

Director Welsh noted that she included the timeline of the project in her report. She said that the RPO is not looking at this project in terms of economic development instead we are looking at the possible use of our limited transportation dollars for the ferries.

Discussion ensued that none of the local jurisdictions are advocating the project. Information indicates the five counties and towns have endorsed it by resolution and Tyrrell County and Columbia did pass resolutions to support the concept, but it was made very clear that no monies were to come from them for the project. It was also discussed that there has never been a true feasibility study done on the project, which really needs to happen before going forward with any funding. Chair White noted that a Golden Leaf grant application was submitted by the Harbortown Ferry group but since no county or town manager signed it, they didn't get considered. It was decided that the board should continue to remain informed on the project and consider making a statement that, as the RPO, no funds should be used for this project out of the STIP and the project should not be submitted for scoring. The funding should come from other sources.

Motion by Andy Stewart, Town of Kitty Hawk to support the idea of the project as it pertains to the economic development for the counties but from the RPO's standpoint, they do not want it to be funded out of our STIP funds. Motion was seconded by Bill Rich, Hyde County. Motion passed unanimously.

City of Elizabeth City Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant Resolution

Director Welsh reported that the City of Elizabeth City unsuccessfully applied for a pedestrian plan grant last year so they are re-applying. The application process requires an endorsement of the application by the RPO RTAC Board and they are requesting a resolution be passed endorsing the project.

Shelley Cox, Pasquotank County, moved to pass the Resolution endorsing the pedestrian planning grant for the City of Elizabeth City. Motion was seconded by Curtis Potter, Washington County. Motion passed unanimously.

Legislative Agenda

Director Welsh reported that the RPO has been adopting a legislative agenda for the past 3 years and she is bringing the agenda to the Board for review and approval. Director Welsh stated that in July, the RPO Board voted in favor of starting a new subcommittee whose role is to “crunch” the numbers and provide data and information to SPOT workgroup members when new scoring criteria is proposed by the SPOT workgroup and to also be present at all SPOT workgroup meetings. The intent of the subcommittee is to not only help the RPO on the SPOT workgroup, but to eventually move into the RPO seat on future SPOT workgroups; providing for rotation of SPOT workgroup members. This has been an ARPO legislative priority for the past three years. Director Welsh is recommending that RPO references be eliminated since the subcommittee is represented by the RPO.

Discussion ensued, that it is important that the region be well represented and has a way of showing why economic development here matters to the rest of the State. Lloyd Griffin said that maybe the three RPO's in the region should join forces and hire a consultant to represent them in order to make that happen. Getting beat down because we do not have support of the MPO's is causing us to lose our strength. He said we really need to work on how we do our scoring and who presents it for us. Director Welsh said that is why we have the subcommittee now. The MPO has the staff to pull all of their information and data together, the RPO did not and that is what the subcommittee is providing for us.

Director Welsh was asked to look into the possibility of retaining a consultant to assist the RPO's in evaluating and assisting to better position ourselves for future funding opportunities. Director Welsh said she believed there is money in the budget for that purpose and she would report back.

Motion by Bill Rich, Hyde County to approve the 2019 Legislative Agenda as presented with no changes. Seconded by Natalie Rountree, Gates County. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments

Chairman White opened the floor for public comments and there being no public comments, he closed the public comments and opened the meeting up to comments by the Board members. Bill Rich, Hyde County, thanked the Ferry Division for what they did for Hyde County with special ferry support during Hurricane Florence. He added how impressed he was that Highway 12 and Dunes were fixed in 4 days. Chairman Rhett White thanked DOT for all the assistance during the flooding. Dan Porter, Camden wanted to clarify that 343 Project is not a widening project, it's a shoulder project, correct? Director Welsh said yes, the wording is a bit confusing but it is just shoulder work and turn lanes in some of the intersections. Wes Hackett, Town of Southern Shores, reported that Phase 2 of the Duck project is going to be under construction this fall and into spring.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, Chairman White asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion by Shelley Cox, Pasquotank County to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Bill Rich, Hyde County. The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

Presentations

NCDOT Update: Brooks Braswell distributed the Division 1 project update packets to the board. Report is broken down into active projects and future projects. He offered to answer any questions the boards may have on the projects.

TPD Update: Phil Geary distributed the NCDOT TPD newsletter outlining planning efforts. He highlighted that all Comprehensive Transportation Plans have been completed for all 10 counties in the ARPO. Working on making the CTP's look better with improved maps, report, and changes in the CTP development process. Finally, he reported that they are updating the 2040 Plan to 2050 and shared the timeline with the Board members, which should take about two years to complete.

Ferry Division Update: Jeb Dixon gave a report on the Ferry Division. Couple of ongoing projects, contract for delivery of passenger ferries should have been in June, but it will be probably end of November, first of December. Project is pretty much on schedule, with the exception of the ferries. Stakeholder meetings are going well. Another river class ferry is under construction that will be end of March delivery, and it will run on the Hatteras-Ocracoke run. Moved three ferry names forward: The Rodanthe; The Avon; and The Salvo.

ARPO Update: Director Welsh reported that she we are hosting the RPO Quarterly meeting October 24-26, which will include a tour of the Shipyard. On November 9th, Deputy Secretary Julie White will be here to tour several airports. On November 14th, we are hosting the East Coast Greenway Coastal Kickoff meeting. Our next RTAC meeting will be 1/23/19. We will have to re-nominate members at the meeting. Future meetings will be on April 17th and November 18th. We had our annual review completed on September 10th. There is no formal scoring involved in the review, but she did receive a letter giving her feedback from the review. The letter states that they were very impressed with her work that she does in the area, recognizing that our RPO has the most counties of all the RPO's and it presents a unique challenge. It was noted that our RPO was the first program to get the Title VI plan and documentation completed and it was used as a guide for other RPO's to complete their plans. It was also noted that our RPO is the only one that provides a transportation update.

Minutes of the Rural Technical Coordinating Committee (RTAC) Meeting

October 10, 2018

11:24 a.m.

Call to Order

The October 10, 2018 RTAC meeting was held at the Albemarle Commission Building, in Hertford, NC and was opened and called to order by RTAC Chairman Lloyd Griffin at 11:24 a.m.

Roll Call

It was determined a quorum was present with the following RTAC voting members in attendance:

Chairman Lloyd Griffin, Pasquotank County; Vice-Chairman Leroy Spivey, Tyrrell County; Paul Beaumont, Currituck County; Benjamin Simmons, Hyde County; Bill Sexton, Washington County; and, Linda Hofler, Gates County; Patti Kersey, Chowan County and Wally Overman, Dare County.

RTAC Non-Voting members in attendance: Tom Bennett, Town of Southern Shores and Lynne McClean, Town of Kitty Hawk.

Agenda Approval

Chairman Griffin called for a motion to approve the agenda. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Bill Sexton, seconded by Leroy Spivey, and unanimously carried.

Approval of April 25, 2018 RTCC Minutes

Chairman Griffin called for a motion to accept the minutes as presented. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Patty Kersey, and seconded by Paul Beaumont. The motion was unanimously carried.

Local Input Methodology scores and Division local input points Approval

Chairman Griffin noted that the Division scores were included in their agenda packets. He said the action needed this morning was to approve it. Chairman Griffin asked Director Welch to give a brief report. Director Welch announced that there are three ARPO projects tentatively funded in the Regional Impact category for region "A" which includes NCDOT Divisions 1 and 4. Director Welch stated that the dates listed on the spreadsheet are preliminary and are subject to change prior to the Draft STIP being released in January, 2019. She reviewed the projects that have been scored, making note that the Edenton project was removed from the list because the Town of Edenton decided they wanted it pulled from the list. In light of that, the 100 points assigned to the Edenton project was split between the Hyde County airport project and a donation of the 50 points remaining to Carteret County to be put on the Cedar Island-Ocracoke Ferry project, bringing both those projects up to 100 points each.

Motion by Wally Overman, seconded by Vice-Chair Spivey to accept the RTCC recommendation to approve the local input methodology scores and division local input points with the revisions noted. Motion carried unanimously.

Harbortown Ferry Project Update

Chair Griffin asked that Rhett White re-state the RTCC motion regarding the Harbortown Ferry Project Update. Rhett White said the RTCC passed a motion that says the RPO supports the idea of the project as it pertains to the economic development for the counties but from the RPO's standpoint, they do not want it to be funded out of our STIP.

Chair Griffin asked for a motion to accept the recommendation of the RTCC. Motion by Paul Beaumont, seconded by Bill Sexton, to accept the recommendation by the RTCC. Motion passed unanimously.

City of Elizabeth City Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant Resolution Approval

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Spivey and seconded by Bill Sexton, to approve the Resolution. Motion carried unanimously.

Legislative Agenda

Wally Overman noted there should be a separate bullet for Alligator River Bridge Improvement. Chair Griffin commented that there needs to be a separate line item for ditch maintenance by DOT. If maintenance funds are considered asphalt, there needs to be a separate line item for non-asphalt areas. There was discussion by the Board on how to determine responsibility for the ditches, DOT or someone else. Ben Simmons that we have huge problems, we've got pipes, flap gates on culvert pipes. There is no common sense used and it's causing problems for real estate, homes and farm land. He said he thinks there are a lot of landowners that would be willing to work with DOT to get that done. Andy Stewart said we should share information with DOT of the known problems.

Motion was made by Wally Overman, seconded by Bill Sexton for Director Welsh to add the Alligator River Bridge and ditch maintenance to the 2019 Legislative priorities.

Comments by the Board

Vice-Chair Spivey thanked DOT for getting mowing back on schedule and for getting funding for Road Street project; and working towards the Alligator River Bridge replacement. Finally, Vice-Chair Spivey announced that this is his last meeting as he is rotating off the board and wanted to express his thanks to everyone. Patty Kersey congratulated Director Welsh on her outstanding work.

Chair Griffin announced to the board that Cathy Davison, AC Executive Director has tendered her resignation. Cathy wished everyone the best and thanked everyone.

Chair Griffin said that everyone knows that he constantly talks about water running uphill, and engineers need to realize this – he referenced the flooding in Lumberton as an example. Have to take into consideration that when DOT comes to your town with a project, make sure your engineer understands that water does run uphill and it will cause significant problems down the line.

Chair Griffin reminded the board that the next meeting will be 1/23/19.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, Chairman Lloyd Griffin adjourned the meeting at 12:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Rollinson

Albemarle Commission

Program Administrative Coordinator

For

Angela Welsh, Secretary

ARPO Director