

## RPO Meeting Minutes

April 1, 2015

Present were(**BOLD** indicates TAC members): **Lloyd Culbertson, Bob Keith, David Eaker, Jimmy Dancy**, Karyl Fuller, Monica Pace, Matt Quesenberry, Joel Setzer, Barbara Meliski, Bob Boyette, Cathy Ruth, Diane Timberlake, Danny Searcy, John Condrey, Shannon Baldwin, Doug Barrick, Scott Webber, Kristina Solberg, and Phoenix Buathier.

TAC called to order at 10:03 AM by Lloyd Cuthbertson

Reading of ethics statement- no known conflict of interests were expressed.

Introductions

Old Business

Approval of the minutes from December 7, 2014. Motion to approve minutes by Lloyd Cuthbertson. Seconded by Mayor Jimmy Dancy, Unanimously approved.

Marion CTP is completed and currently in the adoption phase, slated for adoption this month.

Rutherford County CTP held second meeting and is moving forward nicely. Next meeting is April 8<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM at the Rutherfordton Club House.

Public Transit Plans for Rutherford County and Polk County are underway and scheduled for public input soon.

New Business

Discussion of RPO Dues: Ms. Fuller announced that the new E.D. for IPDC has requested that all members pay 100% of the match so that IPDC could continue to serve as the lead planning agency. If dues are not paid in full by the member organizations, the RPO could be directed by another COG or a member county but dues would still be required and services would be less. Fuller stated that the more match money that is given, the more specific projects she could handle for the member organizations.

Bob Boyette stated that the member organizations have known for some time that the dues increase was coming and that having the smaller RPO lead agency is much more beneficial for the local governments and worth the money invested for the services. Doug Barrick stated that the dues are standard practice in other areas and that he is in favor of moving forward with paying the full dues for the RPO.

Motion to approve payment of 100% of RPO dues by member governments given by Lloyd Cuthbertson. Motion was seconded by Mayor Jimmy Dancy and unanimously approved.

Cathy Ruth suggested creating a way to address lack of participation of the towns to see how participation would affect the overall budget and dues for other members of the RPO. Karyl Fuller stated that she would create a point scale that would affect project submittals negatively for those organizations that choose not to fully participate in the RPO. Doug Barrick stated that the ramifications of not participating in the RPO as a member that pays dues would negatively impact projects that would have to come through the RPO for a vote because any member who refuses to pay dues would no longer have a seat on the board or voting rights for project approvals.

Endorsement for Marion CTP: Ms. Fuller stated that NCDOT suggested a city-specific CTP after the McDowell County CTP was completed. The plan in progress is the first multi-modal plan for Marion, and a specific bicycle plan is scheduled to begin soon as well. Bob Boyette stated that the plan is scheduled for adoption this month and they have not seen any disagreement with the plan thus far. Ms. Fuller reminded everyone that any projects submitted for funding should come out of a CTP to be eligible. It was requested that the RPO do an endorsement contingent on adoption by the Marion Town Council. Motion was made to approve support for the Marion CTP by Lloyd Cuthbertson. The motion was seconded Mayor Jimmy Dancy, and unanimously approved.

Amended PWP for 2014-2015: Ms. Fuller stated that the work group meetings in Raleigh have taken much more time than anticipated but have been a worthy use of time and provided great opportunity for the western area to have representation at the state level. Doug Barrick stated that having a local voice on the Spot workgroup was well worth the amendment. There was a Motion to approve amendment to the 2014-2015 work plan Lloyd Cuthbertson. The motion was seconded by Mayor Jimmy Dancy and unanimously approved.

Work Plan Updates: Polk County is next in line for a CTP to be completed. Trails map update for Rutherford County is underway. Bridge study for Pea Vine Rails to Trails in Marion is scheduled. RPO website is under construction and should be completed soon. Columbus pedestrian plan is included for completion. General administration of the RPO is included in the work plan for the year. There was a motion to approve the work plan by Mayor Jimmy Dancy. The motion was seconded by Lloyd Cuthbertson and unanimously approved.

STI Process: New projects for next round will be submitted in September of this year, so there will be a call for proposals for new projects in May to have members send projects to RPO director for inclusion in the process. Need to create an ad hoc subcommittee with one representative from each county to make all decisions on which projects to include or bring all to the RPO in July for a full vote. There was a motion to form a subcommittee. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. Bob Boyette was recommended as a member for McDowell County on the subcommittee and he accepted the nomination. Cathy Ruth stated she would send a representative for Polk County. Doug Barrick volunteered to serve on the subcommittee for Rutherford County. Ms. Fuller reminded the members that any projects that do not have right of way will be sent back in 2020 for reprioritization. Doug Barrick asked if regional impacts were considered with other RPOs in the area before submission to the state. It was suggested that regional priorities be discussed with other regional RPOs. Ms. Fuller stated that other divisions and RPOs have submitted similar projects for the same roads, so she will do a better

job of reaching out to other groups regionally before projects are submitted. Doug Barrick suggested a meeting with other RPOs to share ideas before projects are submitted since the projects are going to be graded on a regional scale. Joel Setzer cautioned the work group in their considerations of peak counting for the weighted system to ensure that it captures highest peak as accurately as possible. Mr. Setzer noted that high volume, high safety, and high congestion projects will most likely be the higher scoring projects and that the new criteria will be set by August 2015, while SPOT scores won't come out until February 2016. Ms. Fuller stated pedestrian and bicycle planning grants are underway in Saluda and Forest City and that she is serving on the steering committee for both of those plans. Marion will also have plan in progress soon.

Ms. Fuller reminded all TAC members to submit their ethics forms ASAP.

McDowell County is the only county in region without public transportation and they are getting pressure to bring public transit to the county. Ms. Fuller suggested a separate meeting with NCDOT Public Transit to discuss the options and stated that once the process is started, the RPO will be happy to provide letter of support for McDowell County.

Division 13 Update: Rutherford County US 221 project-contractors working on punch list and should be completed by end of April. Several bridge projects completed, several bridges scheduled for next year. Resurfacing scheduled to begin in several areas. McDowell county design/build bridges will be completed in the fall and several paving resurfacing projects underway. E. Court Street sidewalk to be completed by end of April.

Division 14 Update: Bridge on Warrior Road completed in October, resurfacing of 176 begun and will be completed in June. Pea Ridge Road resurfacing set to begin and finish in June.

There was a motion to adjourn by David Eaker. The motion was seconded by Mayor Jimmy Dancy, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 11:45 AM.