

RPO Meeting 1-7-15

Call to order- TAC Called to order at 10:00 AM. Karyl Fuller read the ethics statement. There was no conflict mentioned by any board member.

Approval of minutes- The minutes from October 1, 2014 meeting were presented for approval. Motion to approve minutes. Seconded, unanimously adopted.

Ms. Fuller stated that the Marion CTP draft should be coming out in early 2015, February or March will be public comment period. Rutherford County CTP first official meeting will be January 14th at 1:00 PM.

Public Transit- Ms. Fuller stated that the Polk County Transit Plan has received the first technical memo and should be completed by the end of June. Rutherford County's plan will be completed shortly following the Polk plan. McDowell County will also be completing a plan.

Dues- Ms. Fuller stated that in the past IPDC has paid the full 20% RPO match, but it was agreed last year that IPDC would bill out 25% of that required match to the participating towns. IPDC is requesting local RPO members to work up to paying 75% of the match over the next few years, spread out to gradually increase the percentage of fees paid each year over that time period. In the past IPDC has paid the full match, but IPDC does not have a pool of money to allocate those funds, which is not sustainable. Ms. Fuller stated that if the board does not vote to cover the costs, she would have to write a grant to cover her time to direct the RPOs, but if the RPO paid the dues, they would have more control over the work that is done with the RPO. Jim Edwards stated that the commission paying is not a sustainable plan due to changes in grants and staffing. Ms. Fuller stated that she is asking for a 10% increase today for the coming year's dues. Mr. Edwards stated that most members of RPOs in other regions pay the full match.

Motion to adopt 35% match. Seconded. Unanimously passed.

Budget- Ms. Fuller stated that the members should present to her any transportation projects that they would like her to address; she can put those on the budget for next year. Ideas would include pedestrian plans, trail studies, feasibility studies, bike plans, etc.

Shannon Baldwin stated that Chimney Rock and Lake Lure would be interested in a pedestrian plan.

Ethics- Ms. Fuller stated that all TAC members must submit their ethics information by April 15, 2015 or members will be fined and possibly prosecuted. Ms. Fuller asked that all members inform her once they have submitted their form to ensure that all members are in compliance.

Handbook- Ms. Fuller stated that the handbook was not as far along as she would like, but that she is working on that and it will be posted on the website with all the attachments. Any member who would like paper copies can request those from Ms. Fuller. Ms. Fuller stated that she is always available to consult for any transportation projects and that the state is always available for input as well.

STI Process Update- Ms. Fuller stated that there were no projects at the regional level because most projects were at the divisional level, which included 6 bike and pedestrian plans, the northern half of US 221, and many other projects. Projects are guaranteed based on current right of way dates, and only projects that have a right of way date of 2020 or sooner are guaranteed currently. Any remaining projects will go back into the pot for reconsideration in future designations. None of the 6 bike and pedestrian plans have a valid right of way date, so all will go back into the mix. Ms. Fuller stated that the committee is asking that the plans compete regionally as opposed to statewide. Ms. Fuller stated that the public comment periods for existing projects should be opening in March or April.

Ms. Fuller stated that the SPOT 4.0 work group will continue meeting until June, at which time they will give recommendations. In September, new projects will be solicited and submitted for statewide allocation. Following that, regional projects and divisional projects will be heard and programmed and the process will go through August of 2016 and will include changes in methodology with the process. 12 DOT and 12 non-DOT people are on the voting portion of the work group, which includes representatives from NCLM, ACC, RPO, and COG. Mr. Edwards stated that the last pass was urban oriented and Ms. Fuller attending the work group meetings ensures a strong rural voice in the room for the planning process.

Ms. Fuller stated that she generally only accepts project proposals that come out of a comprehensive plan, with Rutherford County being an exception since there is no comprehensive plan, but that all bike and pedestrian plans must come from a plan to be considered by the state.

Ms. Fuller stated that the work group had a peer exchange with other transportation planning members from other states. No other group is doing things the same way North Carolina is currently, and North Carolina considers a much broader aspect of projects for prioritization and covers many more roads and includes all 6 modes of transportation in their planning process. There are also representatives from the senate and the house in the work group.

Ms. Fuller stated that the RPO website would be up in the next month.

Matt Quesenberry invited all to attend the Rutherford CTP meeting on January 14th.

Division 13 Update- Kristina Solzberg stated that several resurfacing projects in McDowell will be completed in March. Bridge over Catawba River construction is complete, but pavement will not be complete until spring. . Rutherford County has several projects that will be completed soon as well.

Division 14 Update- Joel Setzer stated that the Bridge on Warrior Road was 40% complete and should be done in October, the resurfacing of 176 from Saluda to Tryon is set to start in April and finish in June 2015, several bridges are scheduled for repair this year, and that a sidewalk in Saluda was scheduled to start in July and be completed by the end of the year.

Motion to adjourn at 10:49 AM.