

RPO Meeting October 1, 2014 10:00 AM

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM.

Present were(**BOLD** indicates TAC members): **Lloyd Culbertson, Bob Keith, Tom Pack, Bill Eckler, David Eaker**, Jimmy Dancy, Karyl Fuller, Jim Edwards, Monica Pace, Matt Quesenberry, Joel Setzer, Cathy Ruth, Marche Pittman, Kerry Giles, Blake Bostic, John Condrey, Shannon Baldwin, Barbara Meliski, Timothy Anderson, and Phoenix Buathier.

Ms. Fuller stated that any member who sees a conflict of interest with any item on the agenda should speak at this time. There was no conflict of interest voiced by any member.

TAC was called to order by Lloyd Cuthbertson, as was TCC by Jim Edwards.

Karyl Fuller noted that the agenda listed an incorrect website for the state vision and should be corrected to <http://www.ncdot.gov/ncvision25/>.

The August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014 minutes were presented for adoption. David Eaker made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Tom Pack seconded, and the minutes were unanimously adopted.

#### Old Business

- CTPs  
Marion CTP-There will be a discussion with the school district and then a draft will be prepared for public discussion. The plan will include transit and rail, as well as highways. Public transit and emergency services personnel were heavily involved in the plan process.
- North Carolina Transportation Network  
The state has released the next draft of NC Transportation Corridors and will seek public comment for two months, ending on December 2, 2014.

#### New Business

- Resolution of Support for Town of Rutherfordton and Town of Lake Lure Plan Application  
NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning grants provide money for municipal bicycle and pedestrian plans to be developed. Rutherfordton and Lake Lure wish to apply for those grant funds and have requested a resolution of support from the RPO. The City of Saluda and City of Marion received the planning grant this year and Rutherfordton is reapplying for funding since it was not awarded the first cycle.  
Shannon Baldwin asked if IPDC would be capable of administering the grants for smaller towns if funds were awarded. Jim Edwards stated that the services could be provided, but would be fee based to the local governments since there was no money in the grant for administration.

Bob Keith made a motion to adopt support for the Rutherfordton Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant application as well as the Pedestrian Planning Grant application for Lake Lure and Chimney Rock. Lloyd Cuthbertson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

- Ethics Changes  
All current TAC members are in compliance except for Jimmy Dancy, who is currently in the process of compliance. All ethics forms are due April 15<sup>th</sup> for filing. If not completed by then,

there is \$250 fine for each of the two forms and individuals will be turned over for prosecution. As ethics liaison, Ms. Fuller will try to keep track of all paperwork through the state ethics website to ensure that all members are in compliance. State is currently in a public comment period on whether or not TAC members want their personal contact information posted on the website and Ms. Fuller will relay any member comments to the state during this time. Ms. Fuller must have a letter of resignation for any member who resigns so she can update the TAC list quarterly.

- Public Transit

Region has been busy in past year with Polk and Rutherford, which are both overdue for the 5 year plan updates. Kerry Giles stated that Rutherford County wants to pursue a possibility to assist with transportation in McDowell County on a contractual basis since they have needs that could be met through assistance with Rutherford County. DOT wants to push regional cooperation in transportation, but have not yet figured out how to fund a regionalized system since there are perks to keeping it within the county.

- Vision Plan

Ms. Fuller stated that Governor McCrory's vision plan was just issued last week, and was broken up into 5 sections. It was noted that goals were vague and did not include a solid funding mechanism to complete the projects. Taking advantage of low interest rates was a goal of the plan, and many projects were suggested for funding through bonds. Two projects in the area currently on the list: completion of the Shelby bypass, and a McDowell project that would require over a million dollars in utility relocations for the City of Marion.

- SPOT Process: Next Steps

Projects were submitted and scores have been received, but still unsure of projects funding from the regional or division list. Division plan was done contingent on committal letter from Tryon or Saluda for bicycle improvements on Highway 176, no letters were received so project was not listed. Regional: 45 million per year for 10 years for Region C. There are no projects at the regional level in Isothermal until after the 450 million has been spent because the RPO is completing with the MPO, which had a lot of projects.

Division projects look more likely to be included on the draft STIP, including Polk's I-26/ NC 108/US74 project for Division 14. Division 13 projects likely to be completed include Sugar Hill Road project in Marion, Oak Street project in Forest City, and possibly US 221 Business project in Marion. The Northern section of the 221 Bypass through Rutherfordton is a possible project as well. Ms. Fuller noted that the scores results are not the definitive answers for project completion, and that there were other factors to be considered in project funding awards.

Highway mode competes statewide with 4% non-highway, of which, 2% is regional and 2% is divisional. The Thermal Belt Rail Trail project and the Runway extension project look likely for funding. Baldwin and Peniel bicycle and pedestrian projects are lower on the list but possible for funding.

- SPOT 4.0  
SPOT 4.0 workgroup will be meeting every two weeks in Raleigh until June, then the SPOT process will start again, likely in September 2015, followed by separate public comment periods for regional and divisional projects within a two month window and wrap up in 2016.

Comments on SPOT 3.0 from committee members on things that worked well and things that could be changed in the process should be sent to Ms. Fuller. Comments will go to the State for consideration.

SPOT 4.0 workgroup has 3 NCDOT engineers from across state, including Division 13, as well as RPO and MPO committee members and many other advisory members.

#### Updates

- Financials  
Through August 30<sup>th</sup> have spent \$12,000. Have purchased new laptop since then and will be spending money for new plotter soon.
- RPO Staff  
Traffic counts can be done by RPO staff, or can train public works or other local staff to borrow counters and use to help prioritize projects. Can also do speed counts if local law enforcement is interested. Shared DWI map for Rutherford County. If towns are interested in data, ask Ms. Fuller. Data and mapping will soon be added to RPO website.
- Transportation Planning Branch  
Rutherford County will be meeting November or December. Any local governments involved can send representatives.

Tryon Equestrian Center Tour is scheduled for November 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM. There will also be a dedication Sunday October 5 at 1:00, dedicating facility to 500 workers who have gotten the center started. It is free to attend.

- Division 13: Tim Anderson  
Several design/ build projects are in McDowell and Rutherford. Cedar Creek project will start October and have detour route. Several resurfacing projects are ongoing in the division. Rutherfordton downtown paving project is ongoing and will be completed before winter. Highway 108 project was delayed due to nesting barn swallows; unsure of progress but will check and send update to Ms. Fuller. Subdivision streets cannot use AST (tar and gravel) treatment according to new legislation, which will limit some projects.
- Division 14: Joel Setzer  
Resurfacing Highway 176 from Saluda down the mountain to 108 will be complete May 2015. Resurfacing Pea Ridge Road from Highway 108 to Highway 74. SRTS sidewalk project in Saluda is scheduled to be complete by July 2015 and there are 5 bridge replacements throughout Polk County as well. Interchange project on Highway 74 is highly likely to be programmed.

Future Meetings: January 7<sup>th</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 AM at IPDC.

Motion to adjourn by David Eaker at 11:10 AM.