

ISOTHERMAL RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

Wednesday, September 2, 2020 at 1:00 PM

Zoom Meeting— <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86022758177?pwd=MUc1ZEpFamFlbE9qNFBxM0ZwL3dhUT09>

Ethics Reminder

In accordance with the State Government Ethics Act, it is the duty of every Board member to avoid conflicts of interest. Does any Board member have any known conflict of interest with respect to any matters coming before the Board today? If so, please identify the conflict and refrain from any participation in the particular matter involved.

- **Call to Order**
- **Agenda Adjustment**
- **<Action Requested: Approval of changes, if needed>**
- **Approval of Minutes**
 - Draft minutes from the July 8, 2020 meeting are attached.
 - **<Action Requested: Approval of TAC minutes>**
- **Administrative Items**
 - 2021 Meeting Calendar
 - **<Action Requested: Approval of 2021 Meeting Calendar>**
- **Planning Activities**
 - All Modes
 - Region-wide CTP—
 - The region-wide steering committee met on August 19th in the morning. We discussed recommendations in all of the modes. Be on the look-out for an online map and a request that everyone review the recommendations and provide comments.
 - The Polk County sub-committee met at 1:00PM on the 19th and reviewed recommendations.
 - We have scheduled a meeting on September 16th at 10 AM for the regional CTP meeting. The Polk County sub-committee will meet on September 23, 2020 at 1:00 PM.
 - **<Action Requested: FYI>**
 - Highway
 - Mileage Based User Fee—The Director is participating a pilot of the MBUF.
 - “The North Carolina Department of Transportation needs your help to figure out if a mileage-based user fee could be a sustainable solution for transportation funding. We all expect to get where we’re going safely and efficiently. To do this, we must continue to maintain our roads and bridges.
 - The current fuel tax funding is unsustainable due to improving fuel efficiency and an increase in electric vehicle adoption rates. Help shape the future of transportation by participating in our mileage-based user fee pilot.”—It is a 6-month pilot. I have attached my July report to this agenda.
 - **<Action Requested: FYI>**
 - Bicycle/Pedestrian—
 - Great Trails State Plan—This is progressing. There are surveys out that will be closing September 30.
 - Thermal Belt Rail Trail—Still working with NCDOT on the crossing work (EB-5915). The Trail won two honorable mentions—in the tourism category and most voted.
 - We have continued reporting on usage on the Thermal Belt Rail Trail. We have continued to see increased usage. We will be working with NC State to calibrate our counters and get them added to the state system. They were supposed to come in July but the weather was poor.

- We have received the final Tryon/Columbus Bike/Ped Plan and will be discussing in the next few weeks, getting it adopted.
 - **<Action Requested: FYI>**
 - Transit --
 - Within Isothermal RPO, there are three transit services. All three provide demand-response services, which picks a client at their residence and transports them to a doctor's appointment, work, senior center, life services, sheltered workshop or other location.
 - Rutherford County has a deviated fixed route, which is currently not running due to COVID-19.
 - I currently serve on all three Transit Advisory Boards and am the Chair for Polk and Rutherford.
 - All of these services get Federal and State funds—the state funds are known as Rural Operating Assistance Program funds. HB 77 zeroed out these funds. CARES funding is filling in but... it is Federal, one- time funds. These funds need to be restored.
 - **<Action Requested: FYI>**
 - Statewide Planning & Research Funds—
 - The TBRT/Peavine Rail Trail Connector Feasibility Study has been completed. I have a few paper copies and you can find a digital copy here: <https://www.ptctrail.com/the-study.html>
 - We submitted two applications for FY21 funding:--Delayed indefinitely at this time because of NCDOT's financial issues.
 - **<Action Requested: FYI>**
 - Safe Routes to School/RPO Planner
 - Jerry Stensland has been working to develop a program for the Safe Routes Program in the Fall.
 - **<Action Requested: FYI>**
- **Prioritization Process**
 - 2020-2029 STIP
 - Given the financial issues at NCDOT, it should not be too surprising that the STIP is going to need be adjusted. An amended STIP is being presented this week to the Board of Transportation. David Wasserman, STIP Western Region Manager, is here with us and will be discussing the process and reasoning behind the changes.
 - **<Action Requested: FYI>**
 - 2023-2032 STIP—
 - SPOT 6.0 closed for new submissions on July 31, 2020. Currently, I am working on identified needs forms and answering questions.
 - I will note that I received a memo from NCDOT on July 30th that NCDOT had done a revenue projection and if nothing changes, that there is very little funding available for new projects for Prioritization 6.0. This could change if there is a new reauthorization at the Federal level or additional funding at the state level.
 - The RPO's next deadline is to revise the Local Input Methodology and review the Public Involvement Plan. This Methodology must be approved by NCDOT and us by June 1, 2021. We will be discussing these over the winter.
 - **<Action Requested: FYI>**
- **Open for Discussion-** Limited to 40 minutes and 4 minutes per person, at Chair's discretion
- **Updates**
 - RPO Staff-- Year-End, Legislative Items, Census
 - Transportation Planning Division-
 - Division 13 / Division 14-
 - Meeting Schedule—The next two meetings are November 4, 2020 and January 6, 2021.
- **Adjourn**