



EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA MPO/RPO SMALL GROUP COALITION MEETING

A small group of the Eastern North Carolina MPO/RPO Coalition met on Wednesday, January 21, 2015 at 11:15a.m., at Wilber's Restaurant, Goldsboro, NC. The following people were present:

Anthony Prinz, Jacksonville MPO
Rob Will, Eastern Carolina RPO
Ted Godwin, Hwy 70 Commission
Gus Tullos, NCDOT Board Member
Jack Best, Hwy 70 Commission
Chuck Allen, Goldsboro MPO
Patrick Flanagan, Down East RPO
Daryl Vreeland, Greenville MPO
Bryan Buck, Mid-East RPO
Justin Oaks, Peanut Belt RPO
Jennifer Collins, Goldsboro MPO
Gene Hodges, New Bern MPO
Donald Baumgardner, Hwy 70 Commission
Tom Mark, Hwy 70 Commission
Durwood Stephenson, Hwy 70 Commission

Mr. Jack Best began the meeting with opening remarks and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He reviewed the agenda and encouraged everyone to provide comments on their concerns with STI and projects/goals they wish to achieve. Mr. Best stated he felt the purpose of the coalition was to "bridge" Eastern North Carolina together.

At this time Mr. Best opened the floor to each attendee to provide comments and concerns they may have regarding their individual project status since the release of the draft STIP and any concerns they may have the coalition moving forward.

Individuals in the room each spoke regarding how their respective MPO or RPO projects played out under the new Strategic Transportation Investments (STI) law. Final scores were released last fall and scores were used to help create the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) which schedules projects that will move forward across North Carolina over the next 10 years.

Patrick Flanagan began the discussion with stating Jacksonville MPO did really well under the new law and recommended all MPOs/RPOs reach out to Anthony with Jacksonville MPO to understand the process they used and what worked for them and didn't work. Patrick also reminded the group not forget about non-highway modes of transportation and remember that big dollars are currently being spent in Eastern North Carolina.

Durwood Stephenson indicated he believes the MPO/RPO Coalition is a good thing for Eastern North Carolina and recommended this group to continue to think regionally.

Anthony Pinz stated connectivity is a major concern for Eastern North Carolina and STI doesn't address this concern. He suggested the coalition staff take a look at SPOT 4.0 scoring modal and see how the coalition fits into the new law.

Rob Will indicated he felt the MPO/RPO Coalition was "floundering" right now and suggested for coalition staff to take a step back and revisit the priority project list that was identified early on when the coalition was formed and continue to think regionally.

As others continued to express their support for the coalition it was noted several times for the coalition to continue to think regionally and focus on scoring and connectivity. Many expressed their concern for Ports and indicated we are either going to support ports or not...a decision needs to be made.

Mr. Gus Tullos spoke in favor of the coalition and indicated to the group the Legislators have heard about concerns are he feels changes will be made. He indicated Secretary Tata was scheduled to visit with members of the Hwy 70 Commission and Hwy 17 Association regarding a review of the STIP and has requested feedback from the members. He encouraged the coalition to begin the discussion with successful bullet points, start positive and then follow with concerns and direct points. He concluded with suggesting ask Secretary Tata how he could help us as a coalition to help Eastern Carolina.

Durwood Stephenson indicated he has requested that MPO/RPO staff be invited to the meeting with Secretary Tata on February 13th, 2015 at the New Bern Riverfront Convention Center and is waiting to hear from the Secretary's office.

Chuck Allen and Jack Best both suggested for coalition staff to revisit the priority project list and identify four to six projects that are obtainable prior to discussions with Secretary Tata.

The meeting was concluded with this group getting back together for a small group meeting on February 10, 2015 at 11:30a.m. at Wilber's Restaurant to discuss coalition staff's project recommendation to ensure everyone was in agreement before addressing Secretary Tata at the February 13, 2015 meeting in New Bern upon invitation.

Patrick Flanagan concluded he was a representative who sat on the SPOT 4.0 Workgroup and indicated their next meeting was scheduled for February 2, 2015 and at the conclusion of that meeting he would contact MPO/RPO Coalition Executive Director, Justin Oakes, to arrange a

meeting with Coalition Staff to discuss the current status of 4.0 and details of the Coalition project list prior to meeting with this group on February 10, 2015.

Jack Best indicated the next meeting would be held on February 10, 2015 at 11:30 at Wilber's Restaurant and reminded everyone to continue to think as one region and ask for something obtainable.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Jennifer Collins, Goldsboro MPO

Organization				Planner		
Name	Area	Name	Phone	E-mail	Name	Ph
Eastern Carolina RPO	Wayne, Greene, Lenc Rob Will		252-229-4990	rwill@eccog.org	Bennie Heath	252-747
Jacksonville MPO	Jacksonville, Onslow	Anthony Prinz	910-938-5292	aprinz@ci.jacksonville.nc.us	Michael Lazzara	910-938
Down East RPO	Carteret, Craven, Jon Patrick Flanagan		252-229-4332	pflanagan@eccog.org	Trace Cooper	252-222
Mid-East RPO	Beaufort, Martin, Pitt Bryant Buck		252-974-1844	bbuck@midestat.com.org	Dempsey Bond	
Greenville MPO	Greenville, Whiteville	Daryl Vreeland	252-329-4476	dvreeland@greenvillenc.gov	Allen Thomas	252-325
Upper Coastal Plains	Edgecombe, Johnston	James Salmons	252-459-1545	jsalmons@ucprpo.org	Kenneth Jones	919-934
New Bern MPO	Bridgeton, Craven, N. Maurizia Chapman		252-639-7589	chapmanm@nbamdp.org	Steve Tyson	252-514
Goldsboro MPO	Goldsboro, Walnut	C. Jennifer Collins	919-580-4327	icollins@ci.goldsboro.nc.us	Chuck Allen	919-731
Peanut Belt RPO	Halifax, Northampton	Justin Cakes	252-974-1843	ioakes@midestat.com.org		
Hwy 70 Commission	Craven County	Donald Baumgardner	252-636-6618	dbaumgardner@cravencountync.gov		
New Bern MPO	Craven County	Gene Hodges	252-636-6600	mhodes@cravencountync.gov		
Hwy 70 Commission	Craven County	Tom Mark	252-635-6448	tmark@cravencountync.gov		

AGENDA
February 10, 2015
11:30 am

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks
 2. SPOT 4.0 Workgroup Update – Patrick Flanagan
 3. Discussion Points for February 13th meeting with Secretary Tata
 - a. Accessibility Connectivity
 - b. Multi-modal Criteria
 - c. Hurricane Evacuation Route
 - d. Unique Formulas for Regional and Divisional Scoring
 - e. Ferry Systems
 - f. Short Line Rail
 4. Project List
 5. Adjournment
- Highway 70 & 17 Commissions Meeting w/ Secretary Tata – February 13, 2015 – 10am
New Bern Riverfront Convention Center

- **Accessibility/Connectivity Criteria:** We feel the current way this criteria is measured does not successfully address the aim for which it was created. We would like the scores to expressly reflect providing rural areas that have few employment opportunities better connections to jobs and job opportunities, as well as expanding the focus to health care, education and recreation.
(The work group has discussed using the new statewide model to calculate this, however the statewide model includes very few SR routes and this model would not serve Division Need projects until SR routes are included in the model. Model needs to be vastly expanded before we are comfortable using it)
- **Multi-modal Criteria:** This criteria is trying to measure too many things. In particular it is focusing on moving people and moving freight. We would like to see current multi-modal criteria split into two areas; one for people moving (rail and transit depots, multi-modal centers) which could stay under the multi-modal name and one for freight movement (agriculture, ports) which could become the freight criteria named in the STI legislation. Additionally, we would like to see military facilities considered in the multi-modal and freight criteria
- **Hurricane Evacuations:** Based on NC Gen Stat § 136-102.7. which sets the standard for any bridge or highway construction project to allow for evacuations to occur in under 18 hours we feel this need to be incorporated into the SPOT scoring process so we can ensure our planning and projects are adhering to this standard.
- **Unique Formulas for Regional and Divisional Scoring:** As a member of Region __ and Division __ our __ PO participated in choosing the criteria and the forming of our weights, in collaboration with our neighboring organizations and Division Engineers. The ability to tailor the weigh each criteria laid out in STI counted for our highway projects was something we appreciated and would like to see that opportunity provided to us again.
- **Ferry Systems:** Given that the ferry system makes connections along Regional Impact routes and provides a unique experience for the residents and visitors of North Carolina, adding to the character and attractiveness of the coastal area as a destination, we would like to see all ferry projects eligible at the regional impact level as well as the division needs level.
- **Short Line Rail lines:** Currently privately operated rail short lines are not eligible for funds under STI. This is problematic because there are state owned short lines at both of the NC ports that are contracted for operation by private companies. These short lines being state owned and serving major state facilities should be able to compete for funds in STI.