



EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA MPO/RPO COALITION MEETING

August 30, 2012

The Eastern North Carolina MPO/RPO Coalition met for their second time on Thursday, August 30, 2012, at 10:00 a. m., in the O'Marks Building, New Bern, NC. The following members were present or absent.

Present:

Coalition Members:

Jack Best, Eastern Carolina RPO
Robert Cayton, Mid-East RPO
Lloyd Griffin, Albermarle RPO
Kenneth Jones, Upper Coastal Plain RPO
Michael Lazzara, Jacksonville MPO
Laura Padgett, Wilmington MPO
Wallace Perry, Peanut Belt RPO
Allen Thomas, Greenville MPO
Lamont Wiggins, Rocky Mount MPO
Trace Cooper, Down East RPO (for Lionell Midgett)

Advisory Members:

Bobby Lewis, NCDOT
Durwood Stephenson, Highway 70
Commission

Board Member:

Edward Grannis, NCDOT Board Member

Divison Enginneers:

Jerry Bradley, NCDOT Division 6
Jerry Jennings, NCDOT Division 1
John Rouse, NCDOT Division 4

Staff Members:

Jennifer Collins, Goldsboro MPO
Don Eggert, Cape Fear RPO
Patrick Flanagan, Down East RPO
Steve Lambert, Albemarle RPO
Bob League, Rocky Mount MPO
Justin Oakes, Peanut Belt RPO
Anthony Prinz, Jacksonville MPO
Alex Rickard, Down East RPO/Eastern
Carolina RPO
Joel Strickland, Mid-Carolina RPO
Daniel Van Liere, Upper Coastal Plain RPO

Absent:

Coalition Members:

Nelva Albury, Cape Fear RPO
Chuck Allen, Goldsboro MPO
Livingston Lewis, Mid-Carolina RPO
Lionell Midgett, Down East RPO

Also Attending: Dr. Sandra McCullen, Goldsboro MPO, Peter Varney, City of Rocky Mount, Adam Snipes, NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch, James Upchurch, NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch, Angie Manning, Onslow County Planning, Chad Strawn, Craven County, Linda Staab, Morehead City, Suratga Rashid, Wilmington MPO, Ron Massey, Jacksonville MPO, Charlie Diehl, NCGTP/NCDOT, Ben Warren, Onslow County and Johnny Eason, Wilson's Mills

Mr. Daniel Van Liere called the meeting to order at 10:00am and Mr. Robert Cayton welcomed those in attendance to today's meeting followed by approval of the agenda which included election of a Coalition Chair and Vice-Chair. Mr. Lloyd Griffin suggested moving the chair/vice-chair elections to the end of the agenda so that those not familiar with the history of

Albemarle RPO • Cape Fear RPO • Down East RPO • Eastern Carolina RPO • Goldsboro MPO
Greenville MPO • Jacksonville MPO • Lumber River RPO • Mid-Carolina RPO • Mid-East RPO
Peanut Belt RPO • Rocky Mount MPO • Upper Coastal Plain RPO • Wilmington MPO



the Coalition and/or member roles of the Coalition could get a better understanding as the meeting progressed.

Mr. Michael Lazzara was hoping for a chair to be elected to lead the meeting and hold the vote should the group decide to vote on any resolutions brought before them.

After discussion it was agreed upon to move the chair/vice chair elections from 5B to between 8 and 9 with any resolution vote to then occur after the election.

Moving forward, Mr. Daniel Van Liere introduced Mr. Jack Best who provided a brief history of the Coalition and its purpose.

Mr. Best summarized the past meetings of the Coalition and identified the six key highway projects that will improve mobility and facilitate growth and prosperity throughout eastern North Carolina.

Mr. Best concluded with the purpose of today's meeting is to discuss structure of the Coalition and how to move forward.

At this time, Mr. Daniel Van Liere provided the Coalition members with an Executive Director Report. Mr. Van Liere indicated there are fourteen MPO/RPOs which form this Coalition and, to-date, he has met with twelve of the fourteen to discuss and brief the MPO/RPO staff and their respective TAC Chairmen on the purpose behind the Coalition. He informed the Coalition Members that Staff Coalition Members had previously met several times to discuss the structure of the Coalition and its memberships. Staff Team, also referred to as the Management Team, elected an Executive Director, Assistant Director and Secretary at their June 6 meeting to represent the Management Team which consists of himself (Daniel Van Liere, Upper Coastal Plain RPO) as Executive Director, Jo Laurie Penrose with Greenville MPO as Assistant Director and Jennifer Collins with Goldsboro MPO as Secretary.

Mr. Van Liere moved forward to discuss the Coalition Members and Structure and indicated it was agreed upon staff team members that the Coalition Members would consist of the TAC Chair from each Transportation Planning Organization which must be an elected official designated to speak for their respective Transportation Planning Organization.

He informed the Coalition members that a resolution has been created committing each Transportation Planning Organization to participate in the Coalition. Mr. Van Liere indicated some MPO/RPOs had already approved this resolution and others are in the process of having their organizations approve the resolution.

With there being no further discussion at this time regarding the Coalition Structure, Mr. Van Liere turned the meeting over to Mr. Bobby Lewis who provided the Coalition members with an

Albemarle RPO • Cape Fear RPO • Down East RPO • Eastern Carolina RPO • Goldsboro MPO
Greenville MPO • Jacksonville MPO • Lumber River RPO • Mid-Carolina RPO • Mid-East RPO
Peanut Belt RPO • Rocky Mount MPO • Upper Coastal Plain RPO • Wilmington MPO



update on the Equity Formula. Mr. Lewis also provided information regarding the Mobility Fund results, SPOT 3.0, and provided project updates on the six key highway projects the Coalition had previously identified.

Mr. Van Liere introduced Mr. Bryant Buck who provided an update regarding Ferry Tolling. After discussion the Jacksonville MPO and Rocky Mount MPO requested additional information regarding the Ferry Division and it was suggested a representative from the Ferry Division attend the next meeting of the Coalition.

At this time, Mr. Van Liere requested updates be provided regarding the six key Highway projects and began with Mr. Allen Thomas, Mayor of Greenville providing an update on the Greenville Southwest Bypass project in Daryl Vreeland's absence. Mr. Thomas provided a history of Greenville and its current growth rate and indicated the bypass is the number one project in the Greenville MPO. He also indicated three phases had been funded through the Loop Fund with a completion date in 2023.

Mr. Durwood Stephenson provided an update regarding the Slocum Gate and indicated a Feasibility Study is currently underway for this project. Mr. Stephenson also applauded the 14 MPO/RPO's for coming together and indicated this is a "big step" in moving forward.

He also provided an update regarding the Kinston Bypass and indicated the project is in the merger process.

Mr. Alex Rickard provided an update on the NC 11/241/24 Connector, giving a brief history of the project and stated a Feasibility Study is currently underway and would be completed within the next 12 months.

Mr. Van Liere provided an update to the Maysville Bypass and the Hampstead Bypass in Marc Finlayson's absence. The Coalition members were provided a handout prepared by Mr. Finlayson and Mr. Van Liere indicated a Design Public Hearing for the Maysville Bypass is scheduled for September, 2012. He indicated work is continuing to find ways to shave the cost of the Hampstead Bypass with right-of-way acquisition to begin in 2017. Currently construction of this project is unfunded.

Finally, Mr. Joel Strickland provided an update on the NC 24 Upgrade project. He indicated Sections A, B, C, and D are funded and Sections E and F are unfunded and this project continues to be the number one project for the Mid-Carolina RPO.

Upon completion of project updates, Mr. Van Liere opened the floor for Chairman Nominations for the Coalition. Mr. Trace Cooper nominated Mr. Jack Best for Chairman. Mr. Lloyd Griffin seconded Mr. Cooper's nomination. Mr. Best was elected Chair by acclamation.



Moving forward, Mr. Van Liere opened the floor for Vice Chairman Nominations for the Coalition. Mr. Jack Best nominated Mr. Michael Lazzara for Vice Chairman. Mr. Lloyd Griffin seconded Mr. Best's nomination. Mr. Lazzara was elected Vice Chairman by acclamation.

At this time, the meeting was turned over to Mr. Jack Best and discussion regarding a resolution opposing 2/3 – 1/3 adjustment to the equity formula began. It was decided the Coalition should have a proposal instead of simply being against the adjustment.

Mr. Van Liere indicated a sub-committee for drafting compromise changes to the Equity Formula should be formed to discuss how to approach responses to the formula. He indicated he would work with Staff and Coalition members to develop recommendations prior the next scheduled meeting. It was stated that Items for discussion at the next meeting would consist of 1) The Equity Formula, 2) Tolling, and 3) Other Regional Priority Project for Coalition Consideration.

Mr. Jack Best indicated the next meeting would be held on October 10, 2012 at the Walnut Creek Country Club in Goldsboro, NC beginning at 1pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Jennifer Collins
Eastern North Carolina MPO/RPO Coalition
Secretary

Approved: _____