



EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA
MPO/RPO COALITION MEETING

September 13, 2012

A group of representative from Eastern North Carolina MPO/RPO Coalition met on Thursday, September 13, 2012, at 2:30 p. m., in the O'Marks Building, New Bern, NC. The following members were present.

Attending:

Coalition Members

Jack Best – Chair
Robert Cayton
Laura Padgett
Lamont Wiggins

Staff Members

Bryant Buck
Steve Lambert
Anthony Prinz
Alex Rickard
Daniel Van Liere – Director

Advisory Members

Durwood Stephenson

Chairman Jack Best welcomed everyone and informed the small group that we were meeting to simply discuss how to approach the Coalition's response to the proposed or anticipated changes to the Equity Formula. Chairman Best spoke that this was in no way a group to make a decision but rather a small group to discuss how to move forward. The Chairman stated that he had invited only the elected Coalition members, and had selected the small group based on geographic region.

Chairman Best asked Mr. Durwood Stephenson from the Highway 70 Corridor Commission to briefly explain the Equity Formula and the outlook for its division in the future. Mr. Stephenson stated that members from the urban areas have been attempting to change the equity formula for twenty years and that it was his understanding that members of the Legislature were being pressed hard to change the Equity Formula. With the proposed change, the rural areas would suffer greatly.

Mr. Stephenson concluded by stating that he believes that it would be in the Coalition's best interest to develop a plan of action which can be proposed to the Legislature, one that is equally fair and limits the adverse affects on both regions.

Mr. Lamont Wiggins made the statement that we need to figure out how to get everyone on the same page and feeling like they are contributing to conversation.



Rev. Robert Cayton stated that he believed that we did need a proposal that was equally fair to all three regions in North Carolina.

Mr. Wiggins began a conversation on Local Match for moving projects along a faster timeframe. Rev. Cayton stated that he believed that there should be a limit on Matching Funds. Mr. Stephenson stated that there was once language that prohibited Matching as a mechanism to influence projects, and that he did not believe the language had been changed. Mrs. Laura Padgett said that she believed that a local area matching funds had been used on projects and this is something the coalition should research.

Mr. Alex Rickard proposed that all resolutions that come out of the Coalition should recognize the inadequate funding that currently exists at NCDOT and should encourage the Legislature that NCDOT needs additional funds.

Mr. Wiggins added that there are extensive unfunded highway projects still left to be completed. These projects should be neutral across the state with the understanding that the ENC Region faces extreme environmental challenges. That there is an economic interdependency between businesses, transportation, military, education, agriculture, and tourism, throughout the state. Mr. Wiggins also stated that the Coalition as well as the state needs to recognize the economic impact between projects and our assets.

The meeting concluded with staff charged with bringing new projects to the table for the next Coalition meeting as well as other proposals for consideration.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Daniel N. Van Liere
Eastern North Carolina MPO/RPO Coalition
Executive Director

Approved: _____