

**Rocky River RPO Transportation Advisory Committee**  
Marshville Community Center  
Marshville, NC

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**Members:** Tony Dennis (Stanly County – TAC Chairman), Larry Helms (NCDOT Board Member) , Frank Deese (Marshville), Joe Estridge (Ansonville), Bobby Sikes (Anson County), Charlie Akin (New London), Wade Barbee (Richfield), Roy Helms (Oakboro), Jim Harrison (Badin), Larry Smith (Red Cross), Harold Thompson (Norwood), Minnie Staton (Polkton), Martha Sue Hall (Albemarle) and Steve Garris (Peachland)

**Members absent:** Locust, Wadesboro, Union County, and Misenheimer

**Others:** Dana Stoogenke (RPO staff), Gene McIntyre (Stanly County-Alt), Sam Johnston (New London), Katherine English (NCDOT), Robert VanGeons (Stanly County- EDC), Jon Mendenhall (Albemarle), Jack Neel (Albemarle-Alt), Matt Irvin (Stanly News and Press), Larry Milono (Badin-Alt), Rep. David Almond, Elbert Whitley Jr. (Albemarle)

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**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Chairman Dennis called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm. A quorum was established.

**2. Amendment to/Adoption of Agenda (Approved)**

Martha Sue Hall made a motion to add the Welcome Binder as Agenda item 4 and Jim Harrison seconded that motion. It passed unanimously.

**3. Approval of Minutes for the TAC meeting on November 16, 2006**

There were no changes made to the minutes of the meeting. Martha Sue Hall made a motion to approve the minutes and Roy Helms seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

**4. Election of New Officers (Approved)**

Larry Helms made a motion to re-elect Tony Dennis as Chairman and Harold Thompson as Vice Chairman. The motion was seconded by Joe Estridge. No other nominations were made and the session was closed by Charles Akin and Joe Estridge. The new officers were elected unanimously.

**5. Planning Work Program 2007-2008 (Approved)**

Every year NCDOT requires RPOs to submit Planning Work Program. These documents describe upcoming projects and associated costs. Dana Stoogenke gave highlights of the Planning Work Program. There were no questions. Martha Sue made a motion to approve the 2007-2008 Planning Work Program. Frank Deese seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

**6. North Carolina RPO Association Website (Approved)**

North Carolina RPO Association has been working for several years to gather important transportation information for our clients. The Association has completed its research and is preparing a user-friendly website to appropriately communicate the information. There is a minimal cost (\$325) associated with the website that will be hosted by Centralina. Joe Estridge made a motion to fund the website and Charles Akins seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

**7. Rocky River RPO Binder Packet (Information)**

Dana Stoogenke handed out Information Binders to every member. The binders include a roster list, maps, Transportation Improvement Program Worksheet, and other pertinent information. She will be giving out the same binders to the Technical Coordinating Committee members in March.

**8. Old Business****Update of Settlement of RPO Assets (Information)**

The assets between Centralina Council of Governments and Stanly County (RPO's fiscal agent) have been settle and the check is now in an RPO account.

**NC 24-27/Norwood Bypass Project (Approved)**

Larry Helms discussed the background of the NC 24-27/ Norwood Bypass Project. He and Barry Moose have been concerned about rising costs for bridge construction, especially with the NC 24-27 bridges. This, coupled with Norwood's desire for a bypass, lead to the idea of creating a southern NC 24-27 bypass through Norwood, Mt. Gilead and Troy. Mr. Helms stated that while the project may make sense for the Rocky River RPO Counties, the Piedmont Triad RPO (representing Montgomery County) responded it has a great stake in the current NC 24-27 route and is not interested in supporting an alternate route. Mr. Helms continued that South Carolina's DOT plans to construct a road from Myrtle Beach, SC, to Rockingham, NC, which will change the dynamics of I-73-74. Access for the Rocky River Region is essential and Norwood's concerns still stand regarding improved links to I-73-74. Mr. Helms made a motion to widen 731 to a four-lane road to the Pee Dee River and asked for a feasibility study for a new road from the bridge into Montgomery County connecting 731 to I-73-74. Martha Sue Hall wanted to remove any mention of rerouting NC 24-27 within the motion, thereby, rescinding the November 16, 2006 action. Larry Helms included Martha Sue Hall's suggestion within the motion. Martha Sue Hall seconded the motion. During discussion, Harold Thompson expressed his support for the original location of NC 24-27 and hoped the RPO members understood Norwood's need for the feasibility study to link the community to I-73-74. A vote was called and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Whitley of the City of Albemarle wanted to proceed with his presentation against the NC 24-27/Norwood Bypass Project. He wanted to have Albemarle's opinion on the record. Jon Mendenhall, Albemarle's City Engineer, made the

presentation regarding the City's concerns regarding the proposed projects. The following are some of the highlights from the presentation:

- By rerouting NC 24/27 toward Norwood, the NC 24/27 corridor would serve only the southern portions of Stanly County.
- The State of North Carolina has located numerous state resources in the Albemarle area due to connectivity, through NC 24/27, to Charlotte and points east of Albemarle.
- The entire service provision for over 20,000 people is based on the NC 24/27 route.
- Relocating NC 24/27 would require new roads and rights-of-way.
  - Approximately 300 parcels and owners would be impacted (Norwood bypass).
  - Six Streams/flood areas would have to be crossed (entire project)
  - Miles of utilities would have to be built.
  - At least two or more railroad bridges would have to be constructed (entire project).

Once the presentation was completed, both Larry Helms and Tony Dennis were concerned that the City of Albemarle would not be supportive of the approved NC 731 feasibility study from Norwood to I- 73-74. Martha Sue Hall said she could not speak for the entire City Council, but, in her personal opinion she felt that the City would be very supportive of the motion.

#### **9. New Business**

Katherine English, NCDOT, announced this was going to be her last meeting. Rockne Bryant, NCDOT, will be replacing Katherine English.

#### **10. Public Comment**

Representative David Almond thanked the Chairman for being invited to the meeting and will attend as often as possible.

Jim Harrison, Mayor of Badin, is concerned with the aesthetics of NC 24/27. When improvements are made on this road, beautification should be a priority.

Charles Akins, New London Councilman, expressed his personal experience with businesses initially impacted by a bypass, but, within a year, the volume of business had returned. So, communities should not worry about these kinds of impacts when a bypass is created.

#### **11. Adjourn**