



## Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

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**Members Present:** Larry Smith (Red Cross), Harold Thompson (Norwood – TAC Chairman), Minnie Staton (Polkton), Roy Helms (Oakboro), Wade Barbee (Richfield), Denise Whitley (Marshville), Martha Sue Hall (Albemarle), Harold Green (Locust), Allen Baucom (Union County), Jann Lowder (Stanly Co. -Alt.), Larry Milano (Badin-Alt.), Charlie Akin (New London), Walter S. Edwards (Ansonville - Alt.), Bobby Sikes (Anson County) and Richard Allen (Peachland).

**Members Absent:** Peter Edquist (Misenheimer), , Henry Bill Watkins (Ansonville), Jason Smith (Stanfield), Gene McIntyre (Stanly County), Jim Harrison (Badin) and Tony Dennis (NCDOT Div. 10).

**Others Present:** Bob Harvey (Stanfield - Alt.), Calvin Gaddy (New London), Larry Branch (Town of Oakboro), Barry Moose (NCDOT Div. 10), Margaret Bivens (Marshville), Garrett McLendon (Peachland), Carl Webber (Marshville), Amy Helms (Union Co.), Dana Stoogenke (RPO Director), David Keilson (NCDOT), Jonathan Parker (NCDOT), Jamal Alavi (NCDOT), and Betty Whitley (RPO Admin. Asst.)

### A. Welcome

The meeting convened at 6:04 pm. Quorum was established.

### B. Approval of Agenda (Approved)

There were three recommended changes to the agenda. First, the North Carolina Turnpike Authority (NCTA) information update will be provided by Dana Stoogenke (RPO) instead of Reid Simon (NCTA). Second, the Town of Locust decided not to apply for the Safe Routes to School program, so that can be removed from the agenda. Third, the North Carolina Solar Center asks for the RPO's endorsement of its Clean Fuel Advanced Technology Project (CFAT), which is a statewide initiative.

A motion was made by Martha Sue Hall to approve the amended agenda with changes and seconded by Harold Green. It passed unanimously.

### C. Approval of Minutes (Approved)

A motion was made by Martha Sue Hall to approve the November 20, 2008 minutes. It was seconded by Charlie Akin and passed unanimously.

### D. Election of New Officers (Approved)

Dana Stoogenke called for the election of the 2009 TAC Committee Chairman.

Martha Sue Hall made a motion that Harold Thompson remains Chairman and Denise Whitley remains Vice-Chairman. Harold Green seconded the motion. The session was closed and the motion was approved by acclamation.

**E. 2011-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)- Prioritization Ranking (Approved)**

The Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) reviewed the TIP Prioritization Ranking list and recommended it be adopted by the TAC. This is the second time the TIP has been presented to the TAC. If approved by the TAC, this list will be forwarded to North Carolina Department of Transportation.

Martha Sue Hall made a motion to approve the TIP Prioritization Ranking list and Harold Green seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

**F. 2009-2010 Planning Work Program & Five-Year Calendar (Approved)**

The Rocky River Rural Planning Organization (RPO) budget was cut 7% for fiscal year 2009-2010. Thus, the RPO's total budget went from \$112,500 to \$104,625.

Dana Stoogenke reviewed RPO's Five-Year Planning Calendar and the Planning Work Program for 2009-2010. Mapping was reduced by \$2,000 and administration reduced by \$1,000. Some items were consolidated and will look like they went up, but in fact were moved to another category. In addition, the Five-Year Calendar was reviewed.

Charlie Akin made a motion to accept RPO's revised Planning Work Program and Five-Year Calendar and it was seconded by Larry Smith. It passed unanimously.

**G. Norwood Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) (Approved)**

Jonathan Parker reviewed Norwood's Transportation Plan. He discussed the four maps that will be adopted by the Board of Transportation (BOT). The planning process was very extensive. He met with local leaders, conducted an on-line survey, organized a steering committee and held public meetings. Recommendations were based on the projected growth for the area, along with input from the local residents to create a transportation plan for Norwood. After collecting public feedback, the information gathered was reviewed by staff and the Town adopted the Plan. The TCC recommended the Norwood CTP be endorsed by the TAC.

A motion was made by Martha Sue Hall to approve Norwood CTP and it was seconded by Denise Whitley. It passed unanimously.

## **H. Marshville Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) (Approved)**

Denise Whitley explained that Rockne Bryant developed the CTP for Marshville. It was a multi-year process with several public meetings. The Town was satisfied with the public involvement and the plan. The Town of Marshville adopted the plan and TCC recommended the TAC endorse the CTP.

A motion was made by Harold Green to approve Marshville CTP and it was seconded by Charlie Akin. It passed unanimously.

## **I. NC Turnpike Authority (Information)**

Dana Stoogenke presented an update for the North Carolina Turnpike Authority (NCTA). The Draft Alignments were not ready to be presented. The draft of the Monroe Bypass Connector was supposed to be completed by Dec. 31, 2008. The NCTA is hopeful it will be completed in February 2009.

Once the alignment drawings are released, they will delineate the alignments in Marshville. There will be a 45-day comment period and two public meetings will be held. NCTA will have a representative at the RPO's March meeting.

However, there are two other issues that may impact the project: issuing bonds & air quality.

### **Issuing Bonds:**

The NCTA has delayed issuing bonds for the western Wake County project. This is a direct result of the weakening economy. The Monroe Bypass Connector bonds are scheduled to be released in the fall 2009 and, hopefully, the bond market will stabilize.

### **Air Quality:**

Air quality issues could impact the Monroe Bypass Connector project. Union County is non-attainment. The State submitted, and then withdrew, the State Implementation Plan (SIP) to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The SIP is the air quality "get well plan." The State withdrew the document because EPA was going to reject the SIP. By withdrawing the document first, the State will have an opportunity to revise and submit a SIP that better meets EPA's requirements. If a new/revise SIP is not submitted to EPA by 11/30/09, the region could enter into a CONFORMITY LAPSE, meaning FHWA could freeze federal funding for projects.

Air quality is a complicated topic and it is hard to meet EPA's attainment standards. The RPO staff and member governments should engage the EPA in order to find out what actions can be taken to overcome the challenge. It has been suggested we invite someone from Air Quality to talk to the group. Dana will

invite a representative from the Department of Air Quality (DAQ) to come to our meeting in March. (\*DAQ staff did attend our November 2008 meeting).

Allen Baucom made a motion that the TAC be proactive at local, state and national levels to help overcome the challenges on air quality. This was seconded by Martha Sue Hall and was unanimously approved by all members.

**J. Amendment to 2008-2009 Planning Work Program (Approved)**

The colored Excel chart shows changes made to the Planning Work Program for 2008-2009. There has been money added to the Transit Planning and Air Quality line items and removed from other categories.

Allen Baucom made a motion to accept the Planning Work Program for 2008-2009 and Harold Green seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

**K. Congestion Management and Air Quality Grant (CMAQ) (Item #1 Approved)**

1. Denise Whitley explained that the Town of Marshville plans to apply for CMAQ Fast Track money. The grant application is for funding a sidewalk project for West Main Street. This project will connect businesses, residents and a school. Marshville will be applying for this grant and would like the TAC to endorse it.

Martha Sue Hall made a motion to endorse Marshville's West Main Street Sidewalk Project and Harold Green seconded it. It was unanimously approved by the group.

2. Dana Stoogenke informed the group that a recent email was received from the NC Solar Center. The Solar Center has asked for the RPO's endorsement of its Clean Fuel Advanced Technology Project (CFAT), which is a statewide initiative. The Fast Tract project would be competing with the 20% match of the Marshville project.

Martha Sue Hall made the motion not to support this request and Denise Whitley seconded it. Members were unanimous not to support the NC Solar's request.

**L. NCDOT Division 10 Update (information)**

Information provided by Barry Moose

**State Wide Spending Cuts**

Information provided by Barry Moose

The Division Office has been cut by 35% and that will impact all aspects of highway projects and maintenance. We are anticipating citizen complaints because potholes may not get fixed and grass will not be cut as often as in the

past. In addition, highway projects will be delayed. NCDOT's revenue is 9% below the forecasted amount. Gas tax is down 4% and car related sales tax is down 3%. 25% of the budget comes from car sales tax, which is down. DMV fees are down 20-25%. NCDOT stands behind its commitments; however, it is going to take some time for the economy to recover.

### **Economic Stimulus Legislation**

Information provided by Barry Moose

Federal legislation has not passed, thus, NCDOT is making assumptions about the parameters of the Economic Stimulus package. NCDOT *assumes* it is 100% federally funded and would only fund roads on the Federal System. In addition, the projects have to be shovel-ready, meaning projects have to be ready to be constructed in 180 days. It is estimated \$2 billion may be set aside for North Carolina. An email was forwarded to TAC and TCC members if jurisdictions are interested in putting additional projects on the list.

### **M. Old Business**

None

### **N. New Business**

Calvin Gaddy suggested that the TAC invite other council or commission members to the March 19<sup>th</sup> Polkton meeting. IT is the TAC hopes that this will show we are serious about air quality issues in our area.

### **O. Public Comment**

None

### **P. Adjourned at 7:31 p.m.**

A motion was made by Martha Sue Hall to adjourn and Harold Green seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Adopted: This the 15th day of January, 2009.

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Harold Thompson, TAC Chairman

Attest:

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Dana Stoogenke, Secretary