



## TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### MEETING MINUTES

May 17, 2007

Norwood, NC

**Members:** Tony Dennis (Stanly County – TAC Chairman), Harold Thompson (Norwood-TAC Vice Chairman), Larry Helms (NCDOT Board Member), Frank Deese (Marshville), Joe Estridge (Ansonville), Bobby Sikes (Anson County), Charles Akin (New London), Larry Milono (Badin-Alt), Frank Deese (Marshville) Martha Sue Hall (Albemarle), Harold Greene (Locust), and Allen Baucom (Union County)

**Members absent:** Wadesboro, Polkton, Peachland, Richfield, Red Cross, Oakboro, and Misenheimer

**Others:** Dana Stoogenke (RPO staff), Gene McIntrye (Stanly County Alt.), Rockne Bryant (NCDOT), Calvin Gaddy (New London Alt.), Jarvis Woodburn (Anson County Alt.), Barry Moose (NCDOT- Division), and Richard W. Hancock (NCDOT- Division)

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#### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Tony Dennis called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. A quorum was established.

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

Joe Estridge made a motion to approve the Agenda and Harold Greene seconded the 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. Harold Greene made a motion to approve the minutes and Joe Estridge seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

#### 4. Highway Overlay District (Information)

Stanly County staff has been working with Transportation planners in the region to create a Highway Overlay District for all major routes within their jurisdictions. This overlay district helps protect NCDOT's investments. Michael Sandy, Stanly County Planning Department, presented the details of the recently adopted Highway Overlay District to the TAC. Dana Stoogenke, RPO staff, finished the presentation by explaining the importance of land use planning and transportation planning. The presentation focused on the importance of protecting road capacity by access control and design. Barry Moose added NCDOT staff has a very difficult time denying excessive access permits unless the local jurisdictions have ordinances in place with strong rules. Local ordinances which are stricter always trump NCDOT rules. This is

a great help to the Division office staff and they encourage municipalities to adopt ordinances like the Highway Overlay District.

#### **5. Benchmarks Document (Information)**

Dana Stoogenke provided an update on the Benchmarks Document. This document was created when she first began her tenure with the Rocky River RPO. It outlined the goals for the organization and a timeframe in which they should be accomplished. A majority of goals were accomplished to set up the organization and, now, the real work for the organization begins.

#### **6. Prioritizing TIP Projects for the 2009-2015 (Adopted)**

The 2007-2013 TIP is finalized; the RRRPO needs to update its project priority list. The last project prioritization was submitted to NCDOT on June 14, 2005. This list was for the 2007-2013 TIP. NCDOT would like an updated prioritization list for the 2009-2015 TIP by the end of summer 2007. The following are the two items which were reviewed:

- The list of projects to be ranked.

There was a lot of discussion regarding the project list. It was decided to take the Marshville CMAQ project off because it is not truly a TIP project. This project is a mass transit venture with Charlotte Department of Transportation. Its money will be spent by the fall. Barry Moose, NCDOT, suggested fine tuning each project description, thereby detailing the entire route and their preferred sections. For example, Misenheimer Bypass will be included in the US 52 R-2320 project. Allen Baucom wanted to add a statement of support for NC 218 for the area outside the RPO boundaries. So, improvements on NC 218 will continue to 485. Lastly, the 731 project from Norwood into Montgomery and future I-74/73 will be added to the list as a feasibility project. Martha Sue Hall made a motion to add all the funded and unfunded TIP projects to the ranking list and to add and delete projects as discussed. Allen Baucom seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

- The ranking process.

Dana Stoogenke described the ranking process. Rockne Bryant felt that Ms. Stoogenke and the TCC did a great job pulling the list together. Ranking the region's projects will help the TAC make an informed decision. This process will help shape the project priority list that is endorsed to NCDOT. Martha Sue Hall made a motion to use the ranking list as presented. Harold Greene seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

#### **7. Air Quality Conformity Determination Report CDR (Adopted)**

NCDOT requests the approval of the Conformity Determination Report.

"The North Carolina Department of Transportation, acting as an agent of the Non-MPO areas, finds that the 2007-2013 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) which represents the transportation plan for the rural portions of Eastern and Southern Union County conforms to the intent of the State Implementation Plan (SIP) or interim emissions test(s) in areas where no SIP has been approved or found adequate by the Environmental Protection Agency in accordance with the Clean Air Act. The rural projects from the Eastern and Southern Union County 2007-2013 STIP

are consistent with the rural projects from the 2006–2012 STIP that were modeled and found to conform by the USDOT on June 30, 2005. Therefore, the Rocky River Rural Planning Organization supports this Amendment # 2 Conformity Analysis and Determination Finding." Allen Baucom made a motion to accept the Conformity Determination Report and Frank Deese seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

### **8. Transportation Branch Update (Information)**

Rockne Bryant, NCDOT, provided an update on the Marshville Plan. A portion of the plan will be presented to the Marshville Town Board. The presentation is not scheduled, but, it will likely be presented in the next eight weeks.

### **9. Old Business (Approved)**

#### **Ms. Dana Stoogenke gave an update on the following topics:**

1. Goals and Objectives Survey will be completed next week. Wilkins Research should provide the Rocky River RPO with raw data at the county and regional level. Staff will analyze the data and present a report to the TAC.
2. Website update: [www.rockyriverrpo.org](http://www.rockyriverrpo.org). Paper copies of the website were given out. The website includes information about the *Who, What and Why* of the RPO. Members will be able to download agendas, minutes and attachments from the website. The RRRPO will continue developing the second phase of the website which focuses on the Transportation Improvement process and collecting input from citizens and member governments. The website included a new logo. The TCC recommended to adopt the logo. The TAC agreed. Martha Sue Hall made a motion to adopt the logo. Bobby Sikes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
3. Website update: [www.nctransportationanswers.com](http://www.nctransportationanswers.com). This website was created by the North Carolina Association of Rural Planning Organizations. Its goal is to help inform citizens about the many things NCDOT can provide. In addition, it provides valuable information about how to tap into NCDOT resources.
4. Commuter Study needs participants who pass through the City of Locust and the Town of Marshville to uptown Charlotte. The TAC members have several suggestions. Contact names will be collected in the summer and the 10 day dairy will be filled out once the school year begins.

### **10. New Business**

Barry Moose, NCDOT-Division 10, introduced his new Deputy, Richard Hancock. Mr. Hancock worked for many years in NCDOT's Division 8 Office. He will assist Barry Moose with projects and outreach. Please feel free to contact Richard Hancock if you need information or have a problem. Barry Moose is very pleased to have him on staff.

Larry Helms, suggested Barry Moose provide the TAC with a Monroe Bypass-Connector update. There are many facets to this study and Barry Moose will give a full update at our July meeting. The Turnpike Authority has been studying the cost of the project as a toll facility vs. a free facility. The current findings are that a toll

facility (Connector is tolled, not Bypass) will be more fiscally sound and the project will be completed in a timely manner. However, if the Monroe Bypass-Connector is completely free, then the project is short more than a \$100,000,000 and the project will be delayed at least a few years. A decision to toll the facility has not been made.

Tony Dennis would like to be included as an ex-officio member to the TCC. He feels the chair would have a better understanding of the RPO if he could be include. TAC members agreed and that the Chairman should always be invited as a non-voting member to the TCC. Joe Estridge made the motion and Harold Greene seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

**11. Public Comment:** No comments.

**12. Closed Session**

Allen Baucom moved to recess the meeting for a closed session for the purpose of considering personnel matters in accordance with G.S. 143.318.11(a)(6). The motion was seconded by Martha Sue Hall. It passed unanimously.

**13. Return to Open Session**

The session was reopened with a motion by Allen Baucom and seconded by Joe Estridge. The motion was unanimous.

**14. Adjourn (7:55)**