



## Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

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**Members Present:** Jim Harrison (Badin), Larry Smith (Red Cross), Harold Thompson (Norwood – TAC Chairman), Roy Helms (Oakboro), Gene McIntyre (Stanly County), Denise Whitley (Marshville), Richard Allen (Peachland), Martha Sue Hall (City of Albemarle), Allen Baucom (Union County), Tony Dennis (Board of Transportation), Walter Edwards (Town of Ansonville X-alt) and Michael Riemann (Misenheimer X-alt.)

**Members Absent:** Charlie Akin (New London), Harold Greene (Locust), Bobby Sikes (Anson County), Jason Smith (Stanfield), Minnie Staton (Polkton) and Wade Barbee (Richfield).

**Others Present** Garrett McLendon (Peachland), Larry Branch (Town of Oakboro), Barry Moose (NCDOT, Division 10), Margaret Bivens (Marshville), Dana Stoogenke (RPO), Jamal Alavi (NCDOT, Transportation Planning Branch), Reuben Crummy (NCDOT), Carol Lewis (Centralina COG) and Betty Whitley (RPO).

**A. Welcome**

The meeting convened at 6:08 pm. Quorum was established.

**B. Approval of agenda (Approved)**

Harold Thompson made a request to have the new Human Resources Policy Addendum added to the end of the agenda. Martha Sue Hall made a motion to that effect and Denise Whitley seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

**C. Approval of minutes (Approved)**

Martha Sue Hall made a motion to approve the Minutes of the March 19, 2009 meeting. It was seconded by Allen Baucom and was passed unanimously.

**D. Air Quality Work Group (Information)**

Presentation by Carol Lewis of Centralina COG

Centralina COG has several programs to improve the region's air quality. These programs can be used to help Anson, Stanly and Union Counties reduce pollutants in the air and help the region achieve EPA standards. Stanly and Anson Counties will know by November if they will be included in the EPA's non-attainment designation.

COG Programs:

- 1.) Connect: A program of regional leaders, air quality experts, the State and businesses to look at realistic solutions to the air quality problem.

2.) The "Clean Air for Children" program helps educate parents and students regarding air quality problems in region. It encourages parents not to idle while waiting to pick up their children. Centralina has not been able to engage Stanly or Anson Counties. Carol would like to present at a Principals Meeting in both counties. COG has signs and pamphlets for each school in both counties. Carol agreed to send a letter to the School Boards requesting to be placed on the agenda.

**E. Strategic Planning Office Transportation (SPOT) (information)**

Presented by Dana Stoogenke

NCDOT has developed the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) ranking system. Each MPO and RPO will keep its individual project ranking system, however, projects will now be ranked statewide with a "data-driven" process. In October, the RPO will enter its 25 top-ranked transportation projects into a statewide database. The RPO will use its previously adopted TIP list from Fall 2008. Information submitted into the database will receive quantitative and qualitative scores and the TIP will reflect the changes. The new list should be released in Spring 2010.

**F. Social and Economic Maps (Information)**

Presented by Dana Stoogenke

The RPO is responsible for collecting socio-economic information in Stanly and Union Counties which is included in the Metrolina Regional Model (MRM). These maps were created by using building permits, using school information, and surveying town and county staff.

Dana Stoogenke explained that growth projections conducted several years ago for 2009 were too high for both Counties. The lackluster economy has impacted growth. Improved projects were presented.

**G. Clean Fuel Advanced Technology (CFAT) (Approved for 2009)**

NC Solar Center and NC State University request the RPO's endorsement for Clean Fuel Advanced Technology (2009) application. This program will use statewide CMAQ funds. The RPO is not competing for CMAQ dollars this year. The RPO discussed only endorsing CFAT for fiscal year 2009 because Union County or the Town of Marshville may apply for CMAQ grants in the future.

Support for CFAT will be for one year only. Martha Sue Hall made motion for the support of CFAT for FY 09. Denise Whitley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**H. Transportation Planning Branch Update (Information)**

Jamal Alavi announced that Reuben Crummy will be the new coordinator for Rocky River RPO.

**I. NCDOT Updates (Information)  
Updates by Barry Moose**

Barry Moose gave an update on road projects funded through the stimulus program. The NC 73 bridge replacement and Ridge Street projects were already in the TIP and now have funding. Division staff is looking at other bridge replacements in Stanly and Anson Counties. Stimulus money will be used to do road repairs and resurfacing on NC 218, which is a 35-mile stretch of road. In addition, portions of US 74 will be resurfaced.

The economy has been soft and bidding has continued to come in 20% below engineer estimates. As a result, there is more cash available, which is earmarked specifically for resurfacing projects.

Martha Sue Hall questioned the rumors regarding the State's attempt to shift the responsibility for the upkeep of roads from the State to the local level. Barry suggests that if that happened, State would have to bring funding along with it. The smaller cities would not have the cash revenue to maintain all the roads, especially when so many are in the rural areas.

**J. New Business**

The Charlotte Chamber will present an Air Quality Summit on August 14, 2009 at the Westin Hotel in Charlotte. Several national speakers will be attending this luncheon.

**K. Old Business:**

- Carolina Thread Trail Program mapping and planning is going well. This program will provide planning money to map greenways through the region. The Carolina Thread Trail is funding 95% of the planning process and the jurisdictions have to contribute a 5% match.

Allan Baucom has concerns regarding the Greenway Trail and the property rights of citizens who own land adjacent to the trail. There need to be rules in place to make sure negative actions are not taken by those using the trail (e.g., riding horses or 4-wheelers, etc.). Union County did pass a resolution supporting the Carolina Thread Trail, however, it included in its language that property cannot be taken without the landowner's approval and should be provided "just" compensation. Mr. Baucom urged other jurisdiction to include similar language in their resolutions.

- Reuben Crummy (NCDOT) gave an update on the CTPs happening in the RPO area. Deficiencies are being developed for Union County's CTP and alternatives are being evaluated for the Stanly County's CTP.
- Revised TAC Schedules:
  - TAC meeting scheduled for Polkton (Horne) Library has been changed from September 17<sup>th</sup> to September 24<sup>th</sup> 2009.
  - TAC Meeting for November 19<sup>th</sup> was originally scheduled to be held at the Market Station in Albemarle is now being held at Crutchfield Campus in Locust.

**L. Human Resource Policy Addendum: (Approved)**

Last July, this Human Resource Policy Addendum was drafted by Dana Stoogenke and reviewed by the county attorney. While the TAC agreed it reflected the current operation of the RPO, it was tabled because Stanly County Commission was revising the Human Resource Policy for the County and it had not been officially approved.

The Stanly County Commission did finally approve a new Human Resources Policy in June 2009. Thus, the RPO felt it was appropriate to revisit the policy.

Martha Sue Hall made a motion to accept the Human Resource Policy Addendum and Gene McIntyre seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

**M. Public Comment**

**N. Adjourned at 7:20 pm.**

A motion was made by Roy Helms to adjourn and Allan Baucom seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Adopted: This the 24th day of September, 2009.

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Harold Thompson, TAC Chairman

Attest:

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Dana Stoogenke, Secretary