

July-September 2014

RRRPO NEWS

WWW.ROCKYRIVERRPO.ORG



TAC Chairman:

Commissioner Lindsey Dunevant
Stanly County

TAC Vice-Chairman:

Commissioner Bobby Usrey
Town of Wadesboro

TCC Chairman:

Gwen Hinson
SCUSA

TCC Vice-Chairman:

Jay Almond
Manager
Town of Badin

Upcoming Meetings:

**Technical Coordinating
Committee (TCC)-Staff**

Tuesday, November 4, 2014
NCDOT, Division 10
Albemarle, NC
10-noon

**Technical Advisory
Committee (TAC) - Elected**

Thursday, November 20, 2014
Stanly Community College,
Crutchfield Campus
Locust, NC
6-8pm



Dana Stoogenke, AICP
1000 North 1st Street
Albemarle, NC 28270

dstoogenke@rockyriverrpo.org

25 Year Infrastructure Plan vs. Strategic Transportation Investment

In the past couple years, there has been an overhaul on how multimodal transportation projects are prioritized and ultimately funded in North Carolina. The Strategic Transportation Investment (STI) law is being implemented and a list of draft projects will be released in December 2014. In addition, the Governor unveiled a 25 Year Infrastructure Plan. This document discusses strategies to deal with the State's vast network of multimodal infrastructure.

25 Year Infrastructure Plan	Strategic Transportation Investment
Guidance Document that was unveiled by the Governor in September 2014.	2013 North Carolina State Law.
Overview of statewide multimodal infrastructure and strategies to create greater capacity for the network.	Statewide system of prioritizing all transportation modes in North Carolina.
\$1 billion draft project list was released. This list has not been adopted by the Board of Transportation. The bond will need to be approved by the North Carolina General Assembly.	The State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) will be based on the STI scores. The Draft STIP will be released in December 2014 and action will be taken by the Board of Transportation in 2015. This will be the funded projects list for the next five years.

NEW STAFF: The Rocky River Rural Planning Organization is happy to announce Catherine Peele, the newest member of the RPO team. She has a degree in Economics from Wheaton College and worked in Community Development in Dallas, Texas before moving back home to Albemarle. She will be tasked with administrative duties and special projects. Please say, "Hello," when she reminds you to attend the RPO TAC or TCC meetings!



Good News for Air Quality

The Metrolina Region, which includes some counties in the Rocky River Rural Planning Organization, are *Non Attainment*. An ongoing part of staff time is designated to work with regional partners to provide data and support for air quality attainment activities.

What is the good news? This summer makes the third consecutive ozone session that the Metrolina Regional monitors did not exceed the federally designated standard. This allows the Metrolina Region to request that it be removed from *Non Attainment* status. If approved, the region's new designation would be *Attainment/Maintenance*. Having good air quality impacts not just the health and welfare of our citizens, but can make economic development easier for the region.

In addition, the region is going to request a relaxation of the Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) designation, which is a common measure of the volatility of gasoline. Currently, gas in Mecklenburg and Gaston Counties are formulated to lessen its impact on air quality in the summer months (Ozone Session). If the RVP is relaxed, there could be a gas cost savings in the two affected counties and potential spill over cost savings in surrounding counties.

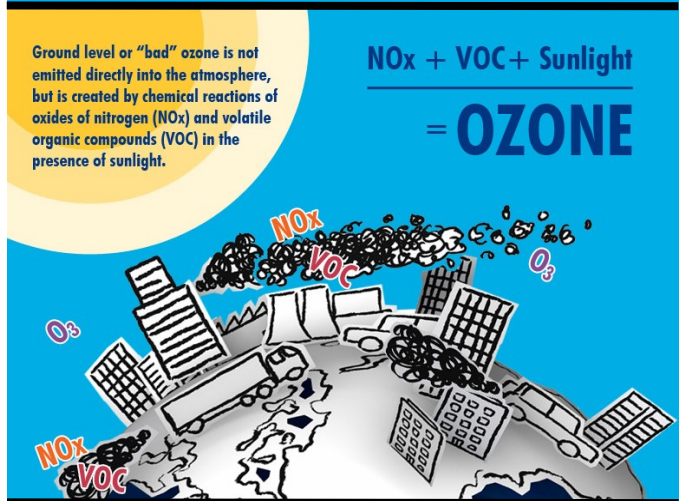
There will be a new revised national air quality standard that will be released in December 2014. There is no way to know if the region will be able to attain it. However, regional partners are committed to requesting to be designated *Attainment/Maintenance* for the 2008 standard.

There will be a full presentation on this topic at the November TCC and TAC meetings.

What is Non Attainment?

Environmental Protection Agency's designation that means the geographic area has air pollution levels higher than the permissible nation standard for pollutants.

Beyond health concerns regarding poor air quality an areas that is *Non Attainment* can suffer significant impacts to economic development.



Upcoming Work:

- RPO staff will be working on the statewide P4 Committee, evaluating and recommending changes to STI.
- RPO staff will be participating in the Wadesboro Pedestrian Plan.
- RPO staff will continue to work with Albemarle staff to implement the City's Bicycle Plan. RPO staff successfully wrote and received grant funding for the City to create a multi-modal vision for 2nd Street.