# NEW BERN AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION TAC MEETING MINUTES 

## October 27, 2016

The New Bern Area Metropolitan Planning Organization held special called meeting on Thursday, October 27, 2016 at 11:00 AM in the Development Services Conference Room, 303 First Street.

Members Present:<br>Mr. Steve Tyson - Chairman<br>Ms. ET Mitchell - City of New Bern Alderman<br>Mr. Bernard White - Alternate Vice-Chair<br>Mr. John Kirkland - Mayor, River Bend<br>Mr. Chuck Tyson - Mayor, Trent Woods<br>Mr. Alan Welch - Bridgeton Commissioner<br>Mr. Hugh Overholt - NC Board of Transportation<br>\section*{Members Excused:}<br>Non-Voting Members:<br>Mr. Bill Marley, FHWA, non-voting member<br>Ms. Kelly Walker, CARTS, non-voting member<br>Mr. Charles McKenna, CARTS, non-voting member

## Members Absent:

Guests Present:
Staff Present:

Mr. Gene Hodges - Craven County<br>Ms. Kimberly Maxey - NBAMPO Planner<br>Ms. Maurizia Chapman, NBAMPO Administrator<br>Ms. Catherine Bryant - NCDOT TPB (via phone)<br>Mr. Jeff Cabaniss - NCDOT<br>Mr. John Rouse - NCDOT

1. Call to Order: Chair Tyson called the meeting to order.
2. Roll call was done and a quorum was declared.
3. Ethics Reminder: Mr. Tyson read the Ethics Reminder. There were no conflicts of interested noted.
4. Public Comments: N/A
5. Approval of the minutes of the September 22, 2016 meeting: Reading of minutes was waived.

Motion: General Overholt made a motion to approve minutes as presented. Mr. Tyson seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
6. Appointment/Re-appointment of Citizen Advisory Committee members: Kim Maxey

Ms. Maxey relayed that staff received an application by Mr. John "Jack" Doolittle requesting consideration for appointment to the CAC. Mr. Doolittle comes recommended and has extensive MPO and Transit experience.

Mr. Doolittle has attended a CAC meeting and provided valued input at that time.
Chair Tyson questioned if Mr. Doolittle is replacing a member. Ms. Maxey advised there are four CAC members whose terms will expire on December 31, 2016. One member has declined to return. The Chair of this board has taken a leave of absence for one year as she is out of the country. Mr. Doolittle would replace one of these members. The other three CAC members up for reappointment have all agreed to continue with reappointment approval from the TAC.

Ms. Mitchell noted she is impressed with Mr. Doolittle and feels his expertise will be a benefit for this organization.

Motion: Ms. Mitchell made a motion to accept the application of Mr. Doolittle to the Citizen Advisory Committee. Chair Tyson included the reappointment of current Vice-Chair Tharesa Lee, and members Tom Hewitt and Jean Huryn. Mr. Tyson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
7. Amendment No. 4 to the FY 2016-2025 Metropolitan Transportation Program: Kim Maxey

Ms. Maxey noted the Amendment proposed for approval that will match the local MTIP with the State TIP. The funds are for unspecified projects within our area. This is required to ensure the MTIP and STIP match exactly.

Motion: General Overholt made a motion to approve the Amendment No. 4 to the FY 2016-2025 Metropolitan Transportation Program. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kirkland and passed unanimously.

## 8. P 4.0 Project Prioritization Ranking and Scoring: Maurizia Chapman

Ms. Chapman relayed public meetings were recently held to obtain additional public comment on the project prioritization. No additional suggestions or comments were obtained during this meeting, however staff is recommending the TAC consider staff suggestions that would deviate from the current methodology.

The previous week staff attended the Down East RPO TCC meeting. The spreadsheet used during this meeting included all Division 2 projects as well as the Division office scoring and differed from the one included in board packets.

During the SPOT 3.0 process, this board agreed to modify the methodology at the Division level and give certain projects 100 points. This deviation did make a difference in getting projects funded.

With the current scoring the first two projects within the Division are bicycle and pedestrian projects in the Greenville area and the third project is a highway project. Division can only score 2-4 non-highway project, therefore it is recommended we focus on the highway projects, rescoring these projects with 100 points.

Mr. Kirkland discussed his desire to continue pushing efforts on making much needed improvements to the Highway 17 corridor. This area continues to pose safety risks. With the current flooding of I-95 and Highway 70 due to Hurricane Matthew, this corridor was one of the few roads available for travel, which Mr. Kirkland feels highlighted the need to complete upgrades. Mr. Rouse acknowledged the risks, noting the funds to complete will have to come from the Division tier, as this project did not score high enough this round for any consideration from Regional or State tiers.

Mr. Kirkland suggested appealing to the Governor through written correspondence for assistance in obtaining funds and support to complete this section of Highway 17. The board agreed a letter was appropriate. Mr. Kirkland volunteered to work with Chair Tyson to put something in writing for the board review and approval. Members agreed to this.

## Motion: Ms. Mitchell made a motion in support of Chair Tyson and Mayor Kirkland drafting a letter to the Governor requesting support in completing portions of Highway 17, from Greenville to New Bern. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tyson and passed unanimously.

Ms. Maxey relayed that there are two projects on Highway 17 that should receive enough points to be funded if the members agree with the deviation in the methodology being suggested by the staff. This would require taking points from other projects and maximizing the points for these two Highway 17 projects. Mr. Tyson confirmed with Mr. Rouse that this change in points is allowable.

Ms. Maxey advised staff is requesting approval from the TAC to move points around, giving the two Highway 17 projects 100 points each to aid in their getting funded. Chair Tyson questioned if the RPO members have been included in this deviation discussion. Ms. Maxey advised they have, and in fact are making the same deviations, giving these projects top scores as well.

Chair Tyson requested that next year the subcommittee meet to discuss the projects and scoring, rather than each committee member scoring them individually. Ms. Maxey agreed and advised federal time constraints diminished the opportunity for staff to schedule a subcommittee meeting. This was not the way staff intended the process to unfold and will ensure meetings are scheduled appropriately during the SPOT 5.0 process. Chair Tyson questioned if the TAC and TCC could meet together during SPOT 5.0 to discuss the projects. Ms. Maxey agreed this would be beneficial.

> Ms. Chapman relayed project NC 43 is close to the cutoff, and giving it 100 points will improve the chance this project gets funded at the Division level. The Division office provided the MPO 100 points to three projects; Highway 17 , NC 43 and the MLK/Neuse roundabout. The roundabout, although submitted, was not the number one project after scoring and discussion. The number one highway project in our area is the First Street road diet. If we provide this project with 100 points and the board makes a motion that the points be moved from the roundabout project to First Street, this would increase the chances of this project receiving funding. Another project with importance from the members of the MPO are improvements to Old Airport Road. This project scored very low, so regardless of the number of points the MPO provides, it will not reach funding at the Division level. Removing points from this project and moving to the others being recommended will aid in these projects receiving higher scores.

The remainder of the scores will be submitted as presented.
Motion: Mr. Welch made a motion to approve staff recommendations to deviate from the methodology, providing additional points to the First Street road diet, Highway 17 and NC 43. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tyson and passed unanimously.

## 9. Statement of Economic Interest (SEI) and Real Estate Disclosure (RED) Form: Maurizia Chapman

Ms. Maxey reminded members that they will be required to resubmit the Ethics forms in the coming year. Staff will send a reminder to board members. The due date is in April.
10. Discussion: Ms. Maxey relayed that due to today's special called meeting, staff does not feel that holding the regularly scheduled meeting in November is necessary.

The board members agreed. The next meeting will be held in January as scheduled.
Mr. Tyson and General Overholt questioned Ms. Walker on the number of driver vacancies within CARTS. Ms. Walker noted they have made some progress on filling the vacant positions. General Overholt recommended raising the salary of the drivers. Ms. Mitchell recommended increasing the advertising coverage for these positions. She feels Taberna and Carolina Colours may have retired residents that would be interested in these part time driver positions. Both communities have their own mail system, so reaching residents would be relatively easy. Chair Tyson relayed he would be happy to work with Ms. Walker in drafting a letter to these areas.

General Overholt verified specifics of the upcoming NCAMPO Annual Conference hosted by NBAMPO in April 2017. He offered support in assisting staff with needs for the conference.
11. Adjourn: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

