

45 **4. Action:** Approve September 26, 2013 Minutes.

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47 Reading of the minutes was waived.

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49 **Motion** was made by Mr. Chuck Tyson to accept the minutes as presented. Mr. John
50 Kirkland seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved.

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52 **5. Presentation:** Finalized new funding and scoring legislation – Mr. Behshad Norowzi,
53 NCDOT

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55 Mr. Norowzi advised there had been previous confusion on the strategic mobile formula (SMF).

56 The STI legislation has had its first update to funding since 1989.

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58 He provided a video done by the NCDOT that summarizes the plan, as well as a PowerPoint
59 explaining in greater detail.

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61 After viewing the video, Chair Tyson questioned why the revenue is down. Mr. Norowzi
62 advised there is less gas consumption, therefore less revenue. Mr. John Rouse advised the gas
63 tax has leveled off, which is something the state relies heavily upon. He explained that the
64 counties in North Carolina do not maintain any portion of the road system; the responsibility
65 falls completely on the state and the municipalities. North Carolina is also the second largest
66 Ferry state which requires heavy upkeep and therefore heavy cost.

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68 Mr. John Kirkland noted the state does a poor job of sharing how many miles of highway are
69 maintained, noting the cost of building highways continues to rise.

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71 Chair Tyson questioned if there was an effective way to fix the problems. Mr. Rouse noted there
72 was not. Residents of North Carolina view transportation as a right, and feel they shouldn't have
73 to pay taxes on the road system. But he explained this is more like a utility in that there is an
74 ongoing cost to have it maintained, breaking it down as a phone, electric or water bill. He feels
75 elected officials should be clearer with the public in explaining this.

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77 Mr. Rouse continued explaining there was an indexed gas tax at one time, but this was eventually
78 capped so it couldn't go up. Meanwhile the number of gallons being consumed continues to
79 decline.

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81 Chair Tyson stated some legislation has been considered for changes. Mr. Rouse advised there
82 are no bonds for road construction at the state level, although it should be suggested as an
83 alternative.

84

85 Mr. Norowzi began his Powerpoint presentation and advised there had been previous confusion
86 on the strategic mobile formula (SMF). The STI legislation has had its first update to funding
87 since 1989.

88

89 Mr. Norowzi explained that funding is going down, while needs are going up. The hope is the

90 new plan will help accomplish more for less. Funding is decreasing for many reasons, one of
91 which is the gas tax revenue. Not as many people are consuming gas, therefore the state is
92 earning less revenue to circulate back into funding. The example provided noted an increase
93 population by 1.3 million people, versus a decrease in revenue projections by \$1.7 billion.

94
95 The tiered breakdown in statewide, regional and division project needs and funding was
96 discussed. Mr. Ruggieri questioned the data provided. Mr. Norowzi explained the cost benefit
97 analysis on congestion and safety data was done by a third party company. The future plans will
98 use a statewide model that is currently being developed and refined.

99
100 In discussing the points system, Mr. Rouse advised the New Bern Area MPO will get 1,100
101 points to assign for the regional as well as their division, to distribute among the tiers. He noted
102 100 points is the maximum amount of points allowed to be assigned one individual project. Mr.
103 Norowzi followed up stating thus the reason to combine with our region on projects, so as to
104 maximize points and funds.

105
106 Mr. Chuck Tyson expressed an interest in the bicycle/pedestrian plan, noting that his community,
107 Trent Woods, has received safety concerns from its citizens regarding the state maintained roads.
108 They have obtained a grant to hire a consultant for planning and will hold public meetings to
109 gather resident input, then will create a board of citizens to review the information and create a
110 plan. At this point Mr. Tyson advised their next step will be to identify the greatest areas of
111 concern within their community and hire an engineer to determine what options they have. Mr.
112 Tyson questioned once they have completed this process, what are the next steps in submitting
113 the proposal for consideration. Mr. Rouse noted he will then submit to the NBAMPO for
114 consideration. He also noted that considering Trent Woods has obtained a grant and will match
115 funds, that will help lower the need from the local and regional tiers. They will also receive a
116 50% return on their allocations. Mr. Tyson questioned the time frame expected to accomplish
117 this. Mr. Rouse suggested they submit their project as soon as possible for consideration, but
118 that it will be put into the rotation of the 2-year cycle.

119
120 Chair Tyson questioned when is the ideal time to start submitting projects for consideration. Mr.
121 Rouse suggested the board reach out to the other municipalities to see what each of their needs
122 are within the MPO boundaries. Mr. Jeff Cabaniss noted part of the methodology is to
123 incorporate public comments and suggestions, therefore public forums will be required.

124
125 Mr. Ruggieri stated the MPO is entering into the process therefore everything is new, but
126 progression has been steady. He will put together meetings at the state level, MPO level and
127 RPO level to begin work sessions for discussion. He noted the MPO transportation model for
128 the region is being created. Once complete, they will have a better idea how to move forward.

129
130 Mr. Rouse summarized previous TCC discussion that suggestions he had heard today alone
131 included James City, Williams Road, Old Cherry Point Road, Bryce's Creek Road and Racetrack
132 Road. That provides a fairly solid starting point. He reminded the group not to get hung up on
133 big projects, but to focus on the small ones that may have fallen between the cracks, noting the
134 State and Regional tiers should be focusing on the larger projects.

135 Mr. Ruggieri noted the area is not growing at a rate to make capacity an issue, but we do have
136 major safety concerns and some design concerns as well.

137

138 **6. Discussion:** Safety Discussion Points – Jeff Ruggieri

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140 Mr. Ruggieri advised the November meeting will provide a more detailed presentation from a
141 member of the NCDOT. He noted Mr. Steve Hamilton advised the TCC members that the State
142 Department of Transportation was holding their first meeting to discuss James City and Highway
143 70 safety concerns. Next month Mr. Hamilton will provide an update on the outcome of this
144 initial meeting.

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146 **7. Discussion:** Update on Ivo Dernev – Jeff Ruggieri

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148 Mr. Ruggieri advised Mr. Ivo Dernev was offered and accepted another position in the private
149 sector. He noted Mr. Behshad Norowzi would be filling in until his position was filled. Mr.
150 Norowzi advised they lost three people in one week's time. He noted Ivo's position was posted
151 on Tuesday and will close on Tuesday, November 5th. He hopes to have a replacement hired by
152 the beginning of December, noting he does have a couple of strong candidates.

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154 **8. Other Business: Bicycle & Pedestrian Grants**

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156 Mr. Ruggieri advised he received an email from NCDOT that they are accepting proposals from
157 communities for the 2014 Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant Initiative. The deadline for
158 submittal is Thursday, December 19th at 5:00 p.m. Grant recipients will be notified in June,
159 2014.

160

161 This program gives municipalities across the state an opportunity to develop comprehensive
162 bicycle and pedestrian plans. For the first time municipalities with populations under 5,000 will
163 also have the option of developing these plans. The program is sponsored by the department's
164 Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation and the Transportation Planning Branch.
165 Approximately \$3.8 million has been awarded through this program to 143 municipalities across
166 the state since its inception in 2004.

167

168 Mr. Chuck Tyson advised Trent Woods has received funding to start their plan. Mr. Ruggieri
169 advised the City of New Bern has already done their study. He noted more communities may be
170 interested, and if so, to contact him before the December deadline.

171

172 **Change in day for November meeting.**

173

174 Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the November meeting will be held on the 4th Tuesday of the
175 month, which will be November 26th.

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177 **9. Public Comment:** N/A

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180 **10. Adjourn**

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182 There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Steve Tyson, Chairman

Jeff Ruggieri, Secretary