

1 **NEW BERN AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**
2 **TAC MEETING MINUTES**

3
4 **January 23, 2014**

5
6 The New Bern Area Metropolitan Planning Organization held its regularly scheduled meeting on
7 Thursday, January 23, 2014 at 11:00 AM in the City Hall Courtroom, 2nd floor, 300 Pollock
8 Street.

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10 **Members Present:** Mr. Steve Tyson – Chairman
11 Mr. John Chittick – Bridgeton
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14 Mr. Chuck Tyson – Trent Woods
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16 **Members Excused:** Mr. Johnnie Ray Kinsey – Vice Chairman
17 Mr. John Kirkland – River Bend
18
19 **Non-Voting Members:** Ms. Jill Stark – NCDOT – Present
20 Mr. Terry Jordan – CARTS – Present
21 Mr. Patrick Flanagan – DERPO - Present
22 Mr. Beshad Norowzi – NCDOT – Present
23 Mr. John Rouse – NCDOT – Present
24
25 **Members Absent:**
26
27 **Guests Present:** Mr. Don Baumgardner – Craven County
28 Mr. Gene Hodges – Craven County
29 Mr. Jeff Cabaniss - NCDOT
30
31 **Staff Present:** Ms. Kimberly Maxey
32 Mr. Jeff Ruggieri – TCC Chairman
33 Ms. Maurizia Chapman –New Bern MPO Administrator
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- 35
36 **New Business:**
37
38 **1. Call to Order:** Chairman Mr. Steve Tyson called the meeting to order.
39
40 **2. Roll call** was taken and a quorum was declared.
41
42 **3. Action:** Ethics Statement

43
44 Ms. Jill stark requested members that may have a conflict to please advise. No members had any
45 conflict of interests. Chair Tyson requested an update from members on the status of their ethics

46 paperwork. Mr. Chittick advised he still had not completed the paperwork. Ms. Maxey will
47 email the necessary information and web links for his completion.

48 **4. Action:** Election of Officers

49
50 Chair Tyson opened the meeting for Chair and Vice-Chair nominations. Mr. Chuck Tyson
51 nominated current Chairman, Steve Tyson, to maintain the Chair position and Vice-Chair
52 Kinsey, to maintain his current position. Mr. Chittick seconded the motion. Appointment was
53 unanimously approved.

54
55 **5. Action:** Approve November 26, 2013 Minutes. Reading of the minutes was waived.

56
57 **Motion** was made by Mr. Chuck Tyson to accept the minutes as presented. Chair Tyson
58 seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved.

59
60 **6. Introduction:** New MPO Administrator, Maurizia Chapman – Jeff Ruggieri

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62 Mr. Ruggieri introduced Ms. Chapman as the new MPO Administrator. Ms. Chapman came to
63 New Bern from Fayetteville where she worked for 28 years, 22 of which with the MPO. Mr.
64 Ruggieri advised the group Ms. Chapman came highly recommended and has hit the ground
65 running since starting with the City of New Bern on January 13th.

66
67 **7. Introduction:** New TPB MPO Coordinator – Behshad Norowzi

68
69 Mr. Norowzi advised they did hire a new TPB Coordinator, Priya Nimbole, but unfortunately she
70 was unable to attend today's meeting due to illness. He will delay her introduction until the
71 February meeting. He did advise the group that Ms. Nimbole was already a TPB employee, is
72 technically strong and will bring much to the department.

73
74 **8. Action:** Functional Classification System Draft Map – Jeff Ruggieri/Maurizia Chapman

75
76 Mr. Ruggieri explained to the members that this map was discussed during the TCC meeting and
77 the members recommended TAC approval. He advised the map in question has been discussed
78 with the group in previous meetings and had been approved but not properly. While it was not
79 included in member packets for current meeting, it will be provided next month.

80
81 Ms. Jill Stark noted the letter provides the opportunity for the NCDOT to double check the map
82 and traffic patterns provided by our MPO. This coincides with the overhaul done every ten years
83 when the Census comes out, giving the department an opportunity to review traffic flows on
84 roads.

85
86 Chair Tyson read the letter to the TAC members.

87
88 **Motion** was made by Mr. Chuck Tyson recommending approval. Mr. John Chittick
89 seconded the motion. Approval for the TAC Chairman to sign off on the Functional
90 Classification Draft map was unanimously approved.

91
92
93 **9. Update: TPB / Project Prioritization Schedule – Behshad Norowzi**
94

95 Mr. Norowzi advised of a meeting held in December with Chair Ruggieri, staff and himself in
96 which the requirements of MPO Methodology for projects was discussed. There have been a
97 couple of changes to the PowerPoint previously reviewed. Each member was provided an
98 updated copy. The deadline for new projects has been extended from January 17th to January
99 27th through February 24th. During this time the MPO can enter new projects.

100
101 Mr. Norowzi explained the methodology must be completed and presented by April 10th, but
102 they hope to have this done prior to that date. The projects will be presented for public input
103 prior to finalized approval.

104
105 Mr. Norowzi is working on the transportation model. The new schedule and model will be
106 completed and calibrated for presentation to both MPO groups. Any impact of traffic flow will
107 be reviewed and discussed. This model is required to determine 2016 simulation of what traffic
108 currently is and what expectations they have for future traffic. This will allow preparation and
109 planning for this growth.

110
111 Mr. Chuck Tyson noted that his community, Trent Woods, began exploring pedestrian path plans
112 over a year ago. The committee created applied for and were awarded a state grant to complete
113 the plan. The committee will be presenting the finalized project for public input at a Trent
114 Woods meeting to be held on February 5th. Mr. Tyson feels the community and commissioners
115 will approve this long term comprehensive plan. Working under the assumption it will be
116 approved, Mr. Tyson questioned if there was time for them to submit this plan into the projects
117 being considered.

118
119 Mr. Norowzi confirmed there would be time for him to submit for consideration. He noted the
120 next scheduled MPO meeting isn't until February 27th, which is after the deadline for projects to
121 be submitted; February 24th. He suggested that perhaps a special called meeting would need to
122 be scheduled. The members agreed and if available, a tentative date was set for Thursday,
123 February 20th. Members will confirm availability.

124
125 Chair Tyson requested the list of projects currently being considered. Mr. Norowzi advised he
126 would email all members with the updated project list.

127
128 Mr. Flanagan recommended Mr. Tyson submit the pedestrian plan as soon as possible, noting if
129 the town plans on putting grant funds towards the project, they will need to include a Letter of
130 Intent with their submission so the group is informed of the grant during consideration.

131
132 Mr. Chuck Tyson brought up the topic of ferry boats and requested clarification on responsibility
133 for the cost of upkeep and replacement of these vessels.

134
135 Mr. Flanagan advised the dates for upcoming meetings regarding ferry tolls were just announced

136 yesterday. Ms. Maxey has that information and will email the members. He advised of the date
137 and location of the closest meeting for our area. Summarizing, Mr. Flanagan explained under
138 new law the DOT will outline ferry tolls for routes based on ridership. Ferries that fall under
139 MPO/RPO jurisdictions will determine what amount will be chosen, if any, to toll their particular
140 ferry route. If no toll is implemented, the costs will fall under the responsibility of Division II,
141 which would impact the MPO/RPO budget.

142
143 Mr. Tyson verified that ferry tolls would help keep more funds open to be delegated to roads.
144 Mr. Flanagan confirmed. Mr. Tyson noted that the bottom line is we must pay for the ferries one
145 way or another, and the tolls would help supplement monies for road improvements. He
146 questioned who makes the decision for funds being set aside for ferry expenses. Mr. Flanagan
147 advised the Division Engineer is responsible for planning; some do this better than others.

148
149 Mr. Chittick requested factual data comparing ridership numbers versus costs versus toll
150 expense. Mr. Flanagan advised he has that data and would email it to members. Mr. Chittick
151 advised the public perception is based on opinion rather than substantial data and questioned how
152 to combat that opinion. Mr. Flanagan understands as the ferries in the RPO are commuter ferries
153 compared to the ferries along the outer banks which tend to be more for tourists. Regardless the
154 ferries are competing for the same dollars, as are all the modes of transportation.

155
156 Ms. Stark agreed with Mr. Chittick that the public needs more education and bottom line data to
157 compare. She noted for this year with the new criteria, the time demands are too short to create a
158 balanced comparison for public viewing, but agreed future education needs to be considered.

159
160 Mr. Ruggieri noted representatives from the Ferry Division did speak to our MPO groups. He
161 requested Ms. Maxey find the PowerPoint that was presented in that meeting and forward to each
162 member. Mr. Flanagan will also provide additional data.

163
164 **10. Administrative Comments – Maurizia Chapman**

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166 Ms. Chapman went over the Fiscal 2014 Unified Planning Work Program. There will be a
167 budget amendment next month that will require action. For the 2015 draft, she will work with
168 Federal, State and transit recipients.

169
170 Ms. Chapman informed the members of the upcoming MPO Conference being held in
171 Wilmington, May 14-16. She is trying to get funding for the NBAMPO TCC and TAC members
172 to attend. She had a discussion with the Transportation Planning Branch regarding funding that
173 will cover registration and two nights hotel stay. Members would be responsible for meals and
174 transportation to and from the conference. Lunch Thursday and breakfast Friday will be
175 included with the conference, so meal expense will be somewhat minimal. Ms. Chapman is
176 requesting members let her know by February 14th if they will attend. This provides ample time
177 to verify funding and pre-register for a lower fee. She will email all members so they will have
178 her contact information.

179
180 Ms. Chapman advised she and Chair Ruggieri have discussed the need for an MPO website and

181 are working on details of creating one. She hopes to have something up and running within a
182 few months. Part of the MPO website will be dedicated to a calendar that will maintain pertinent
183 dates for Federal and State requirements, as well as meetings and public hearings.

184

185 **11. Public Comment:** N/A

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187 **12. Adjourn**

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

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Steve Tyson, Chairman

Jeff Ruggieri, Secretary