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**TCC MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 11, 2024**

10 The New Bern Area Metropolitan Planning Organization held their regularly scheduled meeting  
11 on Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 1:30 pm in the Development Services Conference Room, 303  
12 First Street, as well as via Zoom.

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**Members Present:**

Mr. Gene Hodges – Chairman, Craven County  
Mr. Don Baumgardner – Craven County  
Mr. Andy Shorter – Coastal Carolina Regional Airport  
Mr. George Chiles – New Bern  
Ms. Jessie Rhue – New Bern  
Mr. Kevin Roberts – New Bern Chamber of Commerce  
Ms. Kelly Walker – CARTS  
Mr. Roham Lahiji – NCDOT  
Mr. Len White – NCDOT  
Mr. Jim Evans – NCDOT  
Mr. Jeremy Stroud – NCDOT  
Ms. Amanda Killian – NCDOT  
Ms. Becca Eversole – Down-East RPO (non-voting)  
Mr. Bill Marley – Federal Highway Administration (non-voting)  
Mr. Rusty Thompson – NCDOT (non-voting)  
Mr. Robert Gough – New Bern (non-voting)  
Mr. Chad Strawn – Craven County (non-voting)

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**Members Absent:**

Mr. Delane Jackson – Vice-Chairman, River Bend  
Mr. Bill Howard – Bridgeton  
Mr. Mike Harber – Trent Woods

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**Staff Present:**

Ms. Deanna Trebil – New Bern Area MPO

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**Guests Present:**

Mr. Dwayne Alligood – Craven County  
Ms. Heather Lane - NCDOT  
Mr. Joel Strickland – Consultant, McAdams

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**1. Call to Order:** Chairman Hodges called the meeting to order at 1:32 PM.

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**2. Adoption of Agenda**

**Motion: Mr. Shorter made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roberts and passed unanimously.**

**3. Public Comment**

No members of the public were present.

**4. Election of TCC Chairman and Vice-Chairman:**

**Motion: Mr. Shorter made a motion to re-elect Mr. Hodges as Chairman. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roberts and passed unanimously.**

**Motion: Mr. Shorter made a motion to re-elect Mr. Jackson as Vice-Chairman. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roberts and passed unanimously.**

**Consent Items**

- 5. October 12, 2023 Minutes:**
- 6. 2024-2033 MTIP Amendment 4**
- 7. 2024-2033 MTIP Amendment 5**
- 8. FY 25 Annual Self-Certification**

**Motion: Mr. Baumgardner made a motion to approve the consent items as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rhue and passed unanimously.**

**9. FY 24 UPWP Amendment 1**

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) guides MPO planning activities for the fiscal year and identifies a program of work for reimbursement through annual planning grants received from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transportation Administration (FTA). From time to time, amendments are required to add or remove funding and/or shift resources between work task codes.

UPWP Amendment 1 is needed to reallocate funding to two new tasks to begin work on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and to evaluate whether microtransit service is a feasible delivery option for CARTS. No increase in funding is being requested. The total PL 104 budget remains at \$244,475 and the budget for Section 5303 remains at \$60,080.

In accordance with the Public Involvement Plan, there is a minimum of fourteen (14) days for the public to provide comments. Amendment 1 to the FY 24 UPWP was posted to the NBAMPO website on December 18, 2023 and public comment will be received until January 18, 2024.

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88 **Motion: Mr. Baumgardner made a motion to recommend approval of the FY**  
89 **24 UPWP Amendment 1 to the TAC. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rhue**  
90 **and passed unanimously.**

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92 **10. FY 25 UPWP Draft**

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94 Each year the New Bern Area MPO produces a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)  
95 to outline expenditures necessary to carry out planning activities by the MPO and its  
96 member agencies during the upcoming fiscal year. NCDOT requires the UPWP be  
97 adopted and submitted by March 29, 2024 for the coming fiscal year.

98  
99 The draft FY 2025 UPWP is similar to the current year's budget and is created to further  
100 the operational objectives identified by the TCC and TAC. The work program accounts  
101 for all direct operating expenses to include corridor studies, updating the Metropolitan  
102 Transportation Plan, and more.

103  
104 In accordance with the Public Involvement Plan, there is a minimum of fourteen (14)  
105 days for the public to provide comments. The FY 25 UPWP was posted to the NBAMPO  
106 website on January 4, 2024 and public comment will be received until January 18,  
107 2024.

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109 Ms. Trebil shared each member agency's pro rata share percentage will change since it  
110 is based off the latest Census population count.

111  
112 She also provided an overview of Microtransit and its characteristics.

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114 **Motion: Ms. Rhue made a motion to recommend approval of the FY 25 UPWP**  
115 **to the TAC. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roberts and passed**  
116 **unanimously.**

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118 **11. Local Input Methodology**

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120 The Strategic Transportation Investments (STI) law (GS – 136 – 189.10 and .11), enacted  
121 in 2013, directs the NCDOT to select and fund major capital improvement projects using  
122 a data-driven prioritization process in combination with local input. NCDOT provided  
123 guidance for each MPO, RPO, and Division to develop and implement a local input point  
124 methodology that maintains criteria transparency, material availability, and process  
125 documentation while maximizing the opportunity for public review and input. This Local  
126 Input Methodology must use a minimum of two criteria. One criterion must be a  
127 qualitative criterion and one criterion may either be a qualitative or quantitative criterion.  
128 This document represents the NBAMPO's efforts to follow the guidance and requirements  
129 of NCDOT.

130  
131 This draft Local Input Methodology is being presented to both Boards for review and  
132 discussion. It has also been posted on to the NBAMPO website on December 29, 2023  
133 seeking public comment until February 1, 2024. The final Local Input Methodology will

134 be presented to the Technical Coordinating Committee on February 8, 2024 seeking a  
135 recommendation for approval by the Transportation Advisory Committee on March 28,  
136 2024. The approved Local Input Methodology must be submitted to NCDOT for their  
137 approval by May 1, 2024.

138  
139 Ms. Trebil stated that this P7 Local Input Methodology is different from the P6 one. The  
140 criteria and weights are now focused on four areas: Community Importance Assessment,  
141 Project Readiness, Transportation Performance Management, and the P7 Quantitative  
142 Score.

143  
144 Mr. Shorter clarified that this methodology allows the MPO to rack and stack the projects  
145 to identify which projects the MPO would like to focus their local input points on.

146  
147 Ms. Trebil stated that after reivew by both the TCC and the TAC, the methodology would  
148 be published on the MPO's website for public comment. Once approved, the methodology  
149 would then be submitted to NCDOT.

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151 **Motion: Mr. Shorter made a motion to recommend the draft P7 Local Input**  
152 **Methodology to the TAC. The motion was seconded by Mr. Baumgardner and**  
153 **passed unanimously.**

## 154 155 **12. Carbon Reduction Funding**

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157 The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) codified the Carbon Reduction  
158 Program (CRP) in an effort to reduce transportation emissions. Federal funding is given  
159 to states to use statewide (CRP-Anywhere) as well as a direct apportionment to MPOs.  
160 These funds can be used on a wide range of projects that reduce emissions such as  
161 traffic management, public transportation, congestion management, construction of  
162 sidewalks, and more. CRP funded projects are 80% federal funded with a 20% non-  
163 federal match for projects. However, NCDOT funds the local match for CRP-Anywhere  
164 projects. The CRP is a five-year federal funding stream that began in 2022.

165  
166 The MPO has been working with NCDOT to utilize the CRP-Anywhere funding to identify  
167 a project that meets this criteria. The intersection of Trent Blvd/Rhem Ave/Pollock  
168 Street/First Street has been previously identified as needing improvement. An express  
169 design had been completed for this project to convert the intersection to a roundabout  
170 at a cost of ± \$6.2M. The entire cost of this project would be funded by NCDOT and  
171 CRP-Anywhere funds if selected.

172  
173 Project applications may be submitted anytime to NCDOT who then reviews the  
174 projects and informs applicants if and when the project is selected. The MPO and  
175 NCDOT are currently working on completing the application. We are hopeful that this  
176 project will get selected since it has been identified as a high crash frequency  
177 intersection and NCDOT Division 2 supports this project.

179 After much discussion on this intersection regarding safety and congestion, it was  
180 requested that Division Traffic evaluate this corridor to see if there are any  
181 improvements that could be made to the signalized intersections to improve congestion.  
182

183 Both Ms. Rhue and Mr. Chiles stated both that the City supports this project. Ms.  
184 Eversole also commented that she supports this project.  
185

186 It was the consensus of the Board to continue work towards applying for this funding  
187 and to recommend further discussion with the TAC. It was also suggested to inquire if  
188 the application is submitted does that obligate the applicant to obligate the local match  
189 in the event priorities change for MPO and/or Division.  
190

## 191 **Updates**

### 192 **13. MPO: NBAMPO Staff**

- 194 • Ms. Trebil informed everyone that Ms. Felicia McRee had a baby girl, Raydale  
195 Flynn, on December 19<sup>th</sup>. Mom and baby are doing well.
- 196 • NCDOT's Corridor Identification and Development Program recently was awarded  
197 a federal grant on several corridors. While the Morehead City to Raleigh Corridor  
198 was not one of them, NCDOT intends to start a study in the next year or so to  
199 begin evaluating the feasibility of adding passenger rail.  
200

### 201 **14. CARTS: Kelly Walker**

- 202 • Ms. Walker stated ridership continues to grow with just over 5,000 trips in  
203 November.
- 204 • Outreach efforts continue with participation in NC Works Resource and Job Fair  
205 on March 27, 2024 at the Riverfront Convention Center.
- 206 • Hiring for an office assistant and should have almost a full staffed driver pool  
207

### 208 **15. NCDOT Transportation Planning Division (TPD): Amanda Killian**

- 209 • Ms. Killian stated the NC Rail division was recently awarded a \$1.1B grant for the  
210 S line from Raleigh to Richmond.
- 211 • Steering committee meeting for Carteret CTP on February 7, 2024.  
212

### 213 **16. NCDOT Integrated Mobility Division (IMD): Kim Nguyen - Absent**

### 214 **17. NCDOT Division 2: Len White**

- 215 • Mr. White presented the Construction Report
- 216 • The James City project continues to ramp up. August 2025 for completion;  
217 working on service roads.
- 218 • The second roundabout at Grantham Rd is expected to open in a couple of  
219 weeks.
- 220 • The Havelock Bypass is at the point where it will start impacting traffic with lane  
221 shifts and traffic control. It is anticipated that it will open Fall of 2024.  
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**18. EWN:** *Andy Shorter*

- EWN had a good holiday travel season. Nationwide regional service is down 30% but American's future service in the summer has more seats than in 2019.
- Mr. Shorter gave a quick update on the airport projects both of which are expected to be complete this year.
- Next year, they plan to submit a grant to improve the airline spaces
- Currently out for bid to clear 90 acres to create a corporate air space development area on the Old Airport side.
- The environmental assessment for the Williams Rd project is still ongoing and expected to be complete in April and requested assistance with NCDOT on design, construction, and estimates.

**19. Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:17 PM.

ATTEST:

  
Deanna Trebil  
MPO Administrator

  
Gene Hodges, Chairman  
Technical Coordinating Committee