

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

3
4 **October 24, 2013**
5

6 The New Bern Area Metropolitan Planning Organization held its regularly scheduled meeting on
7 Thursday, October 24, 2013 at 10:00 AM in the City Hall Courtroom, 2nd floor, 300 Pollock
8 Street.
9

10 **Members Present:**

11 Mr. Jeff Ruggieri – Chair
12 Mr. Gene Hodges – Vice-Chair
13 Mr. David Fort – Bridgeton
14 Mr. Terry Jordan – CARTS
15 Mr. Don Baumgardner – Craven County
16 Mr. Jeff Cabaniss – NCDOT
17 Mr. Steve Hamilton – NCDOT
18 Mr. Behshad Norowzi – NCDOT
19 Mr. Tom Braaten – NB Regional Airport
20 Ms. Cheryl Leonard - NCDOT

21 **Members Excused:**

22 Mr. Jordan Hughes – City of New Bern
23 Mr. Patrick Flanagan – Down East RPO
24 Ms. Jill Stark – FHWA
25 Mr. Kevin Roberts – NB Chamber of Commerce

26 **Members Absent:**

27 Mr. Drew Havens – River Bend

28 **Guests Present:**

29 Mr. John Rouse - NCDOT

30 **Staff Present:**

31 Ms. Kimberly Langley
32

33 **New Business:**

- 34
35 **1. Call to Order:** Chairman Mr. Jeff Ruggieri called the meeting to order
36
37 **2. Action:** Kim Langley took roll call. A quorum was declared.
38
39 **3. Action:** Approve minutes from August 22, 2013 & September 26, 2013 meetings.
40

41 Reading of the minutes was waived.
42

43 **Motion** was made by Mr. Steve Hamilton to accept the minutes as presented. Motion
44 was seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved.

45 **4. Presentation:** Finalized new funding and scoring legislation – Mr. Behshad Norowzi,
46 NCDOT

47
48 Mr. Norowzi advised there had been previous confusion on the strategic mobile formula (SMF).
49 The STI legislation has had its first update to funding since 1989.

50
51 He provided a video done by the NCDOT that summarized the plan, as well as a PowerPoint
52 explaining in greater detail.

53
54 Mr. Norowzi explained that funding is going down, while needs are going up. The hope is the
55 new plan will help accomplish more for less. Funding is decreasing for many reasons, one of
56 which is the gas tax revenue. Not as many people are consuming gas, therefore the state is
57 earning less revenue to circulate back into funding. The example provided noted an increase
58 population by 1.3 million people, versus a decrease in revenue projections by \$1.7 billion.

59
60 The tiered breakdown in statewide, regional and division project needs and funding was
61 discussed. Mr. Ruggieri questioned the data provided. Mr. Norowzi explained the cost benefit
62 analysis on congestion and safety data was done by a third party company. The future plans will
63 use a statewide model that is currently being developed and refined.

64
65 Mr. Braaten reported that while attending an airport conference the previous week, he has
66 concerns that the regional and division funds will be limited based on the roll down of projects
67 from the State. Mr. Norowzi agreed that state has heavy project needs, but stated that priority
68 rankings on Regional and Division projects can de-prioritize the trickle down from the state. The
69 MPO's and RPO's have more input on the regional and division needs than before.

70
71 Mr. Steve Hamilton questioned whether funding out of all three categories could be designated
72 for one project. Mr. Norowzi advised if a project is not fully funded by state funds, then it could
73 be supplemented with regional and division funds. He added that there are caps on how much
74 funding can go to one project, citing if not, there are some projects that could absorb all the funds
75 from each tier.

76
77 While discussing the level of local input on the regional and division levels, Mr. Hamilton
78 questioned if the 15% of local PO input includes more than one MPO/RPO. Mr. Norowzi
79 advised that to be correct. Each PO gets a certain amount of money/points. Mr. Ruggieri
80 questioned how that division ranks in local MPO/RPO. Mr. Norowzi noted local points are
81 appointed by each PO and all PO's collaborate, trying to combine points and projects. Mr.
82 Cabaniss reiterated that most PO's work together to accomplish more.

83
84 Mr. Norowzi went over the Prioritization schedule for the upcoming years, noting key due dates
85 for data.

90 **5. Discussion:** Safety Discussion Points – Mr. Jeff Ruggieri

91
92 Mr. Ruggieri handed out discussion points for each member to consider. There will be a
93 presenter from the FHA attending the November meeting, at which time more information will
94 be discussed.

95
96 Mr. Steve Hamilton advised there is an internal State Department of Transportation meeting
97 taking place at 10:30am today to review the Kimley-Horn concept for the James City area.
98 During this meeting participants will compare options for short term, interim fixes. The goal
99 will be to reduce accidents and improve things in that area.

100
101 Mr. Ruggieri questioned what type of time frame they will be looking at and potential ideas. Mr.
102 Hamilton noted this is their kick-off meeting in which they will re-consider previous
103 recommendations, compare options and then evaluate what's more feasible. Then will create
104 options in how to proceed.

105
106 Mr. Ruggieri asked what part Mr. Haywood Daughtry played in this. Mr. Hamilton advised Mr.
107 Daughtry is the man with funding for the transport and mobility group. This group has the safety
108 funds. They will assist in developing cost scenarios, work up a cost analysis then determine
109 affective options that will be most effective given the limited funding. These ideas will then be
110 presented to the group for consideration. Mr. Ruggieri noted he hopes they will provide at least
111 three viable options for consideration.

112
113 Mr. Tom Braaten advised he, Mr. Chuck Tyson and Mr. Don Baumgardner stood at an
114 intersection in James City during rush hour to watch the traffic flow. Mr. Braaten noted during
115 this hour they did see some areas of improvement but their suggestions may require moving
116 utilities.

117
118 Mr. Ruggieri questioned if Mr. John Rouse and Mr. Jeff Cabaniss should be involved with the
119 meeting being held today on this topic. Mr. Rouse advised not yet. He noted this precludes a
120 discussion until ideas are determined and presented based on the outcome of the group meeting
121 today.

122
123 Mr. Hamilton advised studies and reports have been done in the area, with a separate report
124 being done on the James City area. The second report was more comprehensive for traffic flows
125 from Raleigh to Morehead City.

126
127 Mr. Ruggieri requested an update be provided during the November 26th meeting from Mr.
128 Hamilton on the outcome of the kick-off meeting today.

129
130 **6. Discussion:** Update on Ivo Dernev – Mr. Jeff Ruggieri

131
132 Mr. Ruggieri advised Mr. Ivo Dernev was offered and accepted another position in the private
133 sector. He noted Mr. Behshad Norowzi would be filling in until his position was filled. Mr.
134 Norowzi advised they lost three people in one week's time. He noted Ivo's position was posted

135 on Tuesday and will close on Tuesday, November 5th. He hopes to have a replacement hired by
136 the beginning of December, noting he does have a couple of strong candidates.

137

138

139 **7. Other Business:**

140

141

a. Bicycle & Pedestrian Grants – Mr. Jeff Ruggieri

142

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

146

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

153

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

157

158 Mr. Don Baumgarnder noted there had been some discussion regarding Old Cherry Point Road.
159 Concerns have been raised on the amount of traffic flow on that road, noting it does not have
160 sidewalks. This road has heavy foot traffic.

161

162 Mr. Ruggieri advised Williams Road and Bryce's Creek Road are two other areas that need to be
163 considered as well.

164

165 **b. Change in day for November meeting.** Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the
166 November meeting will be held on the 4th Tuesday of the month, which will be
167 November 26th.

168

169 **8. Public Comment:** N/A

170

171 **9. Adjourn**

172

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

174

175

176 _____
Jeff Ruggieri, Chairman

Kim Langley, Secretary