

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

3
4 **March 27, 2014**
5

6 The New Bern Area Metropolitan Planning Organization held its regularly scheduled meeting on
7 Thursday, March 27, 2014 at 9:00 AM in the City Hall Courtroom, 2nd floor, 300 Pollock Street.
8

9 **Members Present:** Mr. Jeff Ruggieri - Chair
10 Mr. Gene Hodges – Vice-Chair
11 Mr. Don Baumgardner, Craven County
12 Mr. Tom Braaten – NB Regional Airport
13 Ms. Maurizia Chapman – -New Bern Area MPO
14 Mr. Haywood Daughtry - NCDOT
15 Mr. David Fort - Bridgeton
16 Mr. Steve Hamilton – NCDOT
17 Mr. Drew Havens – River Bend
18 Mr. Jordan Hughes – City of New Bern (arrived late)
19 Mr. Terry Jordan – CARTS
20 Mr. Behshad Norowzi – NCDOT
21 Ms. Jill Stark - FHWA
22

23 **Members Excused:** Mr. Patrick Flanagan – Down East RPO
24 Ms. Priya Nimbole - NCDOT
25 Mr. Jeff Cabaniss – NCDOT
26 Mr. John Rouse - NCDOT
27

28 **Members Absent:** Mr. Kevin Roberts – NB Chamber of Commerce
29

30 **Guests Present:** Ms. Cindy Camacho, URS
31 Mr. Ivo Dernev, URS
32 Mr. Marc Finlayson, Highway 17 Association
33 Ms. Mickey Miller, New Bern Housing Authority
34

35 **Staff Present:**

- 36 1. **Call to Order:** Chair Jeff Ruggieri called the meeting to order
37
38 2. **Roll Call:** Chair Ruggieri requested roll call. A quorum was declared.
39
40 3. **Approval of today’s agenda:** The agenda was approved by consensus
41
42 4. **Approval of the minutes of the February 20, 2014 meeting:**
43

44 Reading of the minutes was waived.

45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89

Vice-Chair Hodges noted a change to the spelling of Mr. Strawn’s name. Mr. Havens made a motion to approve the minutes with the correct spelling of Mr. Strawn’s name. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fort and passed unanimously.

5. U.S.17 Economic Impact Study: Marc Finlayson, Highway 17 Association

Mr. Marc Finlayson presented the TCC with copies of the U.S. 17 Economic Impact Study. The study was financed through the NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch in the amount of \$250,000.00 of which 80% came from the federal government and 20% was provided by the state. He directed Members to a PowerPoint presentation where he discussed the history of the study and findings. The study addressed three proposals, Plan A, Plan B and Plan C, providing information on the economic value and projected benefits for each alternative. He talked about a proposed Interstate 44, from Raleigh, NC to Norfolk, VA, and the positive impact such interstate would have on U.S. 17. He then discussed the new projects funding legislation (Strategic Mobility Formula) and the hope that this document could aid in ranking this project. Some discussion followed on the proposed Interstate designation requirements and costs.

6. New Bern Choice Neighborhood Planning Grant: Mickey Miller, New Bern Housing Authority

Ms. Mickey Miller provided TCC members with information on the Choice Neighborhood Planning Grant, also known as CNI (Choice Neighborhood Initiative) that the New Bern Housing Authority and the City of New Bern, as co-applicant, have just received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. New Bern was one of only nine communities out of 54 applicants within the United States to receive this \$400,000 planning grant. A solid plan could generate additional grant funds anywhere between \$20 Million to \$30 Million that would be used to implement the CNI in the Five Points commercial district and the Duffyfield community. Ms. Miller explained some of the statistical data that was used for the grant application and discussed the planning structure (People Lead, Housing Lead and Neighborhood Lead) and agencies involved. A discussion followed the presentation. Chairman Ruggieri thanked Ms. Miller for her willingness to present this important effort to the MPO Boards.

7. Trent Woods Pedestrian Plan: Cynthia Camacho, AICP, URS

Ms. Camacho provided an overview of the Trent Woods Pedestrian Plan. She presented the history of the plan, major findings, public participation and projected costs of the preferred pedestrian projects. One of the priorities set during the study is the development of a partnership with the City of New Bern, the New Bern Area MPO and schools, local businesses and community organizations. The plan also promotes innovative programs that can encourage safety and mobility. Ms. Camacho was informed that two of projects recommended in the plan had been submitted through the SPOT process.

8. Updates:

90
91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100
101
102
103
104
105
106
107
108
109
110
111
112
113
114
115
116
117
118
119
120
121
122
123
124
125
126
127
128
129
130
131
132
133
134

- **Transportation Planning Branch:** Behshad Norowzi

Mr. Norowzi informed the TCC that the Base Year data should be fully entered by the end of May and the model calibration should take place in August. The first and second quarter reimbursement requests by the MPO have been approved and disbursed by NCDOT. The UPWP amendment to FY 2014 is in the process of being approved and the draft FY 2015 UPWP is being processed and has been conditionally approved.

- **New Bern Area MPO:** Maurizia Chapman

Ms. Chapman discussed the submission of candidate projects through the SPOT ON LINE web site. She also referred to the conditional approval by NCDOT of the Local Projects Ranking and Methodology and thanked members for allowing the draft document to be available on their jurisdictions' web site for public review. The document will be available for public review until April 10th and the document will be presented to the TCC and TAC at the April meetings for final approval. Ms. Chapman then distributed hard copies of the Draft Prospectus and Draft FY 2015 UPWP and reminded members that they will have to take action on those documents at the April meeting. She informed members that a web developer has been selected and work on the web site will begin after all of the legal and financial details have been taken care of. Development of the site should take between six and eight weeks. The site will also include a "google" calendar. She will attend the "Main Street" Conference in New Bern on March 31-April 1 and will participate in an Eastern North Carolina MPOs/RPOs Coalition meeting with the division engineers during the second week of April.

9. Discussion:

Ms. Stark announced that the Federal Grant she applied for on behalf of the New Bern Area MPO has been approved by FHWA. The grant would not cover "conferences", but will be used for a peer exchange addressing hurricane evacuation routes in a tri-state area (Virginia, North and South Carolina). She requested and has received approximately \$11,000 which will cover hotel for members of the coastal MPOs within the three states, facilities to hold the peer exchange and air fare and hotel accommodations for an expert from the Hurricane Center in Florida.

She also informed the committee that she has accepted a position with the Office of Planning for FHWA in Washington D.C. and this will probably be her last NBAMPO meeting. Although excited by the prospect, she regrets leaving this MPO as she enjoyed working with all of the MPO members and staff.

10. Public Comments: There were no public comments.

11. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

135
136
137

Jeff Ruggieri, Chairman

Maurizia Chapman, MPO Administrator