



## TCC MEETING MINUTES

**January 10, 2019**

The New Bern Area Metropolitan Planning Organization held their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, January 10, 2019 at 1:30 PM in the Development Services Conference Room, 303 First Street.

### **Members Present:**

Mr. Jeff Ruggieri – Chair  
Mr. Gene Hodges – Vice-Chair  
Mr. Don Baumgardner – County of Craven  
Mr. Andrew Shorter – NB Regional Airport  
Ms. Kelly Walker – CARTS  
Mr. David Fort – Town of Bridgeton  
Mr. Delane Jackson – River Bend  
Ms. Catherine Bryant – NCDOT  
Ms. Diane Hampton - NCDOT  
Mr. Haywood Daughtry – NCDOT  
Mr. Steve Hamilton – NCDOT  
Mr. Behshad Norowzi – NCDOT  
Mr. Bill Marley – FHWA  
Mr. Kevin Roberts – NB Chamber of Commerce

### **Members Excused:**

Mr. Patrick Flanagan – Down East RPO  
Mr. Jeff Cabaniss – NCDOT  
Mr. Preston Hunter – NCDOT

### **Members Absent:**

### **Guests Present:**

### **Staff Present:**

Ms. Kimberly Maxey – New Bern Area MPO Staff

**1. Call to Order:** Chair Ruggieri called the meeting to order.

**2. Roll Call:** Roll Call was taken and a quorum was declared.

43 **3. Approval of today's agenda:**

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**Motion: Board unanimously approved agenda as presented.**

46 **4. Election of TCC Chairman and vice Chairman**

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**Motion: Mr. Fort made a motion that existing Chairman and Vice-Chairman retain their positions. The motion was seconded by Mr. Shorter and passed unanimously.**

50 **5. Approval of the minutes of the July, October and November 2018 meetings:** Reading  
51 of the minutes was waived. There was one question pertaining to a date on the July minutes.  
52 The board agreed to vote on October and November minutes, pushing the July approval to  
53 the March 2019 meeting.

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**Motion: Mr. Fort made a motion to approve the October and November, 2018 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Daughtry and passed unanimously.**

58 **6. FY 2020 Draft Unified Planning Work Program:** *Kim Maxey*

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Ms. Maxey relayed that the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is an annually updated document that outlines accomplishments from the previous year and establishes goals for the upcoming year.

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The UPWP is being presented in a new format, one that Ms. Maxey hopes is easier to follow and understand, but retains the required verbiage and budget documentation.

67 Ms. Maxey relayed that the Federal Government is now dictating the allocation efforts of  
68 funds used to support Planning Organizations. As many POs do not utilize all allocated  
69 funds, any unused funds are going back into the funding account to be utilized as needed.  
70 Funding is being allocated differently, which is giving the New Bern Area MPO  
71 additional annual funds in the amount of about \$20,000.

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In light of the additional funds and the economic development taking place within the MPO boundary, Ms. Maxey relayed she increased the budget for the next fiscal year, with plans to utilize the additional funds on some small area studies as well as the Metropolitan Transportation Plan update that will begin this year.

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This document is being presented in draft format, and is due to the State by the end of January. The final document will be presented during the March meeting. Ms. Maxey does not anticipate allocation amounts to change, but a final budget will be presented at this time.

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The Draft UPWP is currently available online for public comment.

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**Motion: Mr. Fort made a motion to recommend TAC approval of the proposed FY 2020 Draft Unified Planning Work Program as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Shorter and passed unanimously.**

88 **7. P 6.0 Pre-Submittal Project Discussion:** *Kim Maxey*

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90 Ms. Maxey relayed that the SPOT office through NCDOT has given planning  
91 organizations an opportunity to pre-submit up to 10 intersection/interchange  
92 improvements projects that will be considered for the next round of prioritization. The  
93 pre-submittal process will provide additional time for studies to be completed to aid in  
94 design efforts as well as improve cost estimations.

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96 The intersection improvements submitted thus far are:

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- 98 • H184053 – MLK Blvd./Mall entrance: to address congestion issues stemming
- 99 from Chick Fil-a drive through overflow that back up along MLK
- 100 • H183996 – First/Trent/Pollock/Rhem intersection: re-alignment of this
- 101 intersection to aid in safety. Despite the First St. road diet project, improvements
- 102 to this intersection were not included
- 103 • H183997 – First/Broad/Neuse/3<sup>rd</sup> Ave: improvements to include safer pedestrian
- 104 crossing facilities
- 105 • H184000 – Old Hwy 17 in Bridgeton: currently remains a divided 4-lane
- 106 highway were the old bridge used to connect to 17. Recommendations include
- 107 utilizing one side as a 2-way road and the other side as a multi-use path for the
- 108 residents of Bridgeton
- 109 • H184052 – Bus 17/MLK/Trent: improvements to this intersection as
- 110 developments continue to expand the surrounding areas. Despite the funding of
- 111 the superstreet design along MLK in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the STIP, there may be a
- 112 better option to improve safety and congestion until that project is completed.
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114 Mr. Shorter recommended that consideration be given to the intersection of MLK and US 70  
115 for congestion management.

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117 **8. Updates:**

118 *a. Transportation Planning Division Update: Behshad Norowzi, NCDOT TPD*

- 119 • Mr. Norowzi relayed that Catherine Bryant has accepted a position within
- 120 NCDOT working with the traffic division.
- 121 • The recent state hiring freeze has been lifted, so Catherine’s position will
- 122 be posted by the end of January with the hope of having her position filled
- 123 by the end of February.
- 124 • Efforts continue with the Craven County Comprehensive Transportation
- 125 Plan (CTP). Two additional NCDOT staff have been chosen to continue
- 126 the work completed by Catherine. NBAMPO and DERPO staff have
- 127 already met with them.
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131 *b. CARTS Update: Kelly Walker, Transit Director*

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- 133 • The CARTS Tri-Annual review process is underway. The first step
- 134 requires documentation by January 15<sup>th</sup>. This is the first Tri-Annual
- 135 review for the CARTS system.

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c. **Division 2 Update:** *Diane Hampton, NCDOT*

- Spreadsheets were provided to board members covering current construction efforts and upcoming projects subject to the STIP and funding.
- The superstreet design for MLK Blvd. from US 70 to Trent Road was recently added. It is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the STIP.
- There will be a public meeting in the spring hosted by the NCDOT to discuss the projects on the STIP. Additional information will be provided as details are refined.
- The draft STIP has been approved with the final being voted on in June by the Board of Transportation.

d. **New Bern Area MPO Update:** *Kim Maxey, MPO Staff*

- The James City project ended at Grantham, but has now been extended from Grantham to the future Havelock Bypass. This is newly funded at the statewide level and will coincide with the James City project.
- Staff will begin working on the MTP update and is scheduled to meet with a consulting firm to discuss a scope of work.
- With the additional funding the MPO received for the upcoming fiscal year, staff intends to utilize some of those funds for small area studies on corridors that are being impacted by economic development. If board members have any suggestions on areas they feel could benefit from a study, she requested they email her.
- Debbie Collins, Director of Public Transportation Division (PTD) of NCDOT, has announced her retirement as of February 1<sup>st</sup>. NCDOT plans to merge PTD with the Bicycle/Pedestrian division. Hanna Cockburn will be the interim director. The goal of merging these two areas is trying to encourage cross discipline collaboration; meaning that for every bus stop, there needs to be a sidewalk that gets you there. This merge will assist in forward thinking.
- Reminder to board members that NBAMPO staff works for all member agencies, despite being housed by the City of New Bern.
- Ms. Maxey questioned board members on their comfort level with education pertaining to the MPO and planning process. She requested input from board members and welcomed suggestions on how to improve understanding.
  - Members expressed more information on the SPOT process, utilizing more visual aids.
  - A ‘roadmap of where we are within the prioritization process was suggested.
  - A resource center on the website was suggested. The idea being that information that would benefit members’ understanding could be included there.
  - Board members did not feel having more frequent meetings was not necessary, but utilizing specially called meetings if required.

180 **9. Discussion:** Ms. Maxey advised board members of a modification to the transit  
181 portion of the MTIP. Ms. Walker provided details of the update, which included increasing

182 operating assistance funds, reducing para-transit funds, and increasing preventive  
183 maintenance funds.

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185 **Motion: Mr. Baumgardner made a motion to recommend TAC approval of**  
186 **Amendment No. 6 to the FY 2018-2027 MTIP for transit modifications. The motion**  
187 **was seconded by Mr. Fort and passed unanimously.**

188 **10. Adjourn**

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

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Jeff Ruggieri, Chairman

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Kimberly Maxey, MPO Administrator