

SOUTHWESTERN RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION (RPO)

Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) Meeting



Meeting Date: January 25, 2016

Location: Groves Center, Southwestern Community College, Franklin, NC

Attendees:

Jurisdiction	Representative	Title	Present
Cherokee County	Randy Wiggins	County Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Andrews	Ed Burchins	Town Manager	<input type="checkbox"/>
Murphy	Anne Payne	Town Manager	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clay County	Aaron Patton	Economic Development Director	<input type="checkbox"/>
Graham County	Andy Cable	Economic Development Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fontana Dam	Jessica Cooper	Town Manager	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lake Santeetlah	Peggy Carver	Administrator	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jackson County	Mike Poston	Planning Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dillsboro	Debbie Coffey	Town Clerk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sylva	Paige R. Dowling, Chair	Town Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Macon County	Jack Morgan	Planning & Development Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Franklin	Justin Setser	Town Planner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Highlands	(vacant)	Planning & Development Director	<input type="checkbox"/>
Swain County	Ken Mills	Economic Development Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bryson City	Josh Ward	Town Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Transit	Kim Angel	Macon Co. Transit Director	<input type="checkbox"/>
EBCI	Josh Parker	Cherokee DOT Manager	<input type="checkbox"/>
NCDOT Division 14	Joel Setzer	Division Operations Engineer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NCDOT TPB	Catherine Bryant	RPO Coordinator	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
TOTAL VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:			11

Representing	Name	Title	Present
Western Carolina Univ.	Joe Walker	Assoc. Director of Facilities Mgmt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maria Hass	Cherokee County	Assistant County Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Chuck Wooten	Jackson County	County Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Southwestern RPO	Rose Bauguess	RPO Coordinator	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Southwestern Commission	Sarah Thompson	Planning and Development Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
TOTAL NON-VOTERS PRESENT:			5

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Welcome and Housekeeping:

1. Paige Dowling called the meeting to order.
2. Introductions were made. Jackson County Manager Chuck Wooten introduced the new Jackson County Planning Director, Mike Poston, who will be serving as the new TCC member. Dowling determined a quorum was present.
3. Dowling read the ethics statement.
4. Dowling reviewed the agenda and asked if there were any proposed modifications to the agenda. Hearing none, Joel Setzer motioned to approve the agenda, with a second by Wooten.
5. Dowling offered the opportunity for public comment; no members of the public were in attendance.

Action Items:

6. Bauguess called for approval of the minutes from the September 28, 2015 RPO TCC meeting. Motion by Setzer, seconded by Jack Morgan; motion carried unanimously.
7. Bauguess called for approval of updates to the SWRPO TCC Bylaws. One of the primary updates was to include the EBCI and Transit representatives as voting members. There was some discussion regarding the option to add additional members representing other modes of transportation, such as airports, rail, bicycle, and pedestrian. It was clarified that the Bylaws do not stipulate these members be added, they only allow for the option if the TCC chooses to add members at a later date. Randy Wiggins offered a motion to approve the updated Bylaws, with a second by Ken Mills; the motion carried unanimously.
8. Bauguess called for conditional approval of the Draft Southwestern RPO Local Methodology. The Methodology will still need to be approved by NCDOT, put out for public comment and public hearing, and then submitted for final approval at the March TCC and TAC meetings.
 - There was significant discussion on one of the criteria, "Plan Consistency." The current draft included a sliding scale of 2, 3 or 5 points. The suggestion was made to change it to 5 points for being in an adopted plan, and 0 points if not. The primary reason for doing this is to make sure than all projects were treated equally, because it may be possible to miss a plan that is "underway", or completed but not adopted. Setzer made a motion to amend the methodology to a 0 or 5, rather than a sliding scale of 2, 3, or 5 points. Wooten seconded the motion. Randy Wiggins, Andy Cable, and Catherine Bryant voted nay; all others voted yay; and the motion carried.
 - Other discussion: Justin Setser expressed concern about the bike/ped projects only getting funding in the developmental STIP (years 6-10), thus having to go through Prioritization again. Joel Setzer said this has been discussed in NCDOT and hopefully some bike/ped projects will be funded in years 1-5 next time. Wooten added that airport projects were very important to economic development, but couldn't compete with highways. There seems to be very little room for other modes in the STI Law. Wooten also asked how the counties would go about ranking their top projects. Bauguess responded that each county operates



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very differently, so we do not want to prescribe an exact process. However it should be a collaborative process, to be led by the County TCC representative.

- Dowling asked if there any further comments. Jack Morgan offered a motion to conditionally approve the Draft Local Methodology, to be sent to the TAC, NCDOT, and public comment prior to final approval. Josh Ward seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Informational Items:

9. Setzer gave the NCDOT Division 14 update on major projects in the Southwestern RPO.
10. Bauguess issued a request for input on the RPO Planning Work Program for 2016-2017 fiscal year. If anyone is aware of projects or tasks that should be included, email them to her.
11. Bauguess reviewed the 2016 TCC meeting schedule. The SCC Franklin location is not available for the May 10 meeting date; Setzer offered the NCDOT District office in Andrews as an option. It was decided to meet in Andrews in May, pending availability of the conference room.
12. Bauguess announced that NCDOT's Watch for Me NC Campaign is currently accepting applications, and asked if anyone had interest in applying. The Town of Franklin is potentially interested.

Other Items:

13. TCC Members provided updates from their respective jurisdictions:
 - Transportation Planning Branch – Catherine Bryant reported that the Base Year Model for the Jackson County CTP is done. The next step is to rate different areas for either high, medium, or low projected growth.
 - Swain County – Ken Mills reported that Swain County is also interested in doing a minor amendment to their CTP in the coming year.
 - Cherokee County – Josh Carpenter has taken another job and Randy and Maria will be filling his seat on the TCC. The casino opening has altered traffic patterns in their area.
 - WCU – Joe Walker spoke about the upcoming bond referendum and the benefit it would provide to the region through investments in WCU and SCC. He encouraged members to support the bond on March 15.
 - Jackson County – Chuck Wooten reported that new Planning Director will be busy tackling the County Comprehensive Plan and the CTP.
 - Dillsboro – Debbie Coffey reported that all is quiet in Dillsboro at the moment.
 - Franklin – Justin Setzer reported that there is an open house for the Town's Bicycle and Pedestrian plan on February 23. So far they have received 260 responses to their public input survey – impressive for a town their size.



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- Bryson City – Josh Ward reported that he is working on a Golden Leaf grant for water and sewer.
- Macon County – Jack Morgan reported that Macon County is almost done with their Comprehensive Plan update.
- Sylva had no major update to report.

14. Setzer moved to adjourn, seconded by W.