



**Southwestern Commission**  
 125 Bonnie Lane  
 Sylva, NC 28779

Phone: 828.586.1962  
 Fax: 828.586.1968

[regiona.org](http://regiona.org)

## SOUTHWESTERN RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION (SWRPO) Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting

**Meeting Date: September 26, 2016**

**Location: The Boiler Room Steakhouse, Franklin NC**

**Attendees:**

Jurisdiction	Primary Representative	Alternate Representative	09/26/2016
<b>Cherokee County</b>	CB McKinnon		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Andrews	Nancy Curtis		<input type="checkbox"/>
Murphy	Bill Hughes		<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Clay County</b>	Randy Nichols		<input type="checkbox"/>
Hayesville	Harry Baughn		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Graham County</b>	Connie Orr		<input type="checkbox"/>
Fontana Dam	Sarah Locke		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Lake Santeetlah	Bob Wehr		<input type="checkbox"/>
Robbinsville	Steve Hooper		<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Jackson County</b>	Brian McMahan		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dillsboro	<b>Mike Fitzgerald – Chair</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Forest Hills	Carl Hooper		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sylva	Lynda Sossoman		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Webster	Tracy Rodes		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Macon County</b>	Ronnie Beale		<input type="checkbox"/>
Franklin	Bob Scott		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Highlands	Patrick Taylor		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Swain County</b>	Phillip Carson		<input type="checkbox"/>
Bryson City	Tom Sutton		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>NCDOT Board</b>	Jack Debnam		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>TOTAL VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>			<b>11</b>

Representing	Name	Present
Southwestern RPO	Rose Bauguess	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NCDOT Division 14	Ed Green, Division Engineer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NCDOT TPB	Pam Cook	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NCDOT Congestion Mgmt	Mike Reese, Western Region Project Engineer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NCDOT Congestion Mgmt	Bailey Harden, Design Engineer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Cherokee County**  
 Andrews  
 Murphy

**Clay County**  
 Hayesville

**Graham County**  
 Robbinsville  
 Lake Santeetlah  
 Fontana Dam

**Haywood County**  
 Canton  
 Clyde  
 Maggie Valley  
 Waynesville

**Jackson County**  
 Dillsboro  
 Forest Hills  
 Sylva  
 Webster

**Macon County**  
 Franklin  
 Highlands

**Swain County**  
 Bryson City

Representing	Name	Present
Southwestern Commission	Sarah Thompson, Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Clay County	Clay Logan, County Commissioner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jackson County	Don Adams, County Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Town of Sylva	Paige Dowling, Town Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>TOTAL NON-VOTERS PRESENT:</b>		<b>9</b>

**Welcome and Housekeeping:**

1. TAC Vice-Chair C.B. McKinnon called the meeting to order.
2. McKinnon determined a quorum was present.
3. McKinnon read the ethics statement.
4. McKinnon reviewed the agenda and asked if there were any proposed modifications to the agenda. Hearing none, Tom Sutton motioned to approve the agenda as presented, with a second by Patrick Taylor; motion passed unanimously.
5. McKinnon offered the opportunity for public comment and opened a public hearing on the SWRPO Local Input Points for Division Tier Projects. No members of the public were present. Rose Bauguess gave a summary of public comments received by the RPO during the public comment period:
  - o A Macon County resident voiced support for the improvements to NC 106 in order to bring in more tax dollars to Macon County from Atlanta tourists; concerned about the dip in Siler Farm Road causing a safety issue.
  - o A Jackson County resident wrote in support of additional transportation investments to support the growth in Jackson County related to WCU, SCC, Harrah’s casino, and tourism; suggested road improvements need to include lighting on dark roadways; suggested the NC 107 Connector be reconsidered to alleviate congestion on NC 107; and suggested Jackson County Transit expand hours of service and coordinate with Macon, Haywood, and Swain counties to reduce single passenger car trips.

No additional comments were received, and McKinnon asked for a motion to close the public hearing. Motion was made by Lynda Sossoman, and seconded by Tracy Rodes.

**Action Items:**

6. Bauguess presented the minutes from the July 25, 2016 SWRPO TAC meeting for approval. Motion by Harry Baughn to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Sutton and the motion carried unanimously.
7. Bauguess presented the SWRPO Local Input Points for Division Projects and explained how the local methodology was used to score the projects. One deviation from the local methodology

was documented: Cherokee County officials decided to allot their 200 points across five projects instead of two. They put 100 points to their highest scoring project, H090750, and 25 points each to the next four highest scoring projects. Brian McMahan motioned to approve the SWRPO Local Input Points as presented; Taylor seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

8. Bauguess reminded the committee that the NCDOT Bike and Pedestrian Planning Grant applications are due November 10. The only local government that has expressed an interest in applying is the Town of Hayesville. Bauguess presented a resolution of support for the Town of Hayesville's application and funding commitment for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant. Bob Scott made a motion to approve the resolution; Sara Locke seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Informational Items:**

9. Guest Speaker: Mike Reese is the Western Region Project Engineer for NCDOT's Congestion Management Unit. Reese presented to the Board about access management strategies and roundabouts. The Southwestern RPO has several access management projects and roundabout projects currently under development and appreciated the information.

10. Ed Green provided the Division 14 updates:

#### Significant Projects under Construction:

- Cherokee: NC 294 from Sunny Point Road to Bear Paw Road. 40% complete
- Clay: US 64 Chunky Gal climbing lane. Clearing by state forces is complete. Contract is underway- 25 % of grading is complete; started channelizing for lane widening (completing one mile sections at a time) – project is 5% complete.
- Graham: NC 143 resurfacing is complete. Several bridges under construction
- Macon: Several bridges under construction.
- Jackson: New access road is open to traffic- punch list items remain. US 74 bridge replacement at Willets-poured next section of deck today scheduled to open next summer.
- Swain: US 74, resurfacing from bridge # 10 to SR 1123

#### Future Projects – Significant Projects

##### Cherokee:

- Several bridges are planned to be replaced in 2018/19
- R-5735 US 19/74 Hamburger Alley in Murphy, roadway improvements. Public meeting not scheduled yet.

##### Clay

- Several bridges are planned to be replaced in 2018/19
- R-5742 - NC 175 public comments are being addressed- r/w scheduled for July 2018
- A-0011C NC 69 roadway improvements. Public meeting tentatively scheduled for late November/December 2016

##### Graham

- Several bridges are planned to be replaced in 2017.
- New access road to Robbinsville High School – Archeological field work is complete. R/W scheduled to begin February 2017

##### Macon

- Drainage improvements on West Palmer Street is schedule to let October 2016.

- Realignment of curve at Topton – scheduled to re-let October 2016
- Public Meeting for U-5604 (Intersection improvements on US 441) and R-5734 US 441 South Improvements is scheduled for this Thursday, September 29 4-7 PM at the Rec Center

Jackson

- Intersection warning flasher at US 441 & US 23 scheduled to begin October 2016
- Signal with pedestrian signals at Centennial Drive & University Way scheduled to begin January 2017
- R-5600 NC 107 from bridge over Scotts Creek to limits of R-5000, roadway improvements- public meeting tentatively December 2016

Swain

- Pedestrian refuge island and pedestrian signal at US 19 & Slope Street scheduled to begin February 2017

ADA ramp construction – Projects (1 for Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Macon; 1 for Jackson/Swain) to let in October 2016

11. Pam Cook gave an update on the Transportation Planning Branch. She is still serving as the interim Southwestern RPO Coordinator while TPB undergoes reorganization. TPB has been working on the Jackson County CTP and has recently identified the non-highway mode deficiencies.

**Informational Items:**

12. TAC Member updates:

- Jack Debnam suggested that a representative from law enforcement be added to the RPO Board due to their familiarity with the highest safety issues on the roads.
- Sossamon reported that the Town of Sylva recently voted to change Mill St. to one lane, and convert the second lane to diagonal parking. Blue Ridge Railroad is also installing new railroad crossings at Chipper Curve and Grindstaff Cove Rd.
- Baughn reported a newly painted crosswalk in Hayesville.
- McKinnon reported an issue with the rail crossing at Coalville Rd, especially for motorcycles. Also, the approach to the new bridge going out of town has settled, causing a substantial impact that has resulted in a truck's tires exploding.
- Sutton reported that the rail crossings in Bryson City need upgrading.
- Taylor reported that Highlands is experiencing increased visitation resulting in congestion and parking issues. He has also identified a need for audible crosswalk signals to assist the visually impaired.
- Locke has received complaints from some motorcyclists regarding excess debris and gravel building up on low-volume secondary roads, and asked if NCDOT performed street sweeping. Green said he would look into it if she could get him a list of the roads in question.
- Scott said the Town of Franklin has received complaints about the intersection of Siler Farm Rd. and US 441.

13. Bob Scott motioned to adjourn; Jack Debnam seconded the motion.