



**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**

### **TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING**

**January 28, 2019 at 5:00 PM**  
Chestnut Tree Inn, 37 Tsalagi Rd, Cherokee, NC

#### **AGENDA**

##### **Welcome and Housekeeping**

1. Introductions and Quorum check (C.B. McKinnon, TAC Chair)
2. Ethics Reminder\* (McKinnon)
3. Agenda Approval/Modifications (McKinnon)
4. Public Comment

##### **Action Items**

5. Minutes from September 24, 2018 SWRPO TAC meeting (Rose Bauguess)
6. Resolution in support of Swain County's Bicycle Planning Grant Application (Bauguess)

**Guest Speaker:** Mr. David Wasserman, P.E. (STIP Western Region Manager for NCDOT)

##### **Informational Items**

7. SWRPO Staff Update (Bauguess)
8. NCDOT Division 14 Updates (Steve Williams)
9. NCDOT Transportation Planning Division Update (Roger Castillo)

##### **Other Items**

10. TAC Member Updates (All)
11. Adjournment

*\*In accordance with the State Government Ethics Act, it is the duty of every TAC member to avoid conflicts of interest. If anyone has a conflict of interest with respect to any matters coming before the TAC today, please identify the conflict and refrain from any participation in the matter involved.*

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**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

**Eastern Band  
of Cherokee  
Indians**



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

**Meeting Date: September 24, 2018**

**Location: Southwestern Commission, Sylva, NC**

**Attendees:**

Jurisdiction	Name	09/24/2018
<b>Cherokee County</b>	CB McKinnon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Andrews	James Reid	<input type="checkbox"/>
Murphy	Rick Ramsey	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Clay County</b>	Clay Logan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hayesville	Harry Baughn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Graham County</b>	Connie Orr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fontana Dam	Rob Hardy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lake Santeetlah	Vacant	
Robbinsville	Steve Hooper	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Jackson County</b>	Brian McMahan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dillsboro	<b>Mike Fitzgerald – Chair</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forest Hills	Niall Michelsen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sylva	Lynda Sossamon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Webster	Tracy Rodes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Macon County</b>	Ronnie Beale	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Franklin	Bob Scott	<input 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>10</b>

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**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

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 Indians**

Representing	Name	Present
Southwestern RPO	Rose Bauguess	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Southwestern Commission	Becca Scott	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NCDOT Division 14	Brian Burch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NCDOT Division 14	Steve Williams	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NCDOT Division 14	Troy Wilson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NCDOT TPD	Roger Castillo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Town of Sylva	Paige Dowling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bell Engineering	Dana Bolden	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>TOTAL NON-MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>		8

### **Welcome and Housekeeping:**

1. Chair C.B. McKinnon and Vice-Chair James Reid were both absent; Patrick Taylor was nominated to chair the meeting. Taylor called the meeting to order. Introductions were made, and Taylor determined a quorum was present.
2. Taylor read the ethics statement and reminded the members about the importance of recognizing a conflict of interest when one exists.
3. Taylor asked if there were any modifications to the agenda. Hearing none, Connie Orr motioned to approve the agenda as presented, and with a second by Lynda Sossamon, the agenda was approved.
4. Ronnie Beale motioned to open the Public Hearing for the SWRPO P5.0 Local Input Points for Division Needs Projects; with a second by Tom Sutton, the Public Hearing was opened. No members of the public were present to comment, but Rose Bauguess read two written statements that had been sent to her by email. Taylor asked for a motion to close the Public Hearing. Harry Baughn made that motion, with a second by Orr, the Public Hearing was closed.

### **Action Items:**

5. Following the Public Hearing, Harry Baughn made a motion for the TAC to adopt the SWRPO P5.0 Local Input Points for Division Needs Projects as presented. With a second by Connie Orr, the motion passed unanimously.
6. Bauguess asked for a review of the minutes from the July 24, 2018, SWRPO TAC Meeting. Ronnie Beale made a motion to approve the minutes, and with a second by Connie Orr, the motion passed.
7. Bauguess presented information about Jackson County's Pedestrian Planning Grant Application. She explained that the project application requires a resolution from the SWRPO TAC. Ronnie Beale made a motion to send a resolution in support of this project, and with a second by Tracy Rodes, the motion passed.

## **Informational Items:**

8. Bauguess presented the SWRPO Staff Update, including the following items:
  - Prioritization 5.0.
    - Bauguess showed a PowerPoint reviewing the Prioritization scoring process and criteria. She also showed a long list of projects competing for the Division Needs pot of money. She showed that within the ten counties of Division 14, there are 112 projects eligible for funding, but only about \$150 million to program. She estimates that only about ten projects will be funded. The needs are far greater than the amount of funding available.
    - Starting with projects programmed in P5.0, any projects that undergo significant change in cost or scope during project development will be subject to review.
    - The Division Needs Local Input Points window has been extended because of the eastern communities impacted by Hurricane Florence, but the Draft STIP is still expected in early January 2019.
  - Prioritization 6.0 is already gearing up. We will be asked to submit new candidate projects for scoring next summer. Be thinking of potential transportation improvement projects that are needed in your community.
  - Volkswagen Settlement RFPs are anticipated this fall.
  - The Southern Blue Ridge Bike Plan, covering Cherokee, Clay, Macon, and Graham Counties, is complete and will be available on the SWRPO website soon.
9. Steve Williams provided updates on various projects under development or construction within Division 14.
10. Roger Castillo Santamaria provided an update from the Transportation Planning Division, including a printed newsletter he handed out with an overview of their recent activities.

## **Other Items:**

11. TAC members provided updates of projects in their jurisdictions. Several TAC Members used their time to express appreciation for NCDOT Division on a local level. The general consensus was that they are doing a great job locally, and TAC members appreciate their willingness to meet and work with town and county staff to work together on projects.

Brian Burch informed TAC members that a number of our local division employees had been sent to Eastern North Carolina to assist with damages from Hurricane Florence.

12. Ronnie Beale moved to adjourn, seconded by Harry Baughn. The next meeting is scheduled for November 26, 2018.



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## Resolution Supporting Swain County’s Application and Funding Commitment for a North Carolina Department of Transportation Bicycle Planning Grant

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Transportation’s Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation has announced the availability of Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grants for local governments; and

WHEREAS, Swain County desires to apply for a grant to develop a Comprehensive Bicycle Plan to improve pedestrian connectivity and safety; and

WHEREAS, Swain County recognizes the numerous health, well-being, quality of life, and economic development benefits resulting from active transportation; and

WHEREAS, there are opportunities in Swain County for increasing connectivity to and between residential areas, schools, recreation facilities, work places, civic institutions, and commercial areas; and

WHEREAS, the lack of a Comprehensive Bicycle Plan limits the County’s ability to address connectivity issues; and

WHEREAS, the Swain County Pathways and Greenways Committee is a dedicated group of volunteers actively working to advance safe and active transportation options for Swain County residents; and

WHEREAS, Swain County is committed to funding the local match of the grant amount.

### Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the Southwestern Rural Planning Organization (RPO) As Follows:

The Southwestern Rural Planning Organization wishes to support Swain County’s application for the NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant.

Read, approved and adopted this 28<sup>th</sup> day of January 2019.

\_\_\_\_\_  
C.B. McKinnon  
Chair, Transportation Advisory Committee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rose Bauguess  
Southwestern RPO Planner

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