



Southwestern Commission

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regiona.org

SOUTHWESTERN RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING

July 30, 2020 5:00 PM

Electronic meeting due to Covid-19

AGENDA

Welcome and Housekeeping

1. Roll Call 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 May 27, 2020 SWRPO TAC meeting (Rose Bauguess)
6. SWRPO Prioritization 6.0 Project Submittals (Bauguess)

Informational Items

7. SWRPO Staff Update (Bauguess)
8. NCDOT Division 14 Update (Steve Williams)
9. NCDOT Transportation Planning Division Update (Roger Castillo)
10. 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.*

Cherokee County
Andrews
Murphy

Clay County
Hayesville

Graham County
Fontana Dam
Lake Santeetlah
Robbinsville

Jackson County
Dillsboro
Forest Hills
Sylva
Webster

Macon County
Franklin
Highlands

Swain County
Bryson City



**Southwestern Rural Planning Organization
 Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting Summary**

Meeting Date: May 27, 2020
Location: Teleconference due to COVID-19

Jurisdiction	Representative	Present
Cherokee County	CB McKinnon – Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Andrews	James Reid	<input type="checkbox"/>
Murphy	Rick Ramsey	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clay County	Clay Logan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hayesville	Harry Baughn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Graham County	Connie Orr	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fontana Dam	Rob Hardy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lake Santeetlah	Roger Carlton	<input type="checkbox"/>
Robbinsville	Steve Hooper	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jackson County	Brian McMahan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dillsboro	Mike Fitzgerald	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forest Hills	Marcia Almond	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sylva	Lynda Sossamon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Webster	Tracy Rodes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Macon County	Ronnie Beale	<input type="checkbox"/>
Franklin	Bob Scott	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Highlands	Patrick Taylor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Swain County	Roger Parsons	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bryson City	Tom Sutton	<input type="checkbox"/>
Board of Transportation, Division 14	Dirk Cody	<input type="checkbox"/>
TOTAL VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:		8
Representing	Name	Present
Southwestern RPO	Rose Bauguess	<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"/>
TOTAL NON-MEMBERS PRESENT:		5

Welcome and Housekeeping:

1. Chair CB McKinnon called the meeting to order and conducted roll call of teleconference participants. McKinnon determined a quorum was present.
2. McKinnon reminded members of the ethics statement printed on the agenda.
3. McKinnon asked if there were any modifications to the agenda. Hearing none, Patrick Taylor motioned to approve the agenda as presented, and with a second by Bob Scott, the agenda was approved.
4. McKinnon offered the opportunity for public comment; there were none.

Action Items:

5. Rose Bauguess presented the minutes from the January 27, 2020 SWRPO TAC meeting for review and discussion. Harry Baughn motioned to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Roger Parsons; the motion carried unanimously.
6. Bauguess presented the FY 2021 SWRPO Planning Work Program for review and discussion. Bob Scott motioned to approve the Planning Work Program, seconded by Patrick Taylor; the motion carried unanimously.
7. Bauguess presented the Resolution in support of the Town of Hayesville's Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant Application. Scott motioned to approve the Resolution, seconded by Lynda Sossamon.

Informational Items:

8. Bauguess provided the RPO staff update, including the following items:
 - The Macon County CTP is nearing completion of the draft recommendations and we are hoping to have public workshops this summer if possible. We will also develop an online survey.
 - NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant deadline has been extended to June 30.
 - NCDOT Great Trails State Plan is underway. A public input survey is open until September 30, 2020. A Division 14 stakeholder meeting will be held in June.
 - Our transit agencies have been hit hard by Covid-19, with ridership down over 85%. The CARES Act provided over \$322 Million for North Carolina. The initial round of funding will follow the traditional funding formula for 5311 funds. NCDOT has also provided an extension of unspent ROAP funds.

- The Prioritization 6.0 Schedule has been changed again. July 31 is the new deadline for project submittals. SWRPO will need to add special meetings in July to adopt our final list of project submittals.
 - The format for STIP projects numbers is changing for new projects added. Old STIP numbers will not change.
9. Brian Burch provided the Division 14 updates, including the status of the NCDOT funding crisis. Most contractors have been given the option to slow down projects and extend completion dates. They are currently below the cash floor and legally cannot enter into any contracts or supplemental agreements. The Division's 12-month let list only had two projects on it. Most projects in development are also suspended, other than the bond-funded projects. Bond sales are delayed. Blairsville Highway in Cherokee County, NC 107 in Jackson County, and Georgia Road in Franklin are all bond-funded for now, but if the bonds do not sell, they will also be suspended.
 10. Roger Castillo provided the Transportation Planning Branch updates. The NC Moves 2050 Statewide Plan has an upcoming public comment period. He also provided a newsletter.
 11. Bob Scott made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Sossamon.

Southwestern RPO Prioritization 6.0 Project Submittals - Highway Mode

County	Category	Project ID	Route	Project Description
Cherokee	Division Needs	H191580	Valley River/Unicoi Turnpike	Construct roundabout and pedestrian safety improvements in downtown Murphy.
Cherokee	Division Needs	H171419	SR 1556 (Martins Creek Rd)	From SR 1576 (Crisp Rd) to US 64. Modernize roadway and realign intersection with US 64.
Cherokee	Division Needs	H192494	SR 1326 (Joe Brown Highway)	From SR 1424 (Connahetta Street) to SR 1354 (Duke Lodge Rd). Modernize roadway.
Clay	Regional Impact	H190935	US 64	From US 64 Business to Myers Chapel Road. Replace 5-lane with 4-lane divided roadway and reduced-conflict intersections.
Clay	Division Needs	H111081	Myers Chapel Rd	From NC 69 to US 64. Modernize roadway and include bicycle accommodations.
Clay	Division Needs	H193048	Myers Chapel Rd. / Anderson Rd.	From US 64 to Elementary School Dr. Modernize roadway and include bicycle and pedestrian accommodations.
Graham	Regional Impact	H192999	NC 143 BUS (North Main St/ South Main St.)	From Rodney Orr Bypass to Church Street. Upgrade roadway to current standards, improve drainage and pedestrian facilities.
Graham	Regional Impact	H193000	NC 143 BUS (South Main Street, Junaluska Road)	From Church Street to Atoah St/Snowbird Rd. Upgrade to current standards and realign intersection.
Graham	Regional Impact	H193002	NC 143 BUS (Snowbird Road)	From Atoah St. to Atoah Circle. Upgrade to current standards including paved shoulders.
Jackson	Regional Impact	H190668	US 23 Bus / Asheville Hwy	Widen to 4-lane boulevard with access management from Skyland Dr. to US 74 Ramp
Jackson	Division Needs	H190665	SR 1340 (Old Settlement Road)	Modernize roadway from NC 107 to NC 116
Jackson	Division Needs	H190672	SR 1429 (Chipper Curve Road)	Modernize roadway from W. Main St. to Skyland Drive. Include bicycle and pedestrian accommodations.
Macon	Regional Impact	H192987	US 64/NC 28 (Highlands Rd)	From Belleview Rd to Sugarfork Rd. Modernize roadway, add paved shoulders and improve intersections.

Southwestern RPO Prioritization 6.0 Project Submittals - Highway Mode

County	Category	Project ID	Route	Project Description
Macon	Regional Impact	H172338	US 441 Business (E. Palmer Street)	From Porter St to Depot St. Modernize roadway; upgrade drainage, driveway access, and pedestrian facilities.
Macon	Division Needs	H090745	Wells Grove Road	From Dowdle Mountain Rd to Clarks Chapel Rd. Modernize roadway, improve intersections, and add bicycle/pedestrian accommodations.
Swain	Regional Impact	H191154	US 19	Continue R-4751 cross-section from Hughes Branch Rd to Alarka Rd overpass. Modernize roadway, improve intersection at Buckner Branch, add turn lanes as needed. Include sidewalk.
Swain	Regional Impact	H192941	US 74 Interchange	Construct new interchange between exit 64 and 67 to access Jenkins Branch.
Swain	Regional Impact	H140006	NC 28	Modernize roadway from US 74 to Brush Creek. Upgrade roadway to include paved shoulders and safety improvements such as guardrail and paved pull-offs.
Jackson (Regional Submittal)	Regional Impact	H190992	US 441	From Gateway Road to Casino Trail, implement access management strategies; include bicycle and pedestrian accommodations.
Macon (Regional Submittal)	Regional Impact	H172321	US 64	Construct climbing lanes and paved shoulders from Old US 64 at the bottom of the mountain to Old US 64 at the top of the mountain.
Clay*	Regional Impact	H190934	US 64 / NC 69	Upgrade intersection to improve safety and mobility.
Graham*	Regional Impact	H193004	NC 143 BUS (Snowbird Road)	From Atoah Circle to NC 143 Cherohala Skyway. Upgrade to current standards including paved shoulders.

* Counties received an extra submittal in exchange for deleting a Carryover Project.

Southwestern RPO Prioritization 6.0 Project Submittals - Non-Highway Modes

County	Category	ID #	Route	Description
Cherokee	Division Needs	A190924	Western Carolina Airport	Construct new terminal building
Cherokee	Division Needs	B192860	Texana Sidewalk	Construct sidewalk from Unicoi Turnpike to Texana Community Center Rd.
Clay	Division Needs	B192804	Ritter Road Sidewalk	From Hiawasse St. to Tusquittee St. Complete sidewalk adjacent to Ritter Road.
Jackson	Division Needs	B192868	Cullowhee Multi-use Path	Construct a mutli-use path adjacent to NC 107 between Cullowhee Mountain Road and N. Country Club Rd.
Jackson	Division Needs	B192869	Cashiers Multi-Use Path	Construct a mutli-use path adjacent to US 64 between Slab Town Rd. and Pebble Creek Dr.
Macon	Division Needs	B192870	Dillard Road and Franklin Road Sidewalk	Extend existing sidewalks in Highlands on Dillard Road to Highlands Country Club and on Franklin Road to Rocky Hill Road.
Swain	Division Needs	B172330	Fontana Rd Sidewalk	Construct multi-use path adjacent to Fontana Rd, connecting the High School to downtown.