



## Southwestern Commission

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# SOUTHWESTERN RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE (TCC) MEETING

July 30, 2020 at 3:00 PM

*Electronic Meeting due to COVID-19*

### AGENDA

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#### Welcome and Housekeeping

1. Introductions and Quorum check (Michael Poston, Substitute Chair)
2. Ethics Reminder\* (Poston)
3. Agenda Approval/Modifications (Poston)
4. Public Comment

#### Action Items

5. Minutes from May 13, 2020 SWRPO TCC 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. TAC Member Updates (All)
11. Adjournment (Poston)

*\*In accordance with the State Government Ethics Act, it is the duty of every TCC member to avoid conflicts of interest. If anyone has a conflict of interest with respect to any matters coming before the TCC 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**  
Fontana Dam  
Lake Santeetlah  
Robbinsville

**Jackson County**  
Dillsboro  
Forest Hills  
Sylva  
Webster

**Macon County**  
Franklin  
Highlands

**Swain County**  
Bryson City



## SOUTHWESTERN RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION (SWRPO) Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) Meeting Summary

**Meeting Date: May 13, 2020**  
**Location: Teleconference due to COVID-19**

Jurisdiction	Representative	Title	05/13/2020
<b>Cherokee County</b>	Randy Wiggins	County Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Andrews	Vacant	Town Manager	<input type="checkbox"/>
Murphy	Chad Simons	Town Manager	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Clay County</b>	Debbie Mauney	County Manager	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Graham County</b>	Becky Garland	County Manager	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fontana Dam	Zelerie Rogers	Town Administrator	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Jackson County</b>	Michael Poston	Planning Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dillsboro	Debbie Coffey	Town Clerk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sylva	<b>Paige R. Dowling, Chair</b>	Town Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Macon County</b>	Jack Morgan	Planning & Development Director	<input type="checkbox"/>
Franklin	Justin Setser	Town Planner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Highlands	Michael Mathis	Town Planner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Swain County</b>	Kevin King	County Manager	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bryson City	Regina Mathis	Town Manager	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>EBCI</b>	Eden Brown	Cherokee DOT	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Transit</b>	Kim Angel	Macon Co. Transit Director	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>NCDOT Division 14</b>	Steve Williams	Division Planning Engineer	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>NCDOT TPB</b>	Roger Castillo (via phone)	SWRPO Coordinator	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>TOTAL VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>			<b>7</b>

Representing	Name	Title	Present
Southwestern Commission	Rose Bauguess	RPO Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Southwestern Commission	Debra Ivey	Office Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NCDOT Division 14	Brian Burch	Division Engineer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NCDOT Division 14	Troy Wilson	Corridor Development Engineer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NCDOT Division 14	Chris Lee	District Engineer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NCDOT Division 14	Andy Russell	District Engineer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>TOTAL NON-VOTERS PRESENT:</b>			<b>6</b>

### **Welcome and Housekeeping:**

1. Chair Paige Dowling called the meeting to order and conducted a roll call of teleconference participants. Dowling determined a quorum was present.
2. Dowling reminded members of the ethics statement printed on the agenda.
3. Dowling reviewed the agenda and asked if there were any modifications. Debbie Coffey motioned to approve the agenda as presented; Randy Wiggins seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.
4. Dowling offered the opportunity for public comment; no members of the public were present.

### **Action Items:**

5. Rose Bauguess presented the minutes from the January 15, 2020 SWRPO TCC meeting for review and discussion. Michael Poston motioned to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Wiggins; the motion passed unanimously.
6. Bauguess presented the FY 2021 SWRPO Planning Work Program. Wiggins motioned to approve the amendment, seconded by Poston; the motion passed unanimously.
7. Bauguess presented a resolution in support of the Town of Hayesville's Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant Application. Coffey motioned to approve the resolution of support. Poston made a second and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Informational Items:**

8. Bauguess provided the SWRPO Staff update, including:
  - 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 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. NCDOT's 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 don't 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. TCC Member updates:
  - Cherokee County wrote a letter of support for Corridor K. Trying to determine how pandemic is going to affect the county budget. Hopes Blairsville Highway project an continue with bond funding.
  - Jackson County is doing a Pedestrian Plan, had planning a survey to start in June.
  - Dillsboro has the bridge project going on and would like to see the project expedited.
  - Sylva is moving a crosswalk on Evalina St. They have had a slide on Allen Street. The road has fallen 34 inches, related to a slide on Chipper Curve.
  - Franklin is moving forward with their Comprehensive Plan. Public hearing is scheduled for June 1. Town recently approved CIP for existing sidewalks for future upgrades to bring existing sidewalks into compliance – totals \$2.8 million if all were completed. Recently had significant flooding and slides in town on Crawford Branch.
  - Highlands is starting a Comprehensive Plan; received nine proposals.
12. Poston moved to adjourn; Wiggins made a second and the meeting was adjourned.

### Southwestern RPO Prioritization 6.0 Project Submittals - Highway Mode

County	Category	Project ID	Route	Project Description
Cherokee	Division Needs	H191580	<b>Valley River/Unicoi Turnpike</b>	Construct roundabout and pedestrian safety improvements in downtown Murphy.
Cherokee	Division Needs	H171419	<b>SR 1556 (Martins Creek Rd)</b>	From SR 1576 (Crisp Rd) to US 64. Modernize roadway and realign intersection with US 64.
Cherokee	Division Needs	H192494	<b>SR 1326 (Joe Brown Highway)</b>	From SR 1424 (Connahetta Street) to SR 1354 (Duke Lodge Rd). Modernize roadway.
Clay	Regional Impact	H190935	<b>US 64</b>	From US 64 Business to Myers Chapel Road. Replace 5-lane with 4-lane divided roadway and reduced-conflict intersections.
Clay	Division Needs	H111081	<b>Myers Chapel Rd</b>	From NC 69 to US 64. Modernize roadway and include bicycle accommodations.
Clay	Division Needs	H193048	<b>Myers Chapel Rd. / Anderson Rd.</b>	From US 64 to Elementary School Dr. Modernize roadway and include bicycle and pedestrian accommodations.
Graham	Regional Impact	H192999	<b>NC 143 BUS (North Main St/ South Main St.)</b>	From Rodney Orr Bypass to Church Street. Upgrade roadway to current standards, improve drainage and pedestrian facilities.
Graham	Regional Impact	H193000	<b>NC 143 BUS (South Main Street, Junaluska Road)</b>	From Church Street to Atoah St/Snowbird Rd. Upgrade to current standards and realign intersection.
Graham	Regional Impact	H193002	<b>NC 143 BUS (Snowbird Road)</b>	From Atoah St. to Atoah Circle. Upgrade to current standards including paved shoulders.
Jackson	Regional Impact	H190668	<b>US 23 Bus / Asheville Hwy</b>	Widen to 4-lane boulevard with access management from Skyland Dr. to US 74 Ramp
Jackson	Division Needs	H190665	<b>SR 1340 (Old Settlement Road)</b>	Modernize roadway from NC 107 to NC 116
Jackson	Division Needs	H190672	<b>SR 1429 (Chipper Curve Road)</b>	Modernize roadway from W. Main St. to Skyland Drive. Include bicycle and pedestrian accommodations.
Macon	Regional Impact	H192987	<b>US 64/NC 28 (Highlands Rd)</b>	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	<b>US 441 Business (E. Palmer Street)</b>	From Porter St to Depot St. Modernize roadway; upgrade drainage, driveway access, and pedestrian facilities.
Macon	Division Needs	H090745	<b>Wells Grove Road</b>	From Dowdle Mountain Rd to Clarks Chapel Rd. Modernize roadway, improve intersections, and add bicycle/pedestrian accommodations.
Swain	Regional Impact	H191154	<b>US 19</b>	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	<b>US 74 Interchange</b>	Construct new interchange between exit 64 and 67 to access Jenkins Branch.
Swain	Regional Impact	H140006	<b>NC 28</b>	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	<b>US 441</b>	From Gateway Road to Casino Trail, implement access management strategies; include bicycle and pedestrian accommodations.
Macon (Regional Submittal)	Regional Impact	H172321	<b>US 64</b>	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	<b>US 64 / NC 69</b>	Upgrade intersection to improve safety and mobility.
Graham*	Regional Impact	H193004	<b>NC 143 BUS (Snowbird Road)</b>	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	<b>Western Carolina Airport</b>	Construct new terminal building
Cherokee	Division Needs	B192860	<b>Texana Sidewalk</b>	Construct sidewalk from Unicoi Turnpike to Texana Community Center Rd.
Clay	Division Needs	B192804	<b>Ritter Road Sidewalk</b>	From Hiawasse St. to Tusquittee St. Complete sidewalk adjacent to Ritter Road.
Jackson	Division Needs	B192868	<b>Cullowhee Multi-use Path</b>	Construct a mutli-use path adjacent to NC 107 between Cullowhee Mountain Road and N. Country Club Rd.
Jackson	Division Needs	B192869	<b>Cashiers Multi-Use Path</b>	Construct a mutli-use path adjacent to US 64 between Slab Town Rd. and Pebble Creek Dr.
Macon	Division Needs	B192870	<b>Dillard Road and Franklin Road Sidewalk</b>	Extend existing sidewalks in Highlands on Dillard Road to Highlands Country Club and on Franklin Road to Rocky Hill Road.
Swain	Division Needs	B172330	<b>Fontana Rd Sidewalk</b>	Construct multi-use path adjacent to Fontana Rd, connecting the High School to downtown.