



Southwestern Commission

125 Bonnie Lane, Sylva, NC 28779 | 828.586.1962

regiona.org

SOUTHWESTERN RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE (TCC) MEETING

September 16, 2020 at 1:00 PM

*Location: Southwestern Commission Office in Sylva
and Teleconference via Zoom*

AGENDA

Welcome and Housekeeping

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

Action Items

5. Minutes from July 30, 2020 SWRPO TCC meeting (Rose Bauguess)

Informational Items

6. NCDOT Funding Situation (David Wasserman/Hannah Cook)
7. NCDOT Division 14 Update (Steve Williams)
8. NCDOT Transportation Planning Division Update (Roger Castillo)
9. SWRPO Staff Update (Bauguess)
10. TCC 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.*

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



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

Meeting Date: July 30, 2020

Location: Teleconference due to COVID-19

Jurisdiction	Representative	Title	07/30/2020
Cherokee County	Randy Wiggins	County Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Andrews	Vacant	Town Manager	<input type="checkbox"/>
Murphy	Chad Simons	Town Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Clay County	Debbie Mauney	County Manager	<input type="checkbox"/>
Graham County	Becky Garland	County Manager	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fontana Dam	Zelerie Rogers	Town Administrator	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jackson County	Michael Poston	Planning Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dillsboro	Debbie Coffey	Town Clerk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sylva	Paige R. Dowling, Chair	Town Manager	<input type="checkbox"/>
Macon County	Jack Morgan	Planning & Development Director	<input type="checkbox"/>
Franklin	Justin Setser	Town Planner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Highlands	Michael Mathis	Town Planner	<input type="checkbox"/>
Swain County	Kevin King	County Manager	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bryson City	Regina Mathis	Town Manager	<input type="checkbox"/>
EBCI	Eden Brown	Cherokee DOT	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transit	Kim Angel	Macon Co. Transit Director	<input type="checkbox"/>
NCDOT Division 14	Steve Williams	Division Planning Engineer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NCDOT TPB	Roger Castillo (via phone)	SWRPO Coordinator	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
TOTAL VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:			7

Representing	Name	Title	Present
Southwestern Commission	Rose Bauguess	RPO Director	<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"/>
WCU	Joe Walker	Assoc VC, Facilities Mgmt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
TOTAL NON-VOTERS PRESENT:			4

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

Welcome and Housekeeping:

1. Mike Poston, serving as substitute Chair, called the meeting to order and conducted a roll call of teleconference participants. He determined a quorum was present.
2. Poston reminded members of the ethics statement printed on the agenda.
3. Poston 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. Poston offered the opportunity for public comment; no members of the public were present.

Action Items:

5. Rose Bauguess presented the minutes from the May 13, 2020 SWRPO TCC meeting for review and discussion. Steve Williams motioned to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Chad Simons; the motion passed unanimously.
6. Bauguess presented the SWRPO Prioritization 6.0 Project Submittals list. Wiggins motioned to approve the list of projects, seconded by Simons; the motion passed unanimously.

Informational Items:

7. Bauguess provided the SWRPO Staff update, including:
 - Prioritization 6.0 Schedule Updates:
 - Sept 2020 –Identified Needs Forms due – Highway
 - Feb-Mar 2020 – Data Review
 - April 2021 – Identified Needs Forms – Non-Highway
 - April 2021 – Local Input Point Methodology due
 - May 2021 – Quantitative Scores Released, Statewide Projects Programmed
 - August 2021 – Assign Local Input Points to Regional Projects
 - January 2022 - Assign Local Input Points to Division Projects
 - May 2022: Draft 2023-2032 STIP released
 - Macon County CTP – A public input survey will be open during the month of August to get input on the draft CTP recommendations.
 - Corridor K – A virtual public hearing is being planned for September to received public input on the Environmental Assessment.
 - The Southwestern NC Transload Feasibility study has been suspended due to lack of funding.
 - Southern Blue Ridge Bicycle Plan maps have been printed. Please contact Rose if you would like a copy.
 - NC Traffic Data – average weekly change from pre-Covid volumes. The weeks of March 29 and April 5 were 41% below normal. By late June, volumes were back to normal. Potential for permanent changes to travel patterns. Current use of electronic meetings and online shopping will likely never return to pre-Covid levels.

- FAST Act expiring September 2020 with no replacement in sight. RPO Participating in Mileage-Based User fee pilot study.
8. Steve Williams provided the Division 14 updates, including a summary of House Bill 77. One portion of the bill authorized the sale of \$700 million in NC Build bonds. They were previously scheduled to be sold in May but were delayed. The current STIP is undergoing an extensive revision and will affect nearly all project schedules. We don't know any revised dates yet, but we should expect significant slow-downs. Bridge projects are also being delayed.
 9. Roger Castillo provided the Transportation Planning Branch updates, including the Macon County CTP survey. He also provided a newsletter.
 10. TCC Member updates:
 - Randy Wiggins – Cherokee County got a budget approved; they are seeing better sales tax numbers than expected.
 - Justin Setser – Town of Franklin has adopted their Comprehensive Plan and are now moving on to 160d updates.
 - Debbie Coffey – the Dillsboro bridge replacement project is going strong.
 - Chad Simons – The US 64 widening project is going well. The utility relocations are underway.
 - Joe Walker – WCU students will be moving back to campus in phases beginning August 1. Construction is underway on the parking deck and the new science building. They received full funding for the steam plant this last legislative cycle so that will be moving along as well. Should see traffic picking up on NC 107 soon.
 - Mike Poston – Jackson County is moving forward with their Pedestrian Plan and Greenway Master Plan update. Have not been able to do community meetings, but are doing stakeholder interviews with smaller groups, and are holding a virtual question and answer session at the end of August.
 11. Coffey moved to adjourn; Wiggins made a second and the meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote.