



**Southwestern Commission**

125 Bonnie Lane, Sylva, NC 28779 | 828.586.1962

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

## **SOUTHWESTERN RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

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

**January 25, 2021 at 4:30 PM**

*Virtual meeting due to Covid-19 pandemic*

### **AGENDA**

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#### **Welcome and Housekeeping**

1. Roll Call and Quorum check (James Reid, Vice-Chair)
2. Ethics Reminder\* (Reid)
3. Agenda Approval/Modifications (Reid)
4. Public Comment

#### **Action Items**

5. Nominations and Election of TAC Chair and Vice-Chair
6. Minutes from September 28, 2020 SWRPO TAC meeting (Rose Bauguess)

#### **Informational Items**

7. NCFIRSTCommission Findings (Amna Cameron, Deputy Director of Strategic Initiatives and Program Support at NCDOT)
8. NCDOT Division 14 Updates (Steve Williams)
9. NCDOT Transportation Planning Division Update (Roger Castillo)
10. SWRPO Staff Update (Bauguess)
11. TAC Member Updates (All)
12. 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**  
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  
Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting Summary**

**Meeting Date: September 28, 2020**

**Location: Videoconference**

| Jurisdiction                                | Representative      | 09/28/2020                          |
|---|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Cherokee County</b>                      | CB McKinnon – Chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Andrews                                     | James Reid          | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Murphy                                      | Rick Ramsey         | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| <b>Clay County</b>                          | Clay Logan          | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Hayesville                                  | Harry Baughn        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Graham County</b>                        | Connie Orr          | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Fontana Dam                                 | Rob Hardy           | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Lake Santeetlah                             | Diana Simon         | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Robbinsville                                | Steve Hooper        | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| <b>Jackson County</b>                       | Brian McMahan       | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Dillsboro                                   | Mike Fitzgerald     | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Forest Hills                                | Marcia Almond       | <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Highlands                                   | Patrick Taylor      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Swain County</b>                         | Roger Parsons       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Bryson City                                 | Tom Sutton          | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| <b>Board of Transportation, Division 14</b> | Dirk Cody           | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| <b>TOTAL VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>        |                     | <b>9</b>                            |
| 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"/> |
| NCDOT STIP Unit                             | David Wasserman     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| NCDOT STIP Unit                             | Hannah Cook         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>TOTAL NON-MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>           |                     | <b>7</b>                            |

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### **Welcome and Housekeeping:**

1. Chair CB McKinnon called the meeting to order and conducted roll call of video-conference 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, Ronnie Beale motioned to approve the agenda as presented, with a second by Patrick Taylor. The agenda was approved unanimously.
4. McKinnon offered the opportunity for public comment; there were none.

### **Action Items:**

5. Rose Bauguess presented the minutes from the July 30, 2020 SWRPO TAC meeting for review and discussion. Lynda Sossamon motioned to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Patrick Taylor; the motion carried unanimously.

### **Informational Items:**

6. NCDOT Funding Situation. STIP Reprogramming presentation by David Wasserman and Hannah Cook with the STIP office in Raleigh.
  - \$2 billion total decrease in STIP revenues over 10 years and over \$3 billion in cost increases have led to a STIP that is not fiscally constrained, and therefore must be “reprogrammed”.
  - This will be accomplished largely by delaying many projects across the state.
  - This means that there will be very little funding available to program new projects in Prioritization 6.0.
  - Multiple questions were asked regarding the reasons for the large cost increases on projects. The driving factor is that the initial estimates were too low.
  - Lynda Sossamon inquired about the delay in sidewalk projects, which are relatively inexpensive to DOT but the local match is significant to a small town. Project delays had led to significant increases in the local match amount required. David hopes that once cash flow issues stabilize, they can move some of those projects forward.
  - Ronnie Beale expressed appreciation for the good job DOT does taking care of our roads and is concerned that state budget deficits will lead to counties and municipalities being forced to help pay for road improvements. None of our counties can afford that.

The STIP presentation and subsequent discussion took the remainder of the meeting time. The Southwestern Commission meeting was scheduled to begin at 5:30, so the SWRPO meeting was adjourned at 5:25, prior to completing the remaining items on the agenda.