



44 remove Mr. John Chittick from being named twice; once as absent, once as present. Mr.  
45 Chittick was not present at the September 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. With this change, Mr. Overholt  
46 made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Chair Tyson seconded. Motion  
47 passed by unanimous vote.  
48

49 **7. Public Involvement Plan:** *Maurizia Chapman*  
50

51 Ms. Chapman provided an update. Copies of the Public Involvement Plan were provided  
52 to the members in their packet. The current plan provides more detail.  
53

54 By Federal requirements, the plan underwent a 45-day public review comment period  
55 which ended November 12, 2014. The Plan was advertised in the Sun Journal  
56 newspaper.  
57

58 One public comment was received by a citizen noting it was a thorough and well-laid out  
59 plan.  
60

61 Ms. Chapman advised at this time, recommendation is made to the board to approve the  
62 plan as written. She noted the plan is a living plan and as things change, staff may  
63 present to the board for revisions, but this plan will guide the MPO through the process of  
64 the Metropolitan Transportation Plan.  
65

66 **Motion: Mayor Tyson made a motion to approve the Public Involvement Plan as**  
67 **presented and as recommended by the TCC. Commissioner Chittick seconded.**  
68 **Motion passed unanimously.**  
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71 **8. Support for River Bend Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant:** *Maurizia Chapman*  
72

73 Ms. Chapman introduced Mr. Delane Jackson, River Bend Town Manager, to present this  
74 item.  
75

76 Mr. Jackson informed the TAC that the TCC recommended approval of a Resolution of  
77 Support for this grant at the November 11, 2014 meeting. The town of River Bend will  
78 submit an application the NCDOT for funds in the amount of \$34,000 to begin the  
79 process, not as a construction fund. The funds will be used to develop a plan for  
80 pedestrian walkways as well as bicycle paths in River Bend. As their population is under  
81 5,000 residents, they are able to apply for both grants simultaneously. If approved, River  
82 Bend would match 10% of the grant funds (\$3,400). The application deadline is  
83 December 6, 2014.  
84

85 Mr. Jackson explained with approximately 17 miles of municipal streets, there are no  
86 viable sidewalks through River Bend. There are approximately 9,000 total feet of  
87 designated walking paths through River Bend, which make up less than 10% of the  
88 municipal streets.

89  
90 Mr. Ruggieri questioned if a motion would be to create a resolution. Ms. Chapman  
91 replied that the resolution had been included in the members' packets, and if approved,  
92 would request Chair Tyson's signature upon conclusion of the meeting.  
93

94 **Motion: Mayor Tyson made a motion to approve the Resolution of Support of the**  
95 **Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant request as presented and as recommended**  
96 **by the TCC. General Overholt seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**  
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99 **9. FY 2012 – 2018 Metropolitan Transportation Improvements Program (MTIP)**

100 **Amendment No. 1: *Roseann Christian, CARTS Director***

101  
102 Ms. Christian provided an update on the process of how they determined proportioning  
103 the funds received. Ms. Christian has mapped out funds for a five-years budget as well as  
104 a five-years grant. Funding is based on a 40/60 split between what's worked in rural and  
105 urban transit. As there is no previous urban route, there are no actual numbers to work  
106 with, therefore what has been provided in the total amount breakdown for both first and  
107 second years is based on numbers from the FTA and how they might utilize.  
108

109 Total project amounts were provided in a breakdown by years (via handout). Local  
110 match comes from projects with different contract services.  
111

112 Mr. Flanagan requested clarification on the 60/40 split. Ms. Christian replied the split is  
113 40% urban and 60% rural, although noted that within Craven County it is closer to a  
114 50/50 split. Starting July 1, the Urban portion will no longer be able to utilize state  
115 funding, therefore to maintain the current loop approval is required in the STIP to  
116 continue.  
117

118 Chair Tyson questioned the number of riders for this loop. Ms. Christian responded that  
119 they average 100,000 trips annually. A trip is defined by a person boarding the bus and  
120 being dropped at a location. If the same person boards the bus for a return trip, that is  
121 considered another trip. So the individual ridership numbers would be skewed by this  
122 definition. The CARTS client base consists of several thousand citizens.  
123

124 Ms. Chapman clarified for Chair Tyson that the board is taking action on the prepared  
125 resolution. The resolution is prepared in the format required by the NCDOT. It will go  
126 before the Board of Transportation in December for review and in January for approval.  
127

128 **Motion: Alderman White made a motion to approve by resolution Amendment No.**  
129 **1 to the MTIP as presented and as recommended by the TCC. General Overholt**  
130 **seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**  
131

132 **10. NC Rail Statewide Plan: Ryan White, Senior Transportation Engineer, Stantec**  
133

134 Ms. Chapman introduced Mr. White who provided a Powerpoint presentation to the  
135 board. Mr. White relayed the Statewide Rail Plan has not been officially released. He  
136 stated New Bern is being presented a high level overview of information that not  
137 everyone has seen yet. The cost numbers were provided in the presentation to the board  
138 but must be approved by the Board of Transportation and the Secretary first. The  
139 primary focus has been identified as the freight aspect of the 17 Corridor, and will touch  
140 on passenger travel, but that is not an immediate goal, rather a long tern focus.

141  
142 Mr. White relayed the plan is federally mandated and the last plan was initiated in 2009.  
143 The current goal is to partner the Governor with railroad companies, industry and public  
144 to develop a comprehensive plan to cover needs of the state, different regions and  
145 corridors. Prioritization methods have been created to help create long range strategies  
146 for resources, funding needs and economic benefits.

147  
148 In 2013 they held a rail plan forum and invited business community users of the rail  
149 system, MPOs and RPOs as well as representatives from commerce and agriculture. The  
150 goal was to bring DOT and the differing branches of government together with  
151 communities and industries to discuss and assess needs for North Carolina. The draft  
152 plan will be released in mid-December with a 35-45 day public comment period. Along  
153 with this release will be a project website with downloadable copies of the draft.

154  
155 As this plan isn't just a North Carolina plan, there is some regional outreach and  
156 coordination necessary regarding freight movement. Most freight within the state is  
157 inbound. There is projected future growth, however North Carolina will remain primarily  
158 a consumer state.

159  
160 There are long range plans to extend Amtrak service to the eastern part of the state in the  
161 future, but a bus system is in place now for the interim, to help grow ridership.

162  
163 Each corridor was prioritized, with a goal of eliminating some truck volume, and instead  
164 utilize the railroad to transport goods. Connection to the ports is top priority, therefore  
165 corridor 17 is the highest corridor to support industry and port growth. Strategic  
166 connections include Cherry Point, Camp Lejeune, and the Port of Morehead City. Due to  
167 the industrial business within this area, it is a major investment corridor in the state,  
168 ranking as high as the I-95 corridor.

169  
170 Current projects and studies include, bridges, a train station re-habilitation project in  
171 Goldsboro for long range passenger service, eastern NC infrastructure providing access to  
172 Morehead City. A rail bypass in Morehead City and Beaufort has also been considered,  
173 going North of Newport. The New Bern Bypass has also been considered.

174  
175 Ms. Chapman relayed that during the November TCC meeting, Mr. Neil Perry inquired if  
176 New Bern and other local areas would participate in funding this study. After further  
177 discussions it was determined that they were looking at \$25-30,000 from the MPO. Ms.  
178 Chapman explained there are some reserve funds that could be allocated for this. The

179 total for the study is expected to be \$100,000. It would benefit the MPO area to prepare a  
180 budget amendment allotting funds for this feasibility study in early 2015.

181  
182 Mr. White explained that these individual projects, the New Bern bypass included, all  
183 work together along with any initiatives from the Port Authority to make the Port of  
184 Morehead more attractive. There is an opportunity for a much deeper port.

185  
186 Next steps are to finalize the plan, determine costs, make revisions and submit a draft for  
187 public comment for finalization in June 2015.

188  
189 Mayor Kirkland provided information to Ms. Chapman and requested his information as  
190 well as Mr. White's presentation be included in the minutes of the meeting.

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192 **11. Updates:**

193 **A. Transportation Planning Branch Update:** *Behshad Norowzi, P.E., NCDOT*  
194 *TPB*

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196 Mr. Norowzi announced that Ms. Nimbole is no longer with the Transportation  
197 Planning Branch. The position has been posted and will be closed on Monday,  
198 December 1<sup>st</sup>. He hopes to have someone in the position by mid-January. He will  
199 continue to work on the transportation model in Priya's absence.

200  
201 Patrick questioned if the Downeast RPO Coordinator position has been posted.  
202 Mr. Noworzi advised the documentation has been submitted, but hasn't heard any  
203 follow up.

204  
205 **B. CARTS Update:** *Rosann Christian, Transit Director*

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207 Ms. Christian reported the paperwork for the grant has been submitted, and are  
208 expecting an answer by December 5<sup>th</sup>. Typically it takes six months to process  
209 the application, so they are ahead of the deadline. They are already in  
210 concurrence with the Civil Rights portion of the application. The other pieces  
211 include submitting documents for access to their database management and their  
212 team, which has all been submitted.

213  
214 Ms. Christian visited the Transit System in Carteret County and viewed some new  
215 technology they have recently introduced. In observing, a few things became  
216 clear in why CARTS may be under-utilized. Within the current CARTS System,  
217 it is not convenient to be on a two-day waiting period for service. The current  
218 system is fairly efficient as far as meeting riders' demand/response times  
219 (currently sitting at 85-86%, and are at 100% as far as the loop run) but to  
220 improve the number of people put in each vehicle in the hours' time, it would be  
221 better to schedule it, where most processes are still done manually. The new  
222 technology they are considering would make a large impact on efficiency.  
223 Offering same day service would be possible with the new technology and would

224 increase revenues.

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**C. New Bern Area MPO Update:** *Maurizia Chapman, AICP, NBAMPO*

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*Administrator, Ms. Kim Maxey, NBAMPO Planner*

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Ms. Chapman reported on the following:

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- Staff traveled to Raleigh to attend Title VI training. There will be additional training. A Demographic request form was provided to each member to fill out. Ms. Maxey will be the Title VI coordinator.

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- The website went live on October 1. Ms. Chapman requested members view it and ensure respected jurisdictions have accurate links.

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- The Facebook page continues to provide updates on upcoming meetings and events.

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239

- Staff attended several public information workshops. Ms. Chapman attended the NCAMPO meeting where it was announced that NC Carolina Conference will be April 29-May 1 in Raleigh. Staff will review available funds to determine how many board members may be covered for hotel and registration, much as was done last year. Ms. Chapman relayed that the 2016 NCAMPO conference will be held in Charlotte, but they were looking for a host for the 2017 conference, to which Maurizia volunteered to host, along with the DownEast RPO.

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- The Public Involvement meeting was held at the Library and was successful. There were about 20 people that attended. Handouts were provided of the feedback received during this meeting.

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- The MPO will engage a consultant to assist in the development of the 2040 Population and Economic Projections to complete the Highway Model. He will be engaged at the beginning of 2015 and will work with a committee consisting of TCC members and other members to assist in projections. A completed model and recommendations should be available by the end of April. These funds were already in the UPWP under Special Studies.

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- The Ethics education webinar will be held on Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 a.m. The conference room will be set up for the training and all members are encouraged to attend. If not, they need to participate from their location.

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- Development Services will be moving in mid-December, as will the MPO offices. The new location will be at 303 First Street in the old Electric Utilities Building. January meetings will be held there.

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- In January the MPO will need to begin considerations to the Chair and Vice-chair positions; whether to retain current personnel or vote for new positions.

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- Ms. Chapman requested members leave their MPO binders so staff can update documents within.

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267 **12. Discussion:** No additional discussion.

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**13. Adjourn:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Steve Tyson, Chairman

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Jeff Ruggieri, Secretary