

1 **NEW BERN AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**
2 **TAC MEETING MINUTES**

3
4 **March 27, 2014**
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6 The New Bern Area Metropolitan Planning Organization held its regularly scheduled meeting on
7 Thursday, March 27, 2014 at 11:00 AM in the City Hall Courtroom, 2nd floor, 300 Pollock
8 Street.
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10 **Members Present:** Mr. Steve Tyson – Chairman (in at 12:04 pm)
11 Mr. John Chittick – Bridgeton
12 Mr. John Kirkland – River Bend
13 Mr. Chuck Tyson – Trent Woods
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15 **Members Excused:**

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17 **Non-Voting Members:** Ms. Jill Stark – NCDOT – Present
18 Mr. Terry Jordan – CARTS – Present
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20 **Members Absent:** Mr. Johnnie Ray Kinsey – Vice Chairman
21 Mr. Hugh Overholt – NC Board of Transportation
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23 **Guests Present:** Ms. Cindy Camacho, URS
24 Mr. Ivo Dernev, URS
25 Mr. Marc Finlayson, Highway 17 Association
26 Ms. Mickey Miller, New Bern Housing Authority
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28 **Staff Present:** Mr. Jeff Ruggieri – TCC Chairman – TAC Secretary
29 Ms. Maurizia Chapman – New Bern MPO Administrator
30 Mr. Behshad Norowzi – NCDOT – Present
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- 32 **1. Call to Order:** In the absence of Chairman Tyson and Vice-Chairman Kinsey, TAC
33 Secretary Ruggieri called the meeting to order at 11:10 am.
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35 **2. Roll call** was not taken for lack of a quorum, therefore no ACTION ITEMS could be
36 presented at this time. Secretary Ruggieri skipped to ITEM 7 of the agenda.
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38 **7. U.S.17 Economic Impact Study:** Marc Finlayson, Highway 17 Association

39 Mr. Marc Finlayson presented the TCC with copies of the U.S. 17 Economic Impact
40 Study. The study was financed through the NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch in
41 the amount of \$250,000.00 of which 80% came from the federal government and 20%
42 was provided by the state. He directed Members to a PowerPoint presentation where he
43 discussed the history of the study and findings. The study addressed three proposals,
44 Plan A, Plan B and Plan C, providing information on the economic value and projected

45 benefits for each alternative. He talked about a proposed Interstate 44, from Raleigh, NC
46 to Norfolk, VA, and the positive impact such interstate would have on U.S. 17. He then
47 discussed the new projects funding legislation (Strategic Mobility Formula) and the hope
48 that this document could aid in ranking this project. TAC Member Chittick asked if
49 maintenance of the proposed facility was considered and included in the computation of
50 project costs. Mr. Finlayson responded that maintenance is not included in project cost at
51 this time, even though it will have an impact on the facility. Member Chittick replied that
52 the current road funding model is outdated and maintenance costs should be part of the
53 equation.
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55 **8. New Bern Choice Neighborhood Planning Grant:** Mickey Miller, New Bern Housing
56 Authority

57 Ms. Mickey Miller provided TCC members with information on the Choice
58 Neighborhood Planning Grant, also known as CNI (Choice Neighborhood Initiative) that
59 the New Bern Housing Authority and the City of New Bern, as co-applicant, have just
60 received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. New Bern was
61 one of only nine communities out of 54 applicants within the United States to receive this
62 \$400,000 planning grant. A solid plan could generate additional grant funds anywhere
63 between \$20 Million to \$30 Million that would be used to implement the CNI in the Five
64 Points commercial district and the Duffyfield community. Ms. Miller explained some of
65 the statistical data that was used for the grant application and discussed the planning
66 structure (People Lead, Housing Lead and Neighborhood Lead) and agencies involved. A
67 discussion followed the presentation. Chairman Ruggieri thanked Ms. Miller for her
68 willingness to present this important effort to the MPO Boards.
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70 Chairman Tyson joined the meeting at 12:04 pm during the New Bern CNI presentation. At
71 the end of Item 8, Secretary Ruggieri turned the meeting over to Chair Tyson, who agreed to
72 listen to the last presentation before visiting the ACTION ITEMS.
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74 **9. Trent Woods Pedestrian Plan:** Cynthia Camacho, AICP, URS

75 Ms. Camacho provided an overview of the Trent Woods Pedestrian Plan which was
76 recently adopted by the town of Trent Woods . She presented the history of the plan,
77 major findings, public participation and projected costs of the preferred pedestrian
78 projects. One of the priorities set during the study is the development of a partnership
79 with the City of New Bern, the New Bern Area MPO and schools, local businesses and
80 community organizations. The plan also promotes innovative programs that can
81 encourage safety and mobility. Ms. Camacho was informed that two of projects
82 recommended in the plan had been submitted through the SPOT process.
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- 85 **1. Roll Call:** Secretary Ruggieri requested a roll call and a quorum was declared
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- 87 **2. Ethics Reminder:** Chairman Tyson discussed the Ethics reminder. There were no
88 conflict of interest issues for this meeting.

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3. Approval of today’s agenda

Chairman Tyson requested approval of today’s agenda. A motion to approve the agenda was made by TAC Member Chuck Tyson and seconded by TAC Member Kirkland. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Approval of the minutes of the February 20, 2014

Chairman Tyson requested approval of the February 20, 2014 meeting minutes. A motion was made by TAC Member Kirkland to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by TAC Member Chuck Tyson and passed unanimously.

5. Eastern North Carolina MPO/RPO Coalition: Maurizia Chapman

Ms. Chapman reminded TAC members of the presentation and discussion the NBAMPO had in May of 2013 regarding participation in the Eastern North Carolina MPOs/RPOs Coalition. She outlined the history of the Coalition and referred Members to a handout that included web links and information on this organization and a Resolution that had been used by other MPOs and RPOs to become members. She requested that the TAC approve a NBAMPO Resolution to become a member of the ENC MPOs/RPOs Coalition and to appoint TAC Members as the representative and the alternate to the Elected Officials Board. After some discussion, a motion was made by TAC Member Chuck Tyson to approve by Resolution membership in the Eastern North Carolina MPOs/RPOs Coalition and to appoint TAC Member Kirkland as the NBAMPO representative to the Coalition, with Chairman Tyson and TAC Member Chuck Tyson as the Alternates. The motion was seconded by TAC Member Kirkland and passed unanimously.

TAC Members discussed the Ethics requirements, the issues encountered during filing and the need to get up to date feedback from the NC Ethics office. Ms. Stark offered that the NBAMPO was not the only organization finding difficulty in getting the Ethics office to provide timely and straight answers and that during conversations with other MPOs she was informed that this issue is rather common. She suggested that if things don’t get better, we may want to discuss this with the NCAMPO board and provide the state of North Carolina with an official letter of concern.

10. Updates:

- **Transportation Planning Branch:** Behshad Norowzi

Mr. Norowzi informed the TAC that the first and second quarter reimbursement requests by the MPO have been approved and disbursed by NCDOT. The UPWP amendment to FY 2014 is in the process of being approved and the draft FY 2015 UPWP is being processed and has been conditionally approved. The Base Year data should be fully entered by the end of May and the model calibration should take place in August. There

134 still are some issues with getting data from Cherry Pint MAB, but we are hoping to get
135 what we need soon. The NCDOT SPOT office should release preliminary scores by
136 May.
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- 138 • **New Bern Area MPO:** Maurizia Chapman
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140 Ms. Chapman discussed the submission of candidate projects through the SPOT ON
141 LINE web site. She also referred to the conditional approval by NCDOT of the Local
142 Projects Ranking and Methodology and thanked members for allowing the draft
143 document to be available on their jurisdictions' web site for public review. The
144 document will be available for public review until April 10th and the document will be
145 presented to the TCC and TAC at the April meetings for final approval. Ms. Chapman
146 then distributed hard copies of the Draft Prospectus and Draft FY 2015 UPWP and
147 reminded members that they will have to take action on those documents at the April
148 meeting. She informed members that a web developer has been selected and work on the
149 web site will begin after all of the legal and financial details have been taken care of.
150 Development of the site should take between six and eight weeks. The site will also
151 include a "google" calendar. She will attend the "Main Street" Conference in New Bern
152 on March 31-April 1 and will participate in an Eastern North Carolina MPOs/RPOs
153 Coalition meeting with the division engineers during the second week of April.
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155 **11. Discussion:**

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157 Ms. Stark announced that the Federal Grant she applied for on behalf of the New Bern
158 Area MPO has been approved by FHWA. The grant would not cover "conferences", but
159 will be used for a peer exchange addressing hurricane evacuation routes in a tri-state area
160 (Virginia, North and South Carolina). She requested and has received approximately
161 \$11,000 which will cover travel and hotel for members of the coastal MPOs within the
162 three states, facilities to hold the peer exchange and air fare and hotel accommodations
163 for an expert from the National Hurricane Center in Florida.
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165 She also informed the committee that she has accepted a position with the Office of
166 Planning for FHWA in Washington D.C. and this will probably be her last NBAMPO
167 meeting. Although excited by the prospect, she regrets leaving this MPO as she enjoyed
168 working with all of the MPO members and staff.
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170 **12. Public Comments:** There were no public comments.

171 **13. Adjourn**

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174 There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.
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