

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

3
4 **September 11, 2014**

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6 The New Bern Area Metropolitan Planning Organization held its regularly scheduled meeting on
7 Thursday, September 11, 2014 at 1:30 PM in the Dunn Building, Development Services
8 Conference Room, 3rd floor, 248 Craven Street.
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10 **Members Present:** Mr. Jeff Ruggieri - Chair
11 Mr. Gene Hodges – Vice-Chair
12 Ms. Loretta Barren - FHWA
13 Mr. Don Baumgardner – County of Craven
14 Mr. Tom Braaten – NB Regional Airport (arrived 1:50 pm)
15 Ms. Maurizia Chapman – -New Bern Area MPO
16 Ms. Roseann Christian – CARTS Director
17 Mr. Patrick Flanagan – Down East RPO
18 Mr. David Fort – Town of Bridgeton
19 Mr. Jim Freeman – Town of River Bend
20 Mr. Steve Hamilton – NCDOT
21 Mr. Jordan Hughes – City of New Bern
22 Mr. David Morton - NCDOT (for Haywood Daughtry)
23 Ms. Priya Nimbole - NCDOT
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27 **Members Excused:** Mr. Jeff Cabaniss – NCDOT
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29 **Members Absent:** Mr. Kevin Roberts – NB Chamber of Commerce
30 Mr. John Rouse – NCDOT
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32 **Guests Present:** Ms. Kelly Walker – CARTS
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34 **Staff Present:** Ms. Kimberly Maxey, New Bern Area MPO
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37 1. **Call to Order:** Chair Jeff Ruggieri called the meeting to order at 1:40 pm.
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39 2. **Roll Call:** Roll Call was taken by Chair Ruggieri and a quorum was declared.
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41 3. **Public Comments:** N/A
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43 4. **Approval of today’s agenda:** Agenda was approved.
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45 **5. Approval of the minutes of the July 31, 2014 meeting:** Reading of the minutes was
46 waived. Mr. David Fort made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion
47 was seconded by Mr. Don Baumgardner and passed unanimously.
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49 **6. FY 2012 – 2018 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP):**
50 **Maurizia Chapman:**
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52 While working with Transit Director Ms. Christian on future requests for public transportation,
53 Ms. Chapman realized the MPO did not have the MTIP in place. Ms. Chapman advised the
54 MPO did not initially adopt an MTIP when established. When the MPO was created, the SPOT
55 2 process was in place, but was abandoned shortly thereafter for the SPOT 3 process, which has
56 been done.
57

58 In working with NCDOT and guidance from Ms. Loretta Barren, they extracted the non-transit
59 projects currently within our urbanized area and compiled the TIP that was sent to board
60 members. There are no new projects being worked on at this time. An ad was placed in the
61 paper for public comment providing the two-week notice period to the public. All Statewide
62 projects must be included in the TIP as well. Transit projects are not included in the current
63 MTIP because they are still operating thru rural grant funds. The next fiscal year, transportation
64 projects will be funded using urban grant funds. Ms. Christian advised the application for the
65 grant funds would need to be completed this fiscal year. Mr. Ruggieri confirmed that would be
66 based on existing services, no new services. Ms. Christian confirmed this.
67

68 Ms. Chapman requested the TCC approve the MTIP and recommend TAC approval.
69

70 Mr. Patrick Flanagan questioned if the TIP includes feasibility studies. Ms. Chapman responded
71 that typically it would, but this is the 2012-2018, which is currently recognized by the FHWA.
72 Mr. Flanagan noted there is a feasibility study currently being done on the James City bypass,
73 and questioned why that wouldn't be included in the MTIP. Ms. Barren advised it was not
74 included due to the way the study was being funded, noting it was most likely funded using state
75 funds.
76

77 **Motion: Mr. Steve Hamilton made a motion to approve the MTIP and recommend the**
78 **TAC approve the MTIP as presented. Vice-chair Hodges seconded. Motion passed by**
79 **unanimous vote.**
80

81 **7. Updates:**

82 **a. Transportation Planning Branch Update: Priya Nimbole, P.E., NCDOT**
83 *NBAMPO Coordinator*
84

85 Ms. Nimbole stated that she has been working on calibration of the model which
86 is a fairly lengthy and tedious process. She did receive census information for
87 MCIS Cherry Branch in Havelock, which currently shows 4,500 soldiers on the
88 base. This does not include soldiers that are deployed overseas. Mr. Jim Freeman
89 advised there was a major problem with that census data. Current census data did

90 not include family members that remained on base while a soldier was deployed.
91 Mr. Freeman suggested they work with their GIS technician in Havelock for more
92 accurate data. Ms. Chapman noted between April and July the data was skewed,
93 and reiterated that the data previously provided by the military were more
94 accurate than the census numbers. General Tom Braaten also informed Ms.
95 Nimbole that the 4,500 shown on the census was the number of soldiers living in
96 the barracks on the base. That did not include family housing. Mr. Freeman
97 agreed and stated his last recollection was somewhere between 9,000-10,000.
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99 Ms. Nimbole responded that her data came from the 2010 census. Ms. Chapman
100 repeated that the 2010 census data was skewed incorrectly for all military bases in
101 the state. She noted when projecting into the future, even considering Cherry
102 Point stable, the troops that weren't there in 2010 needed to be included. Ms.
103 Barren agreed.
104

105 General Braaten suggested looking at the economic impact statement that shows
106 exactly the number of active duty soldiers, retired soldiers and civilian personnel.
107 The document is produced each year and is available to the public. Ms. Nimbole
108 requested information on how to obtain, and will look into reviewing this
109 information.
110

111 Mr. Freeman responded that he could also provide Ms. Nimbole with data on the
112 number of vehicles that traveled into and out of MCIS Cherry Point if that would
113 be beneficial to her. Ms. Nimbole agreed that would be beneficial information to
114 have.
115

116 Ms. Nimbole asked members to provide input on the average time it takes getting
117 to work. The data she has show an average travel time within the model area of
118 8.5 minutes. Based on the input provided by board members, it was determined
119 an average time of at least 20 minutes was more probable.
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122 **b. New Bern Area MPO Update:** *Maurizia Chapman, AICP, NBAMPO*
123 *Administrator, Kim Maxey, NBAMPO Planner*
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125 Ms. Chapman reported on the following:
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- 127 • Re-introduced the new MPO Planner, Ms. Kim Maxey who started with the
128 initial creation of the MPO.
- 129 • Final Project scoring sheets were provided to board members for review.
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131 Ms. Maxey reported on the following:

- 132 • Website updates are moving forward steadily and the hope is to have it live no
133 later than the end of September.

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- Presentations have been given to each jurisdiction within the MPO, providing an overview of what the MPO is and does.
- A presentation will be given to the City of New Bern Board of Adjustment in November and also to the Board of Aldermen at a date still to be determined.
- The NBAMPO will have a booth set up at Mumfest on Saturday, October 11.
- Staff has requested each jurisdiction advise of any activities being planned in which staff could interact with the public for knowledge and input for goals and vision for the MPO.
- Creating a Citizen Advisory Committee will be the next major step in engaging the public.

Ms. Loretta Barren provided updates on the following:

- The Notice of Proposed Rule Making is out for the Metropolitan Planning grants. The deadline for public comment has been extended until October 2nd.
- She gave an update on the Hurricane Evacuation peer exchange. There was good participation. She has finished a rough draft which is being reviewed in her office, but upon approval will be provided.

8. Discussion: Vice-chair Gene Hodges noted the State has begun the safety improvements along Highway 55 in Bridgeton by the Food Lion intersection. He questioned how long that would take to complete. Mr. Hamilton responded that, due to weather predictions, he was hesitant to give a date, but expected it to take about a week without major weather delays.

Mr. Hughes announced that the re-paving of Neuse Boulevard has been completed. They have a small section to work on by the railroad, but for overall purposes it is complete.

9. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 PM.

Jeff Ruggieri, Chairman

Maurizia Chapman, MPO Administrator