

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

3
4 **July 31, 2014**

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6 The New Bern Area Metropolitan Planning Organization held its regularly scheduled meeting on
7 Thursday, July 31, 2014 at 1:30 PM in the Dunn Building, Development Services Conference
8 Room, 3rd floor, 248 Craven Street.
9

10 **Members Present:** Mr. Jeff Ruggieri - Chair
11 Mr. Gene Hodges – Vice-Chair
12 Mr. Don Baumgardener – County of Craven
13 Mr. Tom Braaten – NB Regional Airport
14 Mr. Jeff Cabaniss – NCDOT
15 Ms. Maurizia Chapman – -New Bern Area MPO
16 Mr. Patrick Flanagan – Down East MPO
17 Mr. David Fort – Town of Bridgeton
18 Mr. Steve Hamilton – NCDOT (arrived late)
19 Mr. Pete Connet – Town of River Bend

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21 Ms. Priya Nimbole - NCDOT
22 Mr. John Rouse – NCDOT

23
24 **Members Excused:** Ms. Loretta Barren - FHWA
25 Mr. Haywood Daughtry – NCDOT
26 Mr. Jordan Hughes – City of New Bern

27
28 **Members Absent:** Mr. Kevin Roberts – NB Chamber of Commerce

29
30 **Guests Present:** Mr. Hugh Overholt – NC Board of Transportation
31 Mr. Kelly Walker – Transportation Department
32 Mr. Ron Sage - Citizen

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34
35 **Staff Present:** Ms. Tiffany K. Edmonds, City of New Bern

- 36
37 **1. Call to Order:** Chair Jeff Ruggieri called the meeting to order at 1:30 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. Approval of today’s agenda:** Agenda was approved.
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43 **4. Approval of the minutes of the June 26, 2014 meeting:** Reading of the minutes was
44 waived.

45 Mr. Pete Connet made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded
46 by Mr. Tom Braaten and passed unanimously.

47

48 **5. P 3.0 Projects prioritization ranking and scoring: Maurizia Chapman:**

49

50 Ms. Chapman addressed the issues brought up in a letter received from the Southern
51 Environmental Law Center, going over each item specified in the letter that drew a questionable
52 response from this group. A few items referred specifically to the NCDOT. Ms. Chapman
53 explained in these instances, where the MPO was not referred to, it was not necessary for them to
54 respond to those issues, rather they needed to respond to the items that pertain to the MPO that
55 were targeted as questionable.

56

57 The biggest issue Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC) has is with the Havelock Bypass,
58 as it passes through the National Forest.

59

60 Ms. Chapman advised the first part of the draft talks about the SELC's surprise and
61 disappointment that the MPO chose a project that would aid in what they consider unnecessary
62 destruction of part of the National Forest. The SELC also noted it is unclear how such a high
63 score was given to this project and how the MPO must fully articulate and justify the score
64 assigned to the Havelock Bypass.

65

66 Ms. Chapman advised her response was backed up by the fact the MPO followed the matrix to
67 completion in scoring the regional projects. She noted the MPO followed the methodology
68 process in determining the score for this project.

69

70 The SELC also stated the projects provide no real safety benefit to construction of the Havelock
71 Bypass to justify the score assigned by the MPO. Ms. Chapman's response was to explain the
72 methodology and how the points are assigned in correctly following this process. The score met
73 the requirements of the NBAMPO methodology.

74

75 Ms. Chapman referred to guest Mr. Sage, who was in attendance. She noted this meeting was
76 not a public hearing, clarifying the TAC would hold a public hearing that will allow for public
77 comment. Mr. Sage has recommendations to the board that were distributed via email and Ms.
78 Chapman advised how they proceeded with would be at the discretion of the Chair and Vice-
79 Chair. She stated she invited Mr. Sage to come so he could be more familiar with the MPO
80 process.

81

82 Ms. Chapman noted staff requests the TCC review and approve the draft projects that will be
83 presented and open for the public hearing. Staff requests the TCC recommend approval to the
84 TAC.

85 Mr. Hodges questioned if there were any changes to the project list since the last meeting. Ms.
86 Chapman noted NC 43 was the last project to be added, with the remaining points. No additional
87 changes were made. The comments within the division were submitted to all members as well.

88

89 Mr. Flanagan noted he has a list to review the U.S. 17 projects. Ms. Chapman advised that upon

90 TAC approval the additional points would be given to US 17 in the two different RPO's. She
91 followed the process but Raleigh advised they needed to designate which HWY 17 projects
92 would get the points. She reached out to both RPO's for clarification and was told the RPO's are
93 meeting after the TAC meeting to determine their project designations. Ms. Chapman has
94 already entered the preliminary scores, but can be changed any time until the deadline for
95 submittal.

96
97 **Motion: Vice Chair Hodges made a motion to approve the current project list for both**
98 **division and regional needs as presented. Mr. Baumgardener seconded. Motion passed**
99 **by unanimous vote.**

100
101 Chair Ruggieri introduced guest Mr. Sage, providing him an opportunity to comment. Mr. Sage
102 advised he was in attendance in the event there was a question on ranking. Ms. Chapman
103 expressed her interest in speaking with Mr. Sage and appreciated his attendance.

104
105 Vice Chair Hodges requested clarification on the next steps, verifying this will go before the
106 TAC for approval and that a public hearing will be held prior to filing their decision. Ms.
107 Chapman verified this to be correct. Chair Ruggieri confirmed upon their decision, the presented
108 project list would be final.

109
110 **6. Hurricane Evacuation Planning Peer Exchange: Maurizia Chapman**
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112 Ms. Chapman stated this event was held on July 28 and 29. All of the coastal MPO's from South
113 Carolina to Virginia were in attendance other than the Charleston MPO. Also in attendance were
114 representatives from FEMA, FHWA, NOAA, NCDOT and Planning Division of SCDOT.
115 FHWA was pleased with the outcome. Our representative will write a report that will be
116 submitted up the chain, presenting the ideas that could be used in transportation planning for all
117 coastal area MPO's in the US.

118
119 **7. NBAMPO 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Goals and Objectives: Maurizia**
120 **Chapman**
121

122 Ms. Chapman explained now that the SPOT process is almost complete, they will need to go
123 back and focus on the long range transportation planning, finding goals and objectives for the
124 area, including public involvement. She attended the Craven County Planning Board meeting,
125 and has future dates scheduled with the other municipality Planning Boards, explaining the
126 MPO, answering questions, connecting with the public.

127
128 She requested the members keep her informed of local activities that would allow the MPO an
129 opportunity to interact with the public to encourage their involvement and educate on what the
130 MPO is.

131 **8. Updates:**

- 132 *a. Transportation Planning Branch Update: Priya Nimbole, P.E., NCDOT*
133 *NBAMPO Coordinator*
134

135 Ms. Nimbole stated that she received information from Cherry Point. The data
136 that was provided did not include verification of where the information was
137 obtained. Mr. Braaten stated the data from the base is accurate and must be
138 verified internally prior to being released, so he supports the validity of the data.
139

140 **b. New Bern Area MPO Update:** *Maurizia Chapman, AICP, NBAMPO*
141 *Administrator*

142 Ms. Chapman reported on the following:

- 143 • The website continues moving forward and coming together nicely.
- 144
- 145 • Actively talking with NCDOT Rail Division, Planning Office and had agreed
146 to come to the TAC meeting in September, but later advised there is an annual
147 conference during the meeting time and requested the TAC reschedule their
148 meeting to accommodate this. She will present for discussion during the next
149 TAC meeting.
150 TAC meeting.
151

152
153 **9. Discussion:** There was no discussion.
154

155 **10. Public Comments:** Mr. Sage wasn't sure how many people were able to review his
156 comments and recommendations on new projects, but his concerns revolve around
157 pedestrian traffic at railroad crossings at certain intersections. He has talked with Mr.
158 Jordan Hughes who suggested he contact the NCDOT Railroad. He contacted the
159 NCDOT who advised they had not received any comments or suggestions from the City.
160 He would like to address the 7 specific issues with future projects pertaining to pedestrian
161 traffic at railroads. Mr. Steve Hamilton recommended that Mr. Sage provide information
162 on the individual crossings and he would look into the matter.
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164
165 **11. Adjourn**
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167 There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:12 PM.
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171 _____
172 Jeff Ruggieri, Chairman

Maurizia Chapman, MPO Administrator