

Southwestern Rural Planning Organization

TAC Meeting 11/26/2007

Holiday Inn – Cherokee, NC

Present

TAC (Transportation Advisory Committee)

- Glenn Jones – Swain County
- Brian McMahan – Jackson County
- Harry Jarrett – Clay County
- Jonathon Dickey – Cherokee County
- Harrell Moore – Town of Hayesville, Clay County
- Bill Hughes – Town of Murphy, Cherokee County
- Jim Davis – Town of Forest Hills
- Brenda Oliver – Town of Sylva
- Kate Welch – Town of Bryson City
- Joe Collins – Town of Franklin
- Steve Gray – Town of Webster, Jackson County
- Don Mullens – Town of Highlands, Jackson County
- Conrad Burrell, NCDOT Division 14 Board Member

Non-voting Attendees

- Joel Setzer – NCDOT Division 14
- Ryan Sherby, RPO Planner of Southwestern Commission, Secretary TCC/TAC

Chairman Mayor Bill Hughes called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. Ryan Sherby reported that a quorum was present.

Introductions were made.

Agenda Additions

1. Resolution of support to EBCI for a NCDOT Pedestrian Planning Grant Application.
2. Approval of Minutes from June 20, 2007 and the October 16, 2007 TAC meeting.

Agenda Items

Chairman Hughes offered a resolution of support to the EBCI for a NCDOT Pedestrian Planning Grant Application. Joel Setzer explained how municipalities can apply for these grants to produce a long range plan that would provide for safe pedestrian travel. It was also stated that the RPO Coordinator would help with technical support if needed not the member governments.

MOTION BY MAYOR BRENDA OLIVER, SECOND BY MAYOR DON MULLENS, TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE

**EBCI APPLICATION FOR NCDOT PLANNING GRANT FUNDS.
MOTION CARRIED.**

Chairman Bill Hughes offered for approval of minutes of the June 20, 2007 and October 16, 2007 meeting.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER GLENN JONES, SECOND BY
COMMISSIONER HERBERT CHEEKS, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES
FROM THE JUNE 20, 2007 AND OCTOBER 16, 2007 BUSINESS
MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.**

Chairman Hughes called for nominations to fill the SWRPO TAC Chairman.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER BRIAN MCMAHAN, SECOND BY
MAYOR BRENDA OLIVER, TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER GLENN
JONES AS THE RPO'S CHAIRMAN, AND TO CLOSE THE FLOOR TO
OTHER NOMINATIONS. MOTION CARRIED.**

Ryan Sherby offered for adoption the prioritized list of projects for the region to be considered in the draft 2009-2015 STIP (State Transportation Improvement Plan). Public comments collected during the posting of the draft list were circulated. Most of the discussion centered on individual projects on the priority list. Commissioner McMahan stated that the commissioners ranked a feasibility study of 107 above the "Sylva-Dillsboro Bypass". Mayor Steve Gray questioned Conrad Burrell regarding alignment choices of the Southern portion (R-4745A) of the bypass in the feasibility study. Mayor Gray commented that going thru downtown Webster would definitely be a problem. Joel commented that the alignments are chosen primarily from Raleigh by mapping and were merely for forecasting traffic and cost. Some discussion regarding the Siler Road options occurred between Joe Collins, Conrad Burrell and Joel Setzer. Kate Welch addressed Conrad and Joel regarding the poor condition of US 19 thru Main Street Bryson City. Other questions were general regarding projects on the list, which were answered by Joel Setzer. Mayor Hughes questioned bridge replacements and repair in Cherokee County. Joel Setzer stated that the USFS can assist with funding these bridges within Forest Service Lands.

**MOTION MADE BY COMMISSIONER MCMAHAN, SECOND BY
MAYOR BILL HUGHES, TO ADOPT THE PRIORITIZED LIST OF
PROJECTS AS IS. MOTION CARRIED.**

Ryan Sherby offered the amended MOU for adoption. Sherby stated the differences between the existing and proposed amended MOU. Discussion centered on the quorum definitions. Mayor Mullins was concerned that if too many vacancies occurred that the potential for an extremely small quorum could occur. Mayor Mullins recommended assigning a minimum number of members present to be 30%, or six, in order to conduct business.

MOTION MADE BY MAYOR DON MULLINS TO ADOPT THE AMENDED MOU AS IS WITH THE ADDITION OF MINIMUM OF SIX MEMBERS TO CONDUCT BUSINESS, SECOND BY MAYOR BILL HUGHES. MOTION CARRIED

Ryan Sherby offered the suggested 2008 meeting schedule. The TAC approved of the schedule.

Ryan Sherby offered the Priority list of Comprehensive Transportation Plans that was previously submitted to NCDOT. He stated that the TCC has been charged to report back to the county staff regarding the ranking and the requirements of a County in order for NCDOT to conduct a study, for example a land development plan as a prerequisite. The TCC will have a recommendation for the TAC at the January 28 meeting.

Ryan Sherby explained that the next fiscal year PWP (Planning Work Program) would need to be adopted by March 31st. He stated that any project support or needs must be conveyed in order to program into the work plan. This item will be on the agenda of the March 24th meeting.

Ryan Sherby explained that the draft 2009-15 State Transportation Improvement Plan was included in the agenda packet for the committees review.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ryan Sherby
SW RPO TCC Secretary