

Southwestern Rural Planning Organization (RPO) Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting

11/25/2013 Minutes

Chesnut Tree Inn
37 Tsalagi Road, Cherokee, NC 28719

Present:

Mike Edwards- Graham County	Tim Gamble- Fontana Dam	Maurice Moody- Sylva
Jack Debnam- Jackson County	Joe Collins- Franklin	Larry Kernea - NCDOT
David Wood- Cherokee County	David Wilkes- Highlands	Ronnie Beale- Macon County
Kate Welch- Bryson City		

Non-Voting:

Edward Green- NCDOT	Philip Moore- Southwestern RPO Secretary
Harry Baughn- Hayesville Mayor-Elect	Rebecca Duley- Southwestern Commission Planner
Pat Taylor ☐ Highlands Mayor-Elect	David Monteith- Swain County Commissioner

Agenda Items

1. Chairman Edwards called meeting to order at 5:02 PM, read the ethics statement, and established that a quorum was present.

2. Edwards called for approval of minutes from 9/23/2013 TAC business meeting.

Motion by Jack Debnam, seconded by David Wilkes, to approve the minutes from the September 23, 2013 business meeting. Motion was carried.

3. Philip provided updates from TCC meeting, noting that all action items were passed as recommendations to the TAC.

No action necessary.

4. Draft Local Methodology for Prioritization 3.0

- Mr. Debnam noted that because our total number of 1300 points is based on population, how will we compete with divisions with greater population areas?
- Sarah Graham noted that other areas with greater populations are limited to 100 points per project as well, and Mr. Green added that we can put 100 points on our top 13 projects.
- Mike Edwards suggested that the group begin to start looking at this regionally to figure out what projects are most important.
- David Wood suggested that the board go through a process that was done in Asheville where folks were asked to divvy up fake money, giving it to projects they wanted to see completed.
- Joe Collins asked where the total dollar value would come in during the local methodology process. He noted that some projects will be more expensive than others, which does not seem equal.

Southwestern Rural Planning Organization (RPO) Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting

- Sarah Graham explained that this process helps projects get into STIP, and then DOT finds the money for them. This process is about how important it is for projects to get paid for and completed.

Motion by Jack Debnam, seconded by Ronnie Beale, to approve the Local Methodology for Prioritization 3.0 as recommended by the TCC. Motion was carried.

5. New projects submitted for Prioritization

- Bike/ped does not rank if it is not in a CTP or other locally approved plan.
- TCC recommended that Philip enter projects in January.

Motion by Jack Debnam, seconded by David Wood to approve process for new projects. Motion was carried.

Further Discussion: Several slots are empty, and Ronnie Beale noted that counties might not have added projects because they did not wish to compete with existing SPOT projects.

6. Draft update to Public Involvement Plan

- TCC recommended approval.

Motion by Maurice Moody, seconded by Ronnie Beale, to accept the update to the Public Involvement Plan. Motion was carried.

7. Increased RPO budget from NCDOT PWP amendment

- TCC recommended approval.
- Mr. Beale noted that a plan is in the works to ask for provision to ask for more secondary road money in the future.

Motion by Jack Debnam, seconded by David Woo , to accept amendment to RPO budget.

8. Field trip to Greer, SC, intermodal facility

Motion by Ronnie Beale, seconded by Jack Debnam, to authorize Philip Moore for out-of-state travel.

9. A Division 14 update was given by Reuben Moore.

No action necessary.

10. No public comment was received.

Further Discussion:

Southwestern Rural Planning Organization (RPO) Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting

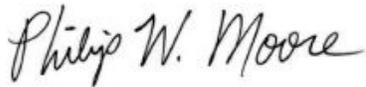
Larry Kernea from NCDOT pointed out that the same questions this TAC have asked are being asked across the state, but the new board members are energized, and they are working through it to make sure that there are no inequities across the state. Connectivity is a major element for these projects in this process. He also cautioned the group to be careful not to rule out statewide projects that did not score high enough to get through that tier, but that might still be important enough on the regional level.

11. Next meeting is scheduled for March 24, 2013.

12. Meeting was adjourned at 6:20 PM.

Motion to adjourn made by Joe Collins. Motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Philip W. Moore, RPO Secretary

With assistance from Becca Duley, Community Planner