

**Lumber River Rural Transportation Planning Organization
Transportation Coordinating Committee
Lumber River Council of Governments
30 CJ Walker Rd, Pembroke, NC
Wednesday, March 15 2023
10:30 a.m.**

TCC MEMBERS PRESENT

Hoke County	None
Richmond County:	John Massey; Gail Strickland; Tracy Parris
Robeson County:	Brandon Love, Jody Bullard, Mayor Robert McDougald, Tyler Thomas, Patrick Strickland
Scotland County:	Charles Nichols, Kevin Patterson, Mark Ward, Robert Sampson
NCDOT:	Bryan Kluchar (alternate for Patrick Norman); Saman Jeffers

TCC MEMBERS ABSENT

Hoke County:	Letitia Edens, 3 vacancies
Richmond County:	1 vacancy
Robeson County:	Charles Townsend, Edward Henderson, Channing Jones, Jay Britt, 1 Vacancy
Scotland County:	None
NCDOT:	None

STAFF PRESENT

Janet Robertson, LRCOG Rural Transportation Planner; Noor Shehata, Lead for NC Fellow

OTHERS PRESENT

Darius Sturdivant, NCDOT Div. 6 Planning Engineer; Bill Hammond, NCDOT Div. 6 Corridor Development Engineer; Kathy Vollert, NCDOT Div. 8 Corridor Development Engineer; Brice Bell, NCDOT Div. 6, District 1 Engineer; Matthew Kitchen, NCDOT Div. 8, District 2 Engineer; Marty Sung, NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch; Susie James, NCDOT Regional Traffic Engineer; Katie Smith, Representative for Congressman David Rouzer.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Chairman Brandon Love called the meeting to order and roll call was read. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES FROM January 10, 2023.

Mr. Mark Ward made a motion seconded by Ms. Tracy Parris to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

NCDOT AND STAFF REPORTS

Hoke County

No Report

Richmond County

No Report

Robeson County

Saman Jeffers gave an update on the Robeson County CTP. Tyler Thomas said he has been working with District Engineer Brice Bell concerning projects in downtown Pembroke associated with the BUILD Grant.

Scotland County

No Report

NCDOT Division 6

Darius Sturdivant discussed the status of current projects in Division 6, highlighting the progress of the I-295 and I-95 widening projects, the construction of the new Rest Area/Welcome Center on I-95, and the two bridge projects in

downtown Lumberton. Tyler Thomas noted that the project list indicated R-4428 had received funding for preliminary engineering; Mr. Sturdivant said Pembroke would be contacted when that work is ready to begin. Chairman Love acknowledged Katie Smith from Congressman Rouzer's office.

NCDOT Division 8

Bryan Kluchar gave an update on current projects in Division 8. He noted that the Rockingham Freeway is approximately 61% complete.

NCDOT Transportation Planning

Saman Jeffers introduced Marty Sung, who will be transitioning into the position of TPD Coordinator for the Lumber River RPO. Mr. Sung noted that before joining NCDOT, he taught planning, transportation, and GIS courses at East Carolina University. Ms. Jeffers said that the NC Freight Plan Update was adopted in February. She also noted that NCDOT is accepting applications for 2023 Multi-modal Planning grants.

Presentation: STI Prioritization and Programming Process

Kathy Vollert, Division 8 Corridor Development Engineer discussed the 2013 Strategic Transportation Investments Law and the resulting Scoring and Prioritization Process. We have gone through several rounds of prioritization since 2013, and are now in the beginning of Prioritization 7.0 (P7).

Bill Hammond, Division 6 Corridor Development Engineer discussed the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and how it is programmed. The Draft 2024-2033 STIP is expected to be adopted in June 2023. The 2026-2035 STIP will be developed from the P7 process.

Carryover Projects for Prioritization 7.0 that are to be Selected from Projects that were Submitted for the First Time in Prioritization 6.0

The P6 prioritization process was cancelled and none of the projects submitted in P6 will be funded in the Final 2024-2033 STIP. The RPO is allowed to "carry over" two projects that were submitted for the first time in P6 into the P7 process. These Carryovers will not be counted against our allotment of submittals for P7. NCDOT automatically identified the two highway projects with the highest quantitative scores that were submitted by the RPO as the Carryovers. The RPO needs to decide if it wants to accept the identified projects or if it wants to select one or more different New P6.0 projects.

Tracy Parris made a motion seconded by Gail Strickland to recommend to the TAC that the two highest scoring RPO submitted highway projects identified by the NCDOT (H190837 and H191677) be accepted as the Carryovers.

Project Submittals for Prioritization 7.0

The period for the RPO to submit projects to be considered for the next STIP (2026-35) opens in July 2023 and closes at the end of September 2023. The Lumber River RPO will be allotted 23 project submittals in each transportation mode. Because the P6 process was not completed, projects that were submitted in P6 (shown in Attachment 5) must be resubmitted to be considered in P7. In addition, now is the time to determine if any "brand new" projects should be submitted. A public meeting will be scheduled in each County in either April or May to solicit new projects as well as consider if any P6 projects should be resubmitted. Potential project submittals will be discussed at the May meeting and the Project Submittal List will be recommended to the TAC at the July or September meeting.

Information only. No action was taken.

NEW BUSINESS

None

CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Love noted that Prioritization is a long and involved process and urged new members to reach out to him or Ms. Robertson if they have any questions.

Tyler Thomas made a motion seconded by Tracy Parris to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.