

**Lumber River Rural Transportation Planning Organization  
Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)  
Monday, July 24, 2023  
12:00 noon**

**TAC MEMBERS PRESENT**

Hoke County:  
Richmond County: Mayor Bill Bayless  
Robeson County: Commissioner Faline Dial; Commissioner Tom Taylor; Councilman  
Leroy Rising  
Scotland County: Councilperson Mary Jo Adams  
NCDOT Board Member: Grady Hunt

**TAC MEMBERS ABSENT**

Hoke County: Commissioner Harry Southerland  
Richmond County: Commissioner Jeff Smart  
Robeson County: Mayor Elbert Gibson; Commissioner John Cummings  
Scotland County: Commissioner Tim Ivey

**COG STAFF PRESENT**

Janet Robertson, LRCOG RPO Coordinator; Brittney Stephens, LRCOG Accounting Clerk

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Drew Cox, Div. 6 Engineer; Darius Sturdivant, NCDOT Div. 6 Planning Engineer; Bryan Kluchar, NCDOT Div. 8 Planning Engineer; Bill Hammond, NCDOT Div. 6 Corridor Development Engineer; Sangwoo 'Marty' Sung, NCDOT-TPD; Seth Hatchell, Laurinburg-Maxton Airport Executive Director

**WELCOME, ROLL CALL, AND READING OF ETHICS AWARENESS REMINDER/ PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The roll was called; a quorum was present. Vice-Chairperson Mary Jo Adams called the meeting to order and read the Ethics Awareness and Conflict of Interest Reminder; no one identified a conflict. She asked for Public Comments; there was no one present to speak.

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES FROM MAY 22, 2023**

*Mr. Bill Bayless made a motion, seconded by Mr. Grady Hunt to approve the March 27, 2023 TAC minutes as presented. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.*

**PRESENTATION: NCDOT INTEGRATED MOBILITY DIVISION**

Kim Nguyen, IMD Multi-modal Regional Planner gave a presentation about the Integrated Mobility Division, which was formed when the Bicycle/Pedestrian Division and the Transit Division merged. The mission of IMD is to provide safe, affordable, and innovative multi-modal transportation throughout NC. The Lumber River RPO is located in the Coastal Plains Region, which Ms. Nguyen covers. She highlighted several projects underway in the region – Southeast Area Transit System (SEATS) has recently received a Micro-Transit Feasibility Study grant and Lumberton is involved in a Paved Trails Feasibility Study connected to the RAISE grant that it recently received. She also listed various special projects that could be implemented and encouraged members to contact her with questions and requests.

**PROJECT SUBMITTALS FOR PRIORITIZATION 7.0**

Attachment 1 contained the projects that have been proposed so far for consideration for submittal for the next STIP (2026-35). The list includes projects from P6.0 that are being re-submitted plus any new projects that have been proposed. We have not gone over our allotment of 23 projects in each mode. Ms. Robertson requested preliminary approval of the list so that she can collect the required data that will be needed for entering them in the NCDOT database. She also requested that additional project proposals be submitted to her by 8/11/23.

At the September TCC meeting, the TCC will recommend to the TAC a project list to submit to NCDOT; if more than 23 projects have been proposed for a mode, the TCC must recommend which projects should be cut. The TAC will

approve a final submittal list at its September 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. The deadline for project entry in the NCDOT database is September 29, 2023.

*Mr. Leroy Rising made a motion seconded by Mr. Bill Bayless to approve the preliminary list of project submittals as presented. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.*

### **CONSIDERATION OF 1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER AMENDMENT TO THE 2023-24 PLANNING WORK PROGRAM**

Ms. Robertson noted that NCDOT has increased the funding for the current PWP by 15% and the local match has been reduced from 20% to 5%. Attachment 3 contained a proposed amendment to distribute the increased funding (\$21,100) across separate line items.

*Mr. Grady Hunt made a motion seconded by Mr. Bill Bayless to approve the FY 24 1st Quarter Amendment as presented. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.*

### **NCDOT AND STAFF REPORTS**

#### NC Board of Transportation

Mr. Grady Hunt discussed the RAISE grant that Lumberton received which will provide multi-modal improvements on Second Street. He also noted that ridership on NC by Train has increased significantly; a new route from Charlotte to Raleigh was added July 10<sup>th</sup>.

#### NCDOT Division 6

Mr. Drew Cox said through the Carbon Reduction Program, Division 6 had applied for funding for numerous roundabout projects. Robeson County has been awarded nearly 10 million dollars for the construction of three roundabouts: 1.) at the five points intersection at NC 904 and NC 130, 2.) at the intersection of NC 71 and Oxendine School Road at Campbell Soup, and 3.) at the intersection of NC 71 and Shannon Road.

Mr. Darius Sturdivant discussed the status of current projects in Division 6, highlighting the I-295 loop project, the I-95 widening projects, the construction of the NC Welcome Center in Robeson County, the NC BUILD grant which is providing multi-modal improvements in downtown Pembroke, and two bridge projects in downtown Lumberton. He requested that everyone be careful in the Work Zones.

#### NCDOT Division 8

Mr. Bryan Kluchar gave an update on current projects in Division 8. The Rockingham Freeway project is approximately 65% complete. Most other projects are in the design or right-of-way acquisition phase.

#### NCDOT Transportation Planning Division

Mr. Marty Sung discussed the newsletter from the Transportation Planning Division, highlighting the work that is being done on the Robeson County CTP.

#### RPO Coordinator

Ms. Robertson said that she would be emailing ballots to members to select the TAC Member of the Year for FY 22-23. This award will be presented at the LRCOG annual dinner in October.

#### New Business

None

### **CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mr. Grady Hunt made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was approved unanimously.

**Approved by the TAC on 9/25/23**