

**Lumber River Rural Transportation Planning Organization
Transportation Coordinating Committee
Lumber River Council of Governments
30 CJ Walker Rd, Pembroke, NC
Tuesday, January 10, 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, Edward Henderson, Channing Jones
Scotland County:	Charles Nichols, Kevin Patterson, Mark Ward
NCDOT:	Bryan Kluchar (alternate for Patrick Norman); Behshad Norowzi

TCC MEMBERS ABSENT

Hoke County:	Letitia Edens, 3 vacancies
Richmond County:	1 vacancy
Robeson County:	Tyler Thomas; Charles Townsend, Jay Britt, Patrick Strickland, 1 Vacancy
Scotland County:	Robert Sampson
NCDOT:	None

STAFF PRESENT

Janet Robertson, LRCOG Rural Transportation Planner; Sonya Johnson, LRCOG Clerk to Board

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; Kathy 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 November 8, 2022.

Mr. John Massey made a motion seconded by Mr. Charles Nichols 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

No Report

Scotland County

No Report

NCDOT Division 6

Darius Sturdivant discussed the status of current projects in Division 6, highlighting the status of the I-95 widening projects, the construction of the new Rest Area/Welcome Center on I-95, and the pedestrian signal crossing installation at NC 41 and 2nd Street in Lumberton.

NCDOT Division 8

Bryan Kluchar gave an update on current projects in Division 8. Mr. John Massey asked if a route had been finalized for the U-5706 project. It was noted that three alternative routes were presented at the Public Meeting in September 2022. Mr. Kluchar reported that a meeting of the Merger Team is scheduled for February 22 to attempt to select the “Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative.” The Merger Team includes NCDOT, the RPO, and the Federal and State environmental regulatory agencies that are involved in permitting a transportation project.

NCDOT Transportation Planning

Behshad Norowzi gave updates on the status of the Robeson County CTP. He also stated that the state gas tax increased from 38.5 cents to 40.5 cents on January 1, 2023.

RPO Coordinator

Janet Robertson shared the meeting schedule for 2023 and asked that if anyone was interested in hosting a TCC meeting to please let her know as soon as possible. She also discussed the Carbon Reduction Program that was presented at the last meeting. She stated that applications for the first round of funding were due to the RPO by February 20, 2023.

Ms. Robertson also introduced Katie Smith, a representative from Congressman Rouzer’s office; Congressman Rouzer’s district now includes Robeson County.

Draft 2023-24 Planning Work Program

Janet Robertson presented the Draft 2023-24 Planning Work Plan for the RPO’s activities next fiscal year. The funding level is the same as the current year. She advised that the draft PWP needed to be sent to the TAC for approval at their January 23, 2023 meeting. The final PWP is due to NCDOT by the end of May.

John Massey made a motion seconded by Tracy Parris to recommend the Draft PWP be sent to the TAC for review and consideration. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

DRAFT 2024-2-33 STIP- FLEXIBILITY OPTION

As a result of the addition of new projects to the Draft STIP, the TCC needed to reconsider if it wanted to recommend to the TAC whether it should consider swapping projects that received funding in the 2024-2033 STIP Draft with projects that did not receive funding. (A total of three projects were added to the Draft in the Lumber River RPO area.) It was noted that this Flexibility Option will only be used for the 2024-33 STIP because the Prioritization 6.0 process was halted.

After much discussion, John Massey made a motion seconded by Channing Jones to recommend to the TAC that none of the funded projects be swapped for other projects. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

PRIORITIZATION 7.0 UPDATE

Ms. Robertson advised that the process of submitting and prioritizing projects for the next STIP (**2026-2035**) had begun. She stated that The Project Submittal window will be open July 2023 through September 2023 and that now was the time to start thinking about proposing new projects. Ms. Robertson informed the committee that because the P6 process was not completed and no new projects were funded, projects that were submitted in P6 may need to be resubmitted to be considered. The Prioritization Work Group has not finalized the number of new submittals or whether P6.0 projects will need to be resubmitted. She noted that in the coming months, she will schedule a meeting in each County in the RPO to solicit new projects.

Information only. No action was taken.

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Channing Jones made a motion seconded by Edward Henderson to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Approved by the TCC on March 15, 2023