



**Minutes of April 28, 2015**  
 12:00 PM, Raleigh, NC  
 CAMPO Offices – Suite 203  
 421 Fayetteville Street, Raleigh NC 27601

Name (In Attendance)	Organization	Name (In Attendance)	Organization
Chris Lukasina	CAMPO	Mike Rutan	FAMPO
David Wasserman	NCDOT	Jon Dees	NCDOT – Rail Division
Felix Nwoko	DCHCMPO	Neil Perry	NCDOT – Rail Division
John Marshall	GHMPO	Maurizia Chapman	NBMPO
Neil Burke	CRTPO	Kim Maxey	NBMPO
Mark Hoeweler	GSATS	Loretta Barren	FHWA
Paul Black	FBRMPO	Eddie McFalls	AECOM
Patrick Norman	NCDOT-TPB	Bob Cook	CRTPO
George Hoops	FHWA	Curtis Bridges	CRTPO
Peggy Holland	JUMPO	Ryan White	STANTEC
Edward Starks	GSATS	Lauren Blackburn	NCDOT – Bike & Ped.
Tom Britton	GSATS	Van Argabright	NCDOT
Andy Gyzymski	CDOT/CRTPO	Sarah Lee	NCDOT
Candace Leonard	CRTPO	Travis Pollock	AECOM
Phil Conrad	Cabarrus Rowan MPO	Hank Graham	GLCMPO
Mike Kozlosky	WMPO	Wendy Miller	WSMPO
		Name (Attendance via Phone)	Organization
		Julie White	NC Metropolitan Mayors Coalition
		Bob League	Rocky Mount MPO

1. **Open Meeting/Welcome/Introductions** - Paul Black opened the meeting by welcoming all present in person and via phone. He asked that introductions be made.
2. **FHWA** – George Hoops the Activity Program and Project Development Manager thanked people for participating in their recent customer survey. The main points of discussion were:
  - Working to find more linkages between NEPA & Planning (both NCDOT & FHWA).
  - Want to reduce timeframe for project delivery.
  - TIGER Grant – Pre-application open on April 3<sup>rd</sup> – May 4<sup>th</sup> Application open May 5<sup>th</sup> – June 5<sup>th</sup>. There is 500 million dollars in funding available. For more information: [www.dot.gov/tiger](http://www.dot.gov/tiger).
  - Sixth round of SHRP 2 opens May 29<sup>th</sup> closes on June 26<sup>th</sup>. For more information: [www.fhwa.dot.gov/goshrp2/](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/goshrp2/).
  - MAP 21 comment period for asset management has been extended until May 29<sup>th</sup> – Assessing pavement and bridge condition for National Highway Performance Program has also been extended to May 8<sup>th</sup>.
  - Highway Safety Improvement – final rules to be released.

- Consider one target per area and one performance plan.
- Conformity on track for STIP to be approved October 1<sup>st</sup>.
- NEPA Overview Training available this summer for MPO's. The training will be held at the New Hope Center. If there is enough interest, there will be additional training in September.
- George Hoops mentioned follow-up APA training as part of the NCAMPO Quarterly Meeting by Patrick Gomez. This could be done via video conference.
- Not sure if there will be a continuing resolution of MAP-21 on May 31<sup>st</sup> or not.
- Felix Nwoko asked when the hiring freeze will end and when will performance measures be due. George Hoops said in the past there had to be a very good reason to fill a position. They are currently developing a hiring plan to fill essential positions. He also asked when performance measures will be due. Loretta Barren said to add performance measures to 2015-2016 UPWP – Final rules on Performance measures due by October.
- Felix Nwoko asked what the status was for the Asset Management Plan. Loretta Barren stated that the Transit Division has been working on the Asset Management Plan. This plan has to be done in concert with the MPO's.
- Loretta Barren passed out a list of freight stakeholders for everyone.

### 3. FHWA – Rail Division

- Neil Perry with the NC Rail Division was present to discuss the comprehensive statewide Rail Plan. The State Rail Plan was prepared in accordance with the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 to ensure Federal funding through PRIIA.
- States are required to have a Rail Plan and it must be updated every five (5) years.
- The State Rail Plan integrates the Governor's 25 Year vision for rail.
  - Improve rail connections between military bases and ports
  - Provide and improve intermodal facilities to support freight shipping
  - Pursue regular intermodal service to the Port of Wilmington
  - Improve rail access to GTP and Port of Morehead City
  - Provide economically competitive rail service to inland ports
  - Improve rail and seaport connections to I-95 to serve the Eastern US
  - Expand mass transit options, including rail
  - Expand passenger rail options in all regions of the state
- Ryan White with Stantec explained the State Rail Process. The Plan and Process parallel each other. The Process includes data collection, prioritizing corridors, project selection and then prioritizing projects.
  - Detailed components prescribed by FRA guidelines:
    - Role of rail in NC transportation system
    - Inventory of State rail system
    - Performance evaluation (incl. financial)
    - Statewide trends/forecasts for rail, demographics, economy
    - Needs and opportunities assessment
    - Proposed passenger and freight rail improvements
    - Timeframe and long-term vision of rail in NC
    - Stakeholder involvement
  - Circulated for public comments in February
  - Plan to be adopted by BOT in July
  - Updates required by FRA every 5 years
- Eddie McFalls with AECOM discussed economic impact of rail in North Carolina.

**Railroad Direct Economic Impacts for Freight and Passenger Rail in North Carolina**

	Freight (2014 Dollars)	Passenger (2014 Dollars)
User Cost Savings (Shipper)	\$1,496M	
Amtrak Wages and Purchases		\$89M
Tourist Spending		*\$2M
GSMR Direct Wages and Purchases		\$6M
GSMR Tourist Direct Spending		\$16M
Pavement Savings	\$96M	\$4M
Congestion Savings	\$162M	\$4M
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,754M</b>	<b>\$121M</b>

\*Tourist spending, pavement savings, congestion savings, auto emissions, and safety for passenger rail are based on trips to NC that would not have been made without rail.

- Plan Draft Recommendations for Freight.
    - Intermodal Facilities and Service Improvements
    - Port related access and infrastructure needs
    - Emerging and Growing Industries
    - Mega-site access and infrastructure needs
    - Mainline Capacity and Operational Improvements
    - Corridor Preservation and Reactivation of Strategic Connections (*Example: SA Line*)
    - Traffic Separation Studies
  - Travis Pollack with AECOM talked about the passenger side of the Rail Plan.
    - Phase 1 TOD for Charlotte Gateway Station
    - Multimodal connections to airports (incl. RDU/CLT)
    - Service Development Plans for Southeast Corridor
    - Interstate passenger rail extensions - Lynchburg
    - Intrastate passenger rail extensions - SENC and WNC service
    - Potential commuter and LRT in metropolitan areas
    - Environmental document for future Wilmington MMTC
    - Station capacity analysis
  - Neil Perry of NCDOT said they will use the Plan to help form partnerships for rail investments with the private sector, with local agencies, and public transit. They will help identify funding sources, help assist in the development of commuter rail, also identify projects for STI.
    - P4.0 Project Types Eligibility.
    - Scoring Criteria and Weights
    - Data Needs
  - Mike Rutan asked when responses that are received on Plan will be released. Neil Perry said hopefully within a month.
4. **TPB Update** – Patrick Norman gave a Transportation Planning Branch Update
- Final PWP's are due by the end of April.
  - Next year the Final PWP's will be due at the end of February.
  - Working to get Caliper to put on training on TRANSCAD – bring your own laptop if available to accommodate more spaces.
  - In process of developing Asset Management Team and will need MPO participation.
  - Don't currently know final allocations.
5. **Bicycle and Pedestrian Update** – Lauren Blackburn gave a Bicycle and Pedestrian Division Update
- Final PWP's are due by the end of April.
  - Currently serving on the Prioritization Workgroup.
  - Reached a consensus on scoring for Bike & Pedestrian Projects.
  - Window has been extended for state match for Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects that were programmed into the STIP by October of 2013 and were scheduled for construction as of June 2015. (Described in an email on April 27<sup>th</sup>).
  - Neil Burke asked if there was an October 1<sup>st</sup> date to get construction authorization. Lauren said there is no date set at this time.
  - There is an opportunity to use TAP funds for other projects besides Bicycle and Pedestrian, especially in areas outside of TMA areas.
  - Felix Nwoko asked when Safe Routes to School will be programmed. Lauren Blackburn said all funds had been programmed.
6. **Minutes of the May 15, 2014 Meeting** – The minutes of the May 14 & 15, 2014 meeting were approved upon a motion by Mike Kozlosky and a second by Phil Conrad. The motion was unanimous.
7. **Treasurers Report** – Wendy Miller gave the Treasurers Report update as follows:
- Current balance: \$96,229.10
  - Outstanding Expenditures: \$36, 209.50
  - Interest and Dividend Income: \$15.18

- Expenses: Web Service \$227.00
  - Ongoing Fees: \$198.54
  - Will use Butler & Stowe for tax filing preparation. Tax filing is due August 15, 2015.
8. **Conference Update** – Chris Lukasina reviewed the conference schedule.
- Secretary Fox will not be able to make it in from Washington DC, however the Deputy Administrator from Federal Highway Division will be in attendance.
  - Governor McCrory and NC Secretary of Transportation Tata will be speaking.
  - The Mobile Tours are all on track.
  - Registration on Friday was at 377, but there will be nearly 400 in attendance with late registrants.
  - Conference committee members are especially needed to assist the smaller MPOs who host the conference.
  - Need to discuss whether to keep an event planning service and if we do, do we keep Kara Louise or go with another company?
  - Need to review current website services.
9. **House Bill(s) Update** – Julie White updated the Board on various House Bills as follows.
- H74 – At Noon today House Transportation passed study bill on MPO/RPO Oversight.
  - H232 Update Bike Safety Laws.
  - S396 – Limit the number of studies done by MPOs to only projects that have funding.
  - H771 – Provide relief for small cities and for utility relocation.
  - S188 – Is to adjust cap on turnpike projects to get more projects done.
  - S581 – Bill for NCDOT to study accepting subdivision streets into the highway system for maintenance. Some Highway Divisions have been handling this differently.
  - H672 – The STI changes this bill, NCDOT gets 50% of the formula and gets another 25% from NCDOT divisions. Local input should get 50% but essentially gets 25%. One senator said that NCDOT gets to give their input at the MPO/RPO meetings and that should be enough. Remove ferry replacement from STI competition. S20 – Will reduce the gas tax rate from 37.5 cents, but will stabilize and cannot fall below 36 cents instead of falling to 30 cents. Is it a gas tax cut or is it a plan to get it to a position to grow in the future?
  - H927 – Cut Gas Tax to 30 cents and then other fees increase, highway use tax from three percent (3%) to four percent (4%), increase DMV fees, car insurance tax and limit transfers out of Highway funds. The bill appropriates specific amounts to programs but there is no guarantee how much money will be collected by the new fees.
  - Need to review current website services.
10. **NCAMPO Business**
- Mike Kozolosky made a motion that all projects have to be submitted by the MPO/RPO, the Division Engineers can only submit projects through the MPO/RPOs. The motion was seconded by Phil Conrad and unanimously approved.
  - Chris Lukasina made a motion to let the Work Groups determine the best technical criteria to implement the STI. (Tabled until after SPOT Presentation).
11. **SPOT Presentation** – David Wasserman covered the May 4<sup>th</sup> Agenda for the SPOT 4.0 Workgroup as follows:
- Use of Statewide Travel Demand Model will be recommended by the Department
  - The number of New Submittals
  - How to clear out old projects unless funding is associated with the project or it is a sibling project.
  - Local Input Points
  - Normalization – How to allocate dollars to non-highway modes and what percentages.

## 12. NCAMPO Business (cont.)

- Peggy Holland continued Chris Lukasina's discussion and made a motion to let the SPOT 4.0 Work Group determine the best technical criteria to implement the STI, the NCAMPO supports the technical rulemaking capacity of the SPOT 4.0 Workgroup as outlined in GS 136-189.11(h) and its ability to improve the prioritization process, as such, the NCAPMO does not support section 1 in HB 672. The motion was seconded by Bob Cook and approved unanimously.
- There was a discussion regarding the Division Engineering Point Process. Group discussion should be only one process - Division Engineers should go through the MPO process. There is not enough accountability on points assigned from the Division. It's not transparent how Division assigns points during the process. Mike Rutan disagreed with taking away Division Engineer process.
- Phil Conrad said that MPOs should assign the majority of points on their projects. Phil Conrad made a motion for MPOs to get the majority of project points. Mike Kozlosky seconded the motion, it was approved unanimously.
- Chris Lukasina made a motion that NCAMPO can support the removal of SPOT projects not included in the 10 Year STIP and "sibling" projects if there is an unlimited number of new roadway submissions allowed in SPOT 4.0. The motion was seconded by Mike Kozolosky and approved with one dissent by Peggy Holland because she doesn't want Division Engineers to submit unlimited projects.

## 13. Next Conference Schedules

- Greensboro 2016
- New Bern 2017
- Charlotte 2018
- Jacksonville 2019

## 14. Adjournment – Consensus was that the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

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John Marshall, Secretary