



**TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)
Friday October 26, 2018, 10:30 AM
Carolina Shores Town Hall**

Members Present

Hon. Alan Holden
Rep. Frank Iler
Hon. Walt Eccard (Chair)
Hon. Bill Brennan
Mr. Carson Durham
Hon. Mary Louise Knight
Ms. Pat Sykes
Hon. Debbie Smith (Vice Chair)
Hon. Randy Thompson
Mr. Richard Cerrato

Other Attendees

Mark Hoeweler, GSATS
Behshad Norowzi, NCDOT
Dan Newquist, GSATS
Caitlin Marks, NCDOT
Chad Kimes, NCDOT
Liamcy Hogan, NCDOT
Tom Britton, GSATS
Kristina Solberg, FHWA
Elizabeth Tucker, GSATS
Roy Cundiff

Chairman Walt Eccard called for a motion to bring the meeting to order in Carolina Shores Town Hall at 10:30AM. It was noted that a quorum was present. **Mayor Knight made the motion. Mr. Dunham seconded the motion. All voted in favor.**

Mr. Mark Hoeweler read the ethics statement and asked the members present if they had any conflicts. There were none stated.

Chairman Eccard began with introductions. Mr. Behshad Norowzi from NCDOT Transportation Planning Division introduced staff member Ms. Liamcy Hogan who will be the primary department point of contact for GSATS moving forward.

Chairman Eccard solicited a motion to adopt the meeting agenda. **Mayor Holden made the motion. Mayor Knight seconded the motion. All voted in favor.** The agenda was adopted.

Chairman Eccard asked if members had reviewed the meeting minutes from July and if there were any changes. There were no changes proposed. **Mayor Knight made a motion**

to approve the minutes from the 7/20/2018 meeting. Mayor Smith seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The 7/20/2018 meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

Chairman Eccard noted that no members of the public signed up to provide public comment at today's meeting.

Chairman Eccard introduced Dan Newquist to brief the committee on a grant application that the town of Shallotte is submitting to NCDOT. Mr. Newquist reviewed details about the NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant program. As part of the submission requirements, applicants are required to receive an endorsement from the appropriate MPO or RPO in the form of a resolution. The application is due on November 15th. Rep Iler inquired what the funding source is. Mr. Newquist explained that it is a recurring program through NCDOT's Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation. A total of \$450,000 is available statewide. Based on a population matrix Shallotte is eligible to receive up to \$50,000 and commit to a 10% local match. Mr. Newquist noted that the TCC recommended to approval the resolution presented. **Mayor Smith made a motion to approve the resolution endorsing Shallotte's application for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant. Mr. Brennan seconded. All voted in favor.**

Chairman Eccard asked Mr. Newquist to introduce the next agenda item pertaining to Asset Management Performance Measures. Mr. Newquist briefed the committee on goal setting and reporting requirements that state DOTs and MPOs must follow under the federal FAST Act. Mr. Newquist reminded the committee of the safety performance measures that the TAC adopted earlier in 2018. Additional transportation measures are being rolled out over a 2-3 year period. Currently, pavement quality, bridge condition, and travel time reliability performance targets have been adopted by NCDOT and are due for review and adoption by each MPO by November 16, 2018. Mr. Newquist referenced a resolution with the 2 and 4 year targets for each of the performance measures as well as a handout which provides further details on each target. Mr. Newquist explained that the two options for GSATS are to adopt the state targets or develop our own. Given that pavement and bridge maintenance is not a primary responsibility of GSATS and due to limited ability to develop and collect data to monitor an appropriate alternative target it was staff's recommendation to adopt the NCDOT targets. Mr. Newquist mentioned that the Safety targets would be reviewed in early 2019, and GSATS is interested in considering adopting specific safety targets for the GSATS MPO area. Finally, Mr. Newquist noted that the TCC recommended approval of the NCDOT Asset Management performance measures. **Ms. Sykes made a motion to approve the targets as presented, Mayor Knight seconded. All voted in favor.**

Mr. Newquist then updated the committee on the status of the Direct Attributable (DA) funding project selection process. Mr. Newquist stated that the project deadline was pushed back two weeks due to Hurricane Florence. Ultimately, GSATS received the following proposals: Sunset Beach- intersection improvement proposal along Old Georgetown Road, Ocean Isle Beach- Bike lane extension along 1st Ave, Brunswick County- Corridor Study along the Holden Beach Causeway, and Shallotte- sidewalk extension from Mulberry Park to the Walmart Shopping Plaza. In total, \$937,000 in funding was requested with a local match commitment of \$503,000. Mr. Newquist reviewed the scoring methodology and

stated that in discussion with the TCC the Brunswick County, Ocean Isle Beach, and Shallotte projects are all recommended for approval. Mr. Newquist noted that GSATS staff discussed a few issues regarding the Sunset Beach project with the Town Administrator. Mr. Cerrato confirmed that the Council was in the process of discussing revisions and has agreed to coordinate a revised submission with GSATS following their next Council meeting. Mr. Cerrato noted that this project idea was chosen partly due to take advantage of the upcoming repaving project along this corridor. **With no further discussion Mayor Knight made a motion to proceed with the Brunswick County, Ocean Isle Beach, and Shallotte projects, and reserve final approval of the Sunset Beach until a review of their follow up proposal. Mayor Holden seconded. All voted in favor.**

Mayor Eccard introduced Ms. Elizabeth Tucker to provide an update on an upcoming transit funding opportunity. Ms. Tucker distributed a flyer reviewing the 5310 transit funding, which provide transit services to elderly individuals and individuals with disabilities. Ms. Tucker mentioned that between the 5310 and 5307 transit programs, it has been difficult to find an eligible provider in Brunswick County. As a result, designated funds are getting closer to lapsing. Ms. Tucker mentioned that several members of the TCC were beginning to brainstorm and provide initial suggestions.

Mayor Eccard invited Mr. Hoeweler to lead discussion on the SPOT 5.0 Division Needs local input points assignment. Mark referenced a handout that summarizes the SPOT process indicating that the state is at the final stages of project selection. In the Division Needs funding category local input points assigned by local MPOs and the NCDOT Division offices carry more weight on project scoring. Mr. Hoeweler noted that two projects were funded at the Regional Impact funding level- the interchange project at US 17 Business and US 17 Bypass in Shallotte (SPOT ID: H141790) and the superstreet improvement project at US 17 and NC 904 (SPOT ID: H090293-C) Two projects that were discussed at length during the Regional Impact points assignment were the NC 179 widening project in Calabash (SPOT ID: H140870) and the superstreet improvement proposal at the US 17 and Calabash Rd intersection (SPOT ID: H090293-A). Mr. Hoeweler mentioned that through discussions with staff from the Town of Calabash they have agreed to revisit the project in SPOT 6.0 and consider alternative cross section designs to better suit the right of way limitations through that corridor. The Calabash Rd superstreet project is the only project within the GSATS study area that the Division 3 office also placed 100 local input points on. Therefore, this project is the only one that has a chance to receive funding through the Division Needs funding category. Mr. Hoeweler acknowledged that there was objection to the proposal from Carolina Shores during the Regional Impact funding process. Mr. Brennan confirmed that the Carolina Shores Council is not in favor of the project. Mr. Brennan explained that due to the community's older demographic, the superstreet would cause more confusion increasing safety concerns along that road segment. Mr. Brennan also mentioned that there is strong concern that the superstreet would have severe impacts to the adjacent shopping plaza. Mr. Kimes from NCDOT Division 3 noted that the business impact concerns are primarily experienced only during the construction phase of the project. NCDOT has prioritized the superstreet intersection concept along the entire US 17 corridor. Data has already proven a tremendous benefit in reducing accident rates along these intersection locations. Mr. Thompson asked if the

Hickman Rd Brunswick Plantation area was a candidate for superstreet treatment. Mr. Kimes said that indeed that area is being looked at for treatments. **With no further discussion, Mr. Dunham made a motion to approve the Division Needs local input point assignments as presented. Mayor Smith seconded. All voted in favor with the exception of Mr. Brennan who voted "No".**

Mr. Norowzi introduced Ms. Hogan who distributed a handout from NCDOT's Transportation Planning Division reviewing the Brunswick County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP). Ms. Hogan also mentioned NCDOT's statewide planning process referred to as NC Moves 2050. Kickoff meetings are being held throughout the state this upcoming week.

Ms. Caitlin Marks provided a status report of projects in the GSATS area. Of particular note was an update since the last TAC meeting on activities pertaining to the Carolina Bays Parkway extension project. The project has been reassigned to the Division 3 office which will enable better coordination with GSATS, local jurisdictions, and the general public. In addition, a federal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being pursued for the project which will make the project eligible for more sources of funding. Finally, a project website will be developed for the project. Mayor Eccard encouraged all TAC members to have their jurisdictions make the website easily accessible off of their respective websites.

With no further business or discussion Mr. Brennan made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mayor Holden seconded. All voted in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,


Mark Hoeweler, MPO Director


Mayor ~~Walt Eccard~~, Chair Date
DEBBIE SMITH 7/20/18