

**TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)
Friday May 10, 2019, 10:30 AM
Carolina Shores Town Hall**

Members Present

Ms. Pat Sykes
Rep. Frank Iler
Hon. Alan Holden [Tim Evans]
Mr. Bill Brennan
Hon. Mary Louise Knight [Chuck Nance]
Hon. Walt Eccard, Chair
Hon. Randy Thompson
Mr. John Corbett

Other Attendees

Mark Hoeweler, GSATS
Behshad Norowzi, NCDOT
Dan Newquist, GSATS
Tom Britton, GSATS
Chad Kimes, NCDOT
Ami Ruland, Carolina Shores
Roy Cundiff
Yvonne Hatcher, Brunswick Transit

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 **Ms. Sykes made a motion to commence the meeting. Mr. Brennan seconded.** 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. Mark confirmed the members of the committee who have completed the annual Statement of Economic Interest and Real Estate Disclosure Forms.

Chairman Eccard introduced Ami Ruland, the Carolina Shores Planning Director, who was attending the TAC meeting for the first time.

Chairman Eccard reviewed the meeting minutes from February 15, 2019. There were no changes proposed. **Hon. Thompson made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Brennan seconded.** All voted in favor.

Mr. Kimes then provided an update on projects that are under construction or in development within NCDOT Division 3. Mr. Kimes noted that there is a public meeting on May 16 for the NC 211/ US 17 interchange project and a public meeting on June 24 for the US 17 Superstreet projects in Shallotte.

The Carolina Bays merger process is continuing to move forward. NCDOT Division 3 staff anticipate receiving the alternative corridor alignments this summer with the intention of having a public meeting in October. Mr. Hoeweler asked if the TAC could be briefed on the alternative corridors in advance of the public meeting. Mr. Kimes indicated that would be fine. Mr. Eccard asked what would be the next steps following the public meeting period. Mr. Kimes indicated that they would continue to move forward to the next conformance point in the merger process which would be to select a final alternative alignment. Mr. Brennan asked what would happen if SCDOT progressed quicker than NCDOT. Mr. Hoeweler indicated that was the purpose of the merger process to ensure proper coordination between both DOTs. The main outcome of the merger process is the development of an approved EIS, which must be in place prior to any construction activities by either DOT.

Mr. Kimes then mentioned that the Holden Beach Bridge repair is on schedule and that the Ocean Isle Beach Bridge is scheduled for repair this year. Mr. Kimes finished his update by referencing the list of resurfacing projects that are included in the meeting packet.

Chairman Eccard asked Mr. Hoeweler to brief the committee on the FY 20-21 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Mr. Hoeweler mentioned that the UPWP is a document required by the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration. The purpose of the document is to outline activities with associated costs that the MPO anticipates over the next two year period. The UPWP is structured to focus on five categories of activities; Program Oversight, Short Range Planning, Special Area Studies, Plan Development, and Program Development/ Maintenance. Typical activities include engaging established committees, preparing the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, updating the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), maintaining the GSATS travel demand model, and facilitating special projects or studies. As an example GSATS is coordinating a corridor study along the Waccamaw Neck portion of US 17 in Georgetown County, SC.

A draft FY20-21 UPWP has been submitted to NCDOT, SCDOT, FHWA, and FTA for comments. Most comments have been very minor to date. The UPWP will be presented for adoption to the Policy Committee at their May 31, 2019 meeting.

Hon. Thompson made a motion to recommend approval of the FY 20-21 UPWP. Mr. Brennan seconded. All voted in favor.

Chairman Eccard introduced Dan Newquist to provide an update on the SPOT 6.0 process.

Mr. Newquist indicated that NCDOT is in a transition period between SPOT 5.0 and SPOT 6.0. On a statewide level, the SPOT office convened a working group to evaluate the SPOT

5.0 process and to provide recommendations to incorporate into SPOT 6.0. For SPOT 6.0 it is recommended that GSATS is eligible to submit up to 14 projects for each mode and be allotted 1100 local input points during the Regional Impact and Division Needs categories. Changes in the quantitative scoring weights are forthcoming. Mr. Newquist also reviewed the SPOT 6.0 timeline with the project submittal window occurring between July-September 2019.

NOTE: The SPOT Office released an updated timeline on May 10th with an adjusted project submittal timeline of October- December 2019. Mr. Newquist forwarded a copy of the revised timeline via email on May 13.

Mr. Newquist then briefed the committee on transportation safety data in the GSATS MPO. Mr. Newquist reminded the committee that the FAST Act safety performance measures adoption earlier in 2019 generated a strong level of interest and concern regarding safety trends observed in Brunswick County, particularly in 2017. Mr. Newquist briefed the committee on current 2018 data trends provided by NCDOT. Fortunately, to date the statewide trends in serious and fatal accidents are declining. However, there are still accidents occurring in the GSATS Study Area including an incident involving a pedestrian in the past month. Mr. Newquist referenced a list of projects in Brunswick County funded through the SPOT Safety Program and the Highway Safety Improvement Program. Mr. Newquist affirmed that GSATS will continue to monitor the available safety data and encourage implementation of safety infrastructure measures at locations with observed safety issues. Mr. Hoeweler followed by mentioning that in South Carolina, GSATS is working with the SCDOT Safety office to establish a safety committee consisting of law enforcement, EMS, fire department, and planning officials. The goal of the committee will be to review past incidents and explore opportunities to direct resources to high priority locations to address safety concerns. The first meeting is scheduled for June 11th. GSATS staff will keep the TCC and TAC updated on outcomes of this committee and discuss the possibility of establishing a similar committee in the future. Rep. Iler mentioned that the NC House of Representatives passed a bill to strengthen the Hands Free Driving laws. The bill is now before the State Senate.

Mr. Hoeweler invited Mr. Britton to provide an update on the Transit 5310 program. Mr. Britton presented a memo with staff recommendations on funding awards for the Section 5310 funds, which are allocated to transit providers to enhance mobility options for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities. There were four applicants total. In Brunswick County, Brunswick Transit submitted a request as well as Neighbor to Neighbor, which is a volunteer based program that assists elderly individuals with rides to medical appointments, shopping errands, etc. This is the first time Section 5310 funds were requested to provide transit services in the Brunswick County portion of the GSATS Study Area. Georgetown County DSN is recommended as an alternate in case one of the other applicants cannot expend the funds. Mr. Britton explained that FTA is the final approval entity. **Ms. Sykes made a motion to recommend the funding requests for the Transit 5310 program. Hon. Thompson seconded. All voted in favor.**

Mr. Britton then briefed the committee on the Title VI Plan. He noted that the Title VI Plan is required to be reviewed and updated once every 3 years. It serves as a regionwide document for both the GSATS Study Area and the Waccamaw COG service area. There are no substantive changes in the update other than ensuring the Board composition is current and the Census #s are accurate. The document is available for review and open for public comment on the GSATS website **Mr. Brennan made a motion to recommend the approval of the Title VI plan. Hon. Thompson seconded. All voted in favor.**

Finally, Mr. Britton briefed the committee on the Transit Asset Management Plan (TAM). This document is required as part of the federal FAST Act Performance Management program. Coast RTA produced the plan. The TAM includes an inventory of existing vehicle fleet and facility assets and outlines a replacement plan. GSATS staff reviewed the plan and noted that all of the FAST Act requirements are addressed. **Ms. Sykes made a motion to recommend approval of the TAM. Mr. Brennan seconded. All voted in favor.**

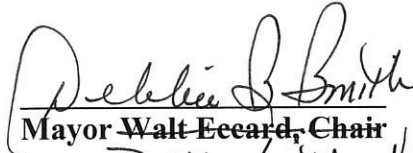
Mr. Hoeweler introduced Mr. Norowzi from NCDOT to provide an update on the Brunswick County CTP and the NC MOVES 2050 initiative. Mr. Norowzi indicated that NCDOT staff is working to assimilate models from GSATS MPO, Cape Fear RPO, and Wilmington MPO. Mr. Norowzi shared that the completion timeline is delayed in large part due to staff vacancies experienced in the Transportation Planning Division.

Mr. Norowzi then briefed the committee on the NC Moves 2050 project. He indicated that a big emphasis has been on public outreach and encourages everyone to complete a survey which was distributed. A major focus of the plan will be the impacts of technological advances such as autonomous vehicles on travel behavior and long-term infrastructure needs.

With no further discussion, Mr. Brennan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Hon. Thomspon seconded. All voted in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,


Mark Hoeweler, MPO Director

 9/20/19
Mayor ~~Walt Eccard~~, Chair Date
Debbie Smith - Chair