



**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)
Friday July 20, 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 [Marc Pages]

Other Attendees

Mark Hoeweler, GSATS
Phil Geary, NCDOT
Dan Newquist, GSATS
Caitlin Marks, NCDOT
Chad Kimes, NCDOT
Kim Gillespie, NCDOT
Gary Lovering, NCDOT
Kristina Solberg, FHWA
Chris Palsgrove, NCDOT
Richard Virgo, NCDOT
Liz Kovasckitz, Calyx Engineering
Colin Mellor, NCDOT

Chairman Walt Eccard called for a motion to bring the meeting to order in Carolina Shores Town Hall at 10:32AM. It was noted that a quorum was present. **Mr. Brennan 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 noting that there were several guests from NCDOT and FHWA.

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 April and if there were any changes. There were no changes proposed. **Mr. Brennan made a motion**

indicated that realistically the US 17/ Shallotte Interchange project has a good chance of receiving funding through the Regional Impact project category. The NC 904/ US 17 superstreet intersection project has an outside chance of receiving funding. Several other projects had a legitimate chance of funding during the Division Needs scoring window. Finally, Mr. Newquist reminded the committee that after the Regional Impact projects are selected by the SPOT office, GSATS can begin assigning points to projects eligible for the Division Needs project category, which will be presented to the TAC in the fall.

Rep Iler asked if Division 3 staff have assigned local input points to the Carolina Bays Parkway Ext project. Mr. Kimes indicated that they will not be assigning points to the project, primarily due to the estimated project costs, which are greater than the total Regional Impact funding available for Region B. Rep. Iler shared that then realistically the only category that the Carolina Bays Parkway could receive funding is through the Statewide Mobility category.

Mr. Brennan brought up concerns regarding the proposed superstreet intersection project at US 17/Calabash Rd (SPOT ID# H140870). Mr. Brennan indicated that given the large elderly population within Carolina Shores, residents would have a hard time navigating the superstreet configuration. Mr. Brennan also questioned the applicability of superstreet intersections along this section of US 17 where there is considerable spacing in between intersections. Mr. Kimes from NCDOT shared that superstreet projects have become a priority along the US 17 from the South Carolina line all the way to Virginia. Studies have determined that Superstreet intersections have shown a 30% reduction in total accidents and an even greater benefit in reducing the severity of crashes that occur at these locations.

Mayor Knight expressed concern whether there was sufficient right of way to accommodate widening of the Beach Dr. project (SPOT ID# H140870). Mr. Hoeweler mentioned that actual design would come much later in the process where Right of Way constraints would be evaluated.

With no further discussion Mr. Durham made a motion to approve the Regional Impact Local Input points as presented. Mr. Pages seconded. All voted in favor.

Mr. Newquist then provided the committee with an update on the Direct Attributable project program. Mr. Newquist mentioned that the TCC provided very helpful feedback on the scoring criteria and the submission guidelines. Mr. Newquist reminded the committee that they approved the project selection criteria at the April 13, 2018 meeting. Mr. Newquist noted that the TCC discussed next steps and agreed to a September 28 project submission deadline. An application has been drafted and distributed by GSATS staff to help facilitate project submission.

Mayor Eccard then introduced Mr. Gary Lovering from NCDOT to update the committee on the Carolina Bays Parkway Extension project. Mr. Lovering mentioned that at the beginning of the year there was a change in the project lead after Jay McInness retired. Mr. Lovering began by reviewing the Preliminary Study Area, which indicates NC 904 as the logical terminus Mr. Lovering indicated the NC 904 terminus was chosen because that was

the initial description provided by GSATS. Mr. Hoeweler mentioned that the most recent version of the MTP had the project extending to NC 130 with the Shallotte bypass as the logical terminus. Mr. Lovering reported that the proposed Interstate designation has been dropped due to access control issues at the identified logical terminus. The interstate designation was included in the project description by the SPOT office. Mr. Lovering also mentioned that the existing traffic analysis did not indicate the level of demand required for an interstate designation. Mr. Hoeweler reminded NCDOT staff and the committee that Brunswick County is showing tremendous sustained growth from the previous census on par with Horry County SC which is the fastest growing county in the US. Mr. Lovering then reviewed the timeline for the project stating that the Purpose and Need statement for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is complete and that the preliminary corridors are scheduled to be complete by the end of the year with public meetings slated for early 2019. A preferred alternative route followed by the Final EIS is due for completion at the end of 2020.

Rep Iler expressed concern on the level of coordination to date between NCDOT and SCDOT. Mayor Eccard voiced concern of the lack of updates on the project and the delays in involving the public. A public meeting to share updates on the project were initially planned for early 2017. Now the earliest meeting tentatively planned is 2019. Mayor Eccard suggested as a minimum that NCDOT draft a press release to provide a project update that would be available to the public.

NCDOT staff agreed to ensure that GSATS is thoroughly involved in the NCDOT/SCDOT project merger process and in preparing for upcoming public meetings.

Phil Geary from NCDOT provided the committee a brief update on the status of the Brunswick County CTP, noting that the model is on track for completion in August/September and will include the GSATS 2040 MTP. A stakeholders meeting will be held once the model is complete.

With no further discussion **Mayor Knight made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Brennan seconded. All voted to adjourn.**

Respectfully Submitted,


Mark Hoeweler, MPO Director


Mayor Walt Eccard, Chair


Date