



High Country Rural Planning Organization (RPO)

Municipalities and Counties of
Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Mitchell, Watauga, Wilkes, and Yancey

*“Serving North Carolina’s High Country with Continuing, Cooperative, and
Comprehensive Transportation Planning”*



Mike Inscore, RTAC Chair

David Graham, Transportation Planner

Nathan Bennett, RTCC Chair

RURAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RTAC)

Agenda May 17, 2017 2:00 PM

1. Call to Order (Mike Inscore, RTAC Chair)

Action Items

2. Approval of February 15, 2017 Minutes (RTAC Chair)
3. **Public Hearing for the FY 2017-2018 Planning Work Program** (RTAC Chair)
Approval of the FY 2017-2018 Planning Work Program (David Graham)
4. **Public Hearing for the 2017-2022 Five Year Calendar** (RTAC Chair)
Approval of the 2017-2022 Five Year Calendar (David Graham)

Informational Items

5. Project Team Lead Engineer Overview (Kristina Solberg, PE & Dean Ledbetter, PE)
6. Project Development Update (David Graham)
7. Division Engineers’ Report (NCDOT Division 11 and Division 13 Representatives)
8. Transportation Planning Branch Update (Pam Cook PE, NCDOT)

Other Items

9. Committee Member Comments/Other Business
10. Public Comment
11. Adjournment

**HIGH COUNTRY RPO
RURAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RTAC)
February 15, 2017**

MINUTES

The Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) of the High Country Rural Transportation Planning Organization met February 15, 2017 at 2:00 PM, at the High Country Council of Governments office building, 468 New Market Blvd, in Boone. The following members were present:

Charles Vines-Town of Bakersville
Mike Inscore-Town of Wilkesboro
Dale Baldwin-Town of West Jefferson
Wood Hall Young, Jr.-Avery County
Ron Powell-Town of Burnsville

John Brady-Town of Sparta
Brenda Lyerly-Town of Banner Elk
Gregory Minton-Wilkes County
Johnny Riddle-Yancey County
Rennie Brantz-Town of Boone

Guests present were James Trogdon-NC Secretary of Transportation, Pam Cook-NCDOT-TPB, Cole Hood-NCDOT-Div 13, Blair Chambers-NCDOT-PTD and Dean Ledbetter-NCDOT-Div 11.

The following staff members were present from High Country Council of Governments: Shane Fox-Executive Director, Phil Trew-Planning Director, David Graham-Transportation Planner and Kathy Combs-Finance Technician.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mike Inscore welcomed special guest James Trogdon-North Carolina Secretary of Transportation. Mr. Trogdon gave an overview of things happening in the NCDOT with a focus on improving project delivery, timeliness, bridges and paving and asked for feedback on obstacles and suggestions for improvements.

Chair Inscore then read the ethics statement and called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 21, 2016 MINUTES

Chair Mike Inscore asked for a motion for approval of the December 21, 2016 minutes, (Attachment A). Motion for approval was made by John Brady. Motion was seconded by Ron Powell.. Motion carried.

RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR PRIORITIZATION OF BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PROJECTS

David Graham presented an overview of the current right-of-way policy, the obstacles encountered in obtaining right-of-way and the point assessment and prioritization of bicycle and pedestrian projects. The RTCC recommended a change to the point system, amending the point system so that 10 points would be assigned to projects that had obtained at least 50% of the right-of-way. Completion of right-of-way acquisition would no longer be a requirement in order for projects to be ranked. Motion to approve the RTCC's recommendation was made by Johnny Riddle. Motion was seconded by Brenda Lyerly. Motion carried.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION DIVISION OVERVIEW

Blair Chambers reported on the Public Transportation Division which was created in 1974 to administer federal & state grant programs for transit. The Public Transportation Division works with transit systems in all 100 North Carolina counties offering technical support and training. The application process for FYE 2018 have just been completed and will be submitted to the NCDOT Board.

**DRAFT STATE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

Mr. Graham gave an update on current projects in the region.

DIVISION ENGINEERS' REPORT

Dean Ledbetter-Div 11 and Cole Hood- Div 13 reported on current construction projects in the region.

NCDOT TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BRANCH UPDATE

Pam Cook gave the TPB update, reporting that the Wilkes County CTP is in the final stages of completion.

Letters for funding will be going out the week of February 20, 2017.

In the very near future, traffic forecasts will be available online.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS

David Graham reminded everyone of the April 15, 2017 filing deadline for the SEI and Real Estate Disclosure forms.

An email has been sent to all town and county managers concerning NCDOT's Strategic Prioritization Office of Transportation's pre submittal coordination process for the next round of project prioritization that will begin in the spring of 2017. SPOT is looking for projects that have not been previously submitted and the deadline for submission is February 24, 2017.

A Cycle North Carolina video was shared. The bike ride will be September 30, 2017 through October 7, 2017, covering approximately 400 miles. The ride will start in Jefferson, with stops in Elkin, Oak Ridge, Chapel Hill, Knightdale, Wilson, Kinston and ending in Swansboro.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Brenda Lyerly. Motion was seconded by Dale Baldwin.

Mike Inscore, Chair

David Graham, Secretary

2017-2018 Planning Work Program (PWP) Summary

Data Collection and Assessment - \$15,000.00

- SPOT Project Mapping
- Commuting Data
- 911 Mapping (Wilkes and Watauga Counties)
- STIP Update Mapping

Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) Development - \$50,000.00

- Mitchell CTP Facilitation
- Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) Priority List
- Mitchell Community Understanding Report (CUR)
- Mitchell County Goals & Objectives Survey Distribution Facilitation
- Collection of Mitchell County Employment/Population Data
- Mitchell County Socioeconomic Data
- Develop/Review of Maps for Mitchell County
- CTP's Measures of Effectiveness (MOE)

Prioritization and Program Development - \$30,000.00

- Prioritization of Local Projects, Bike, & Transit
- SPOT Local Point Entry
- Public Workshop for STIP
- Local Government Candidate Project Assessment/Facilitation
- Public Workshop for 19-29 STIP

Project Development - \$5,000.00

- Projects in Project Development and Environmental Analysis (PDEA)
- Local Input on Bridge Projects

General Transportation Planning - \$21,813.00

- North Carolina Association of Rural Planning Organizations (NCARPO) Quarterly Meetings
- Attend Meetings/Correspond with 1st Tennessee & Mt. Rogers Rural Planning Organization (RPO)
- NCARPO Administrative Documents Committee
- Western RPO Meeting(s)
- Grant Application(s)

Administration of Transportation Planning and Policies - \$37,750.00

- FY 17-18 Planning Work Program (PWP)
- 2017-2022 Calendar
- Reports/Invoices/Deliverables/Annual Report
- RPO Meetings/Ethics Correspondence
- Indirect Cost Report
- Transportation Related Meetings
- Newsletter
- Annual Report
- Website Maintenance
- Public Correspondence

Total FY 2015-2016 RPO Program Funds

Local: \$31,913.00
State: \$127,650.00

Total: \$159,563.00

**FY 2017-2018
PLANNING WORK PROGRAM
ANNUAL PROPOSED FUNDING SOURCES TABLE
High Country Rural Planning Organization**

TASK CODE	TASK CODE/ WORK PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	WORK PRODUCT FORMAT	GEOGRAPHY	PRIMARY PROJECT # (IF APPLICABLE) FY_17-18	RPO PROGRAM FUNDS		
					HIGHWAY/TRANSIT		TOTAL
					LOCAL 20%	STATE 80%	
I. DATA COLLECTION AND ASSESSMENT					\$ 3,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 15,000
I-1	DATA COLLECTION AND ASSESSMENT						
I-1.1	CTP Inventory and Assessment						
	SPOT Project Mapping	Map	Region	1718_001			
I-1.2	Bicycle and Pedestrian Inventory and Assessment						
I-1.3	Parking Inventories						
I-1.4	Vehicle Occupancy Rates (VOR) Counts and Assessment						
I-1.5	Traffic Volume Counts and Assessment						
	Commuting Data	Map	Region	1718_002			
I-1.6	Crash Data and Assessment						
I-1.7	Public Transportation Service Data and Assessment						
I-1.8	Multimodal Data Collection and Assessment						
	E 911 Road Centerline Mapping	Map	Wilkes/Watauga	1718_003			
	STIP Update Mapping	Map	Region	1718_004			
I-1.9	Freight Data Collection and Assessment						
I-1.10	Socioeconomic Data Inventory						
I-1.11	Environmental and Land use Data Inventory and Assessment						
I-1.12	Demographic Data Collection and Assessment						
II. TRANSPORTATION PLANNING					\$ 10,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 50,000
II-1	COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (CTP) DEVELOPMENT						
II-1.1	Develop CTP Vision						
II-1.1.a	CTP Study Setup						
	Mitchell CTP Facilitation	Meeting	Mitchell	1617_008			
	CTP Priority List	Report	Region	1617_009			
	Mitchell CUR	Report	Mitchell	1617_011			
II-1.1.b	Local CTP Vision						
	Mitchell County Goals & Objectives Survey Distribution Facilitation	Administrative	Mitchell	1617_037			
II-1.2	Conduct CTP Needs Assessment						
II-1.2.a	Data Collection and Assessment						
	Collection of Mitchell County Employment/Population Data	Spreadsheet	Mitchell	1617_010			
II-1.2.b	Current and Future Year Data Endorsements						
	Mitchell County Socioeconomic Data	Report	Mitchell	1718_006			
II-1.2.c	Deficiency Assessment						
II-1.3	Analyze Alternatives and Environmental Screening						
II-1.3.a	Alternatives Assessment						
II-1.3.b	Local Alternative Consensus						
II-1.4	Develop Final Plan						
II-1.4.a	Develop CTP Maps						
	Develop/Review of Maps for Mitchell County	Map	Mitchell	1718_005			
II-1.4.b	Local Endorsement						
II-1.4.c	Adopt Plan						
II-1.4.d	CTP Document						
	CTP's Measures of Effectiveness (MOE)	Report	Region	1718_007			
II-1.4.e	CTP and Local Land Use Revisions						
II-1.4.f	Development of Local Implementation Strategies						
II-2	PRIORITIZATION AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT				\$ 6,000	\$ 24,000	\$ 30,000
II-2.1	Local Project Prioritization						
II-2.1.a	Local Project Prioritization						
	Prioritization of Local Projects, Bike, & Transit	Spreadsheet	Region	1718_008			
	SPOT Local Point Entry	Administrative	Region	1718_009			
II-2.1.b	Project Entry and SPOT Prioritization Process						
II-2.2	STIP Participation						
II-2.2.a	STIP Participation						
	Public Workshop for STIP	Meeting	Region	1718_010			
	Local Government Candidate Project Assessment / Facilitation	Meeting	Report	1718_011			
	Public Workshop for 19-29 STIP	Meeting	Report	1718_012			
II-3	PROJECT DEVELOPMENT				\$ 1,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 5,000
II-3.1	Problem Statement and Purpose and Need						
II-3.1.a	Purpose and Need Data						
II-3.1.b	Public Involvement Strategies						
II-3.2	Merger Process						
II-3.2.a	Meeting Attendance						
	Projects in PDEA	Report	Region	1718_013			
II-3.2.b	Review and Comment						
	Local Input on Bridge Projects	Report	Region	1718_014			
II-3.3	Indirect and Cumulative Effects						
II-3.3.a	ICE Assessment of Probable Growth						
II-4	GENERAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING				\$ 4,363	\$ 17,450	\$ 21,813
II-4.1	Regional or Statewide Planning						
II-4.1.a	Regional or Statewide Planning						
	NCA/RPO Quarterly Meetings	Meeting	Region	1718_015			
	Attend/Correspond with 1st Tennessee/Mt. Rogers RPO	Meeting	Region	1718_016			
II-4.1.b	Special Studies and Projects						
	NCA/RPO Administrative Documents Committee	Meeting	Region	1718_017			
	Western RPO's Meeting(s)	Meeting	Region	1718_018			
II-4.1.c	CMAQ Planning						
II-4.1.d	Air Quality Assessment						
II-4.1.e	Alternative Funding						
	Grant Application(s)	Report	Region	1718_019			
II-4.1.f	Training and Certification						
II-4.2	Title VI						
II-4.2.a	RPO Affirmation of Title VI Compliance						
II-4.2.b	Transportation Initiatives and ADA Compliance						
II-4.2.c	Environmental Justice Assessment						
II-4.2.d	Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Assessment						
III. ADMINISTRATION OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AND POLICIES					\$ 7,550	\$ 30,200	\$ 37,750
III-1	ADMINISTRATIVE DOCUMENTS AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT						
III-1.1	Administrative						
III-1.1.a	Planning Work Program						
	FY 18-19 PWP	Spreadsheet	Region	1718_020			
III-1.1.b	5-Year Planning Calendar						
	2018-2023 Calendar	Report	Region	1718_021			
III-1.1.c	Quarterly Invoice and Progress Reports						
	Reports/Invoices/Deliverables/Annual Report	Report	Region	1718_022			
III-1.1.d	TCC/TAC Work Facilitation						
	RPO Meetings/Ethics Correspondence	Meeting	Region	1718_023			
III-1.1.e	Regulatory Documents						
	Indirect Cost Report	Report	Region	1718_024			
III-1.1.f	Miscellaneous Expenses						
	Transportation Related Meetings	Meeting	Region	1718_025			
III-1.2	Public Involvement						
III-1.2.a	Public Involvement Plan (PIP)						
	Newsletter	Report	Region	1718_026			
	Annual Report	Report	Region	1718_027			
	Website Maintenance	Other	Region	1718_028			
	Public Correspondence	Meeting	Region	1718_029			
III-1.2.b	Documentation of Public Input						
TOTAL					\$ 31,813	\$ 127,650	\$ 159,563

Approved by the TAC on _____, 2017.

Signature, TAC Chairman

Signature, RPO Secretary

HIGH COUNTRY RPO
Five-Year Planning Calendar 2017-2022

Year	Planning Product			Planning Task			
	Planning Work Program	Long-Range Transportation Planning (CTP)	Recommendations to State TIP	Data Inventory	GIS Development	Special Studies	Regulatory Requirements
FY 17-18	Final May 2018	CTP Prioritization Interface with NCDOT and Mitchell County	Priority Needs List for Draft 2019-29 STIP	Collection of Data Needed for the Mitchell County CTP	Transit System Mapping, Data to support Mitchell County CTP, 2017-2027 STIP Shapefiles, Maintenance of county road centerline files	Non-NCDOT Grant Applications, Other special studies as requested	Newsletter, Website Maintenance, and Mapping of Low Income/Minority Populations
FY 18-19	Final May 2019	CTP Prioritization Interface with NCDOT and Mitchell County	Comments for 2019-29 STIP	Collection of Data needed for the completion of Mitchell County CTP	Transit System Mapping, Maintenance of county road centerline files	Non-NCDOT Grant Applications, Other special studies as requested	Newsletter, Website Maintenance, and Mapping of Low Income/Minority Populations
FY 19-20	Final May 2019	CTP Prioritization Interface with NCDOT and Yancey County	Priority Needs List for Draft 2021-31 STIP	CUR Data for Yancey County	Transit System Mapping, Data to support Yancey County CTP, and 2019-2029 STIP Shapefiles, Maintenance of county road centerline files	Non-NCDOT Grant Applications, Other special studies as requested	Newsletter, Website Maintenance, and Mapping of Low Income/Minority Populations
FY 20-21	Final May 2020	CTP Prioritization Interface with NCDOT and Yancey County	Comments for 2021-31 STIP	Collection of Data for Yancey County & Ashe County CTP Updates	Transit System Mapping, Data to support Ashe County CTP update, and Maintenance of county road centerline files	Non-NCDOT Grant Applications, Other special studies as requested	Newsletter, Website Maintenance, and Mapping of Low Income/Minority Populations
FY 21-22	Final May 2021	CTP Prioritization Interface with NCDOT and Ashe County	Priority Needs List for Draft 2023-33 STIP	CUR Data for Ashe County	Transit System Mapping, Data to support Alleghany County CTP, and 2021-2031 STIP Shapefiles, Maintenance of county road centerline files	Non-NCDOT Grant Applications, Other special studies as requested	Newsletter, Website Maintenance, and Mapping of Low Income/Minority Populations

Approved by High Country RPO on May 17, 2017

Chair, RTAC

David Graham, Secretary, RTAC

MAY 2017 PROJECT UPDATE

(Draft 2017-2027 STIP)

HIGHWAY PROJECTS

US 221 (R-2915): US 421 to US 221 Business/NC 88

Description: *US 221, US 421 in Watauga County to US 221 Business/ NC 88 in Jefferson. Widen to four lanes divided*

Section A: Under Construction with B Section
Section B: Under Construction with A Section
Section C: Under Construction
Section D: Under Construction
Section E: Right of Way 2017
Construction 2019

US 19E (R-2519B): Jacks Creek Rd to Spruce Pine

Description: *US 19E, SR 1336 (Jacks Creek Road) to multi-lane section west of Spruce Pine. Widen to multi-lanes. (Includes B-3268)*

Section B: Under Construction

NC 18 (R-3405): Mountain View Road to Yellow Banks Road

Description: *NC 18, SR 1002 (Mountain View Road) to SR 1717. Widen to three lanes.*

Under construction

NC 268 (R-2603): NC 18 to Airport Road

Description: *NC 268, Multi-lanes east of NC 18 to SR 1966. Widen to multi-lanes.*

Under Construction

Sparta Western Loop (R-4060): Grandview Drive to US 21

Description: *US 21 Sparta Western Loop, SR 1172 (Grandview Drive) to US 21. Two lanes on new location.*

Under Construction

US 421/US 321 (R-2615): US 321/US421 Junction Near Vilas to 105 Bypass

Description: *Widen to Multi-Lanes*

Right-of-Way 2022

Construction 2022

NC 105 (R-2566B): NC 105, Clarks Creek Road to NC 105 Bypass (Boone)

Description: *NC 105, Old Shulls Mill (SR 1568) to SR NC 105 Bypass (SR1107) in Boone. Widen to multi-lanes (includes R-2566BA - Bridge over Watauga River at Broadstone Road).*

Section B: Right-of-Way 2022

Construction 2025

US 421 (U-5312): Yadkin River Bridge to Westgate Drive

Description: *US 421, NC 16 to US 421 Business. Convert existing roadway to superstreet and add service roads.*

Right-of-Way 2018

Construction 2020

US 221/321, NC 105 Intersection (U-5705)

Description: *Construct Upgrades*

Right-of-Way 2019

Construction 2021

US 321/421, King Street/College Street Intersection (U-5715)

Description: *Construct Improvements*

Right-of-Way 2017

Construction 2018

Bamboo Road (SR 1514); Wilson Ridge Road (SR 1523), US 421/US221 to Deerfield Road (SR 1522) (U-5810)

Description: *Widen Roadway to 12 foot lanes with 4 foot paved shoulders.*

Right-of-Way 2018

Construction 2020

SR 1522 (Deerfield Road), State Farm Road to SR 1523 (Wilson Ridge Road) (R-5830)

Description: *Upgrade Roadway.*

Right-of-Way	2018
Construction	2020

NC 105, US 321 to NC 105 Bypass (U-5603)

Description: *Upgrade Roadway.*

Right-of-Way	2020
Construction	2022

US 421, Oakwoods Road/Brushy Mountain Road (SR 1001); Edgewood Road (SR 2461), (R-5755)

Description: *Construct Roundabout*

Construction	2017
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NC 115, From US 421 to 2nd Street (R-5759)

Description: *Widen Existing Roadway.*

Right-of-Way	2020
Construction	2022

SR 1001 (Oakwoods Road), From US 421 to NC268 (East Main St.) (R-5772)

Description: *Upgrade Existing Roadway.*

Right-of-Way	2020
Construction	2022

US 321/421, From US 321/421 Junction Near Vilas to SR 1107 (Boone Bypass) (R-2615)

Description: *Widen to Multi Lanes.*

Right-of-Way	2022
Construction	2022

New Route, Construct Access Road off SR 1129 (Henredon Road) (R-5528A)

Description: *Construct access road from end of phase I project.*

Construction 2017

NC 88, NC 88 to NC 194 (R-5832)

Description: *Upgrade roadway.*

Right-of-Way 2022

Construction 2024

US 221 Business, US 221 Business (South Jefferson Avenue), NC 194 and SR 1248 (Beaver Creek School Road) (R-5833)

Description: *Construct superstreet intersection.*

Right-of-Way 2023

Construction 2025

BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN PROJECTS

US 221 Sidewalk (EB-5798): From Moses H. Cone Memorial Park to Main Street Blowing Rock

Description: *Construct sidewalk along US 221*

Construction Delay construction to 2017 to allow additional time for design

AVIATION PROJECTS

Ashe County Airport, (AV-5750)

Description: *Acquire land and existing hangers north of runway 10 threshold and adjacent to airport property*

Right-of-Way 2020

Ashe County Airport, (AV-5848)

Description: *Construct apron expansions*

Construction 2022