

**Lenoir CTP Steering Committee
Meeting #5
Wednesday, January 11, 2017, 10:00 AM
Lenoir County Tax Administration Building
101 North Queen Street, Kinston, NC 28501**

Members Present

Rick Barkes (Global TransPark), Nathan Rhue (Town of La Grange), Harold Thomas (Lenoir County Economic Development), Dustin Walston (Lenoir Community College), Bill Whaley (Lenoir County Transportation Committee), Mark Pope (Lenoir County Economic Development)

Staff Present

Patrick Flanagan, (Eastern Carolina RPO), Jeff Cabaniss (NCDOT Division 2), Andy Bailey (NCDOT – Transportation Planning Branch), Arsalan Sabouri (NCDOT – Transportation Planning Branch)

The meeting began with introductions of those present.

Mr. Flanagan reviewed the Vision Statement, which were developed during the previous meetings. He went through each item to make sure the committee is updated on those and did not feel the need to add or modify any.

Mr. Bailey presented the latest Highway Network plan for Lenoir County, including currently funded State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) projects. Mr. Flanagan noticed a dashed line, showing Dunn Rd (SR 1811) extension, is from an older STIP and needs to be removed.

Mr. Flanagan discussed the efforts of public involvement survey. This survey was released just prior to Hurricane Matthew, and after the hurricane, flooding, and cleanup, there were only a handful of surveys completed online or in person. Another round of surveys is expected mid-January through mid-February. Mr. Bailey mentioned the reliable result sources such as hospitals, universities and college systems.

Mr. Bailey introduced the Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ) population growth and employment growth maps and feedback was requested. It was noted that the original travel demand model that showed this projected population and employment growth was developed by Parsons Brinckerhoff in 2011.

Updated employment base year (2015) information has been gathered and the preliminary employment estimates were conducted in September 2016. The employment data was revised and verified by Mr. Bailey based on third party information such as Info USA and Google Maps.

The preliminary employment estimates were approved by the CTP Steering Committee on September 14, 2016 was 32,334 total jobs. After verifying these employment locations and modifying them based on things like double counts for the same employers, the updated 2015 employment estimate is 27,001 total jobs. The CTP Steering Committee gave approval to these new employment estimates. With these new estimates, the 2045 employment projections are 35,576 total jobs, an increase of 8,575 jobs from 2015.

Residential building permit data between January 1, 2011 and December 31, 2015 has been requested by Mr. Bailey to update the TAZs for accurate population.

Mr. Flanagan noticed a low rate of growth for both employment and population in downtown area and for employment growth along NC 11 northeast of Kinston based on the previous model. There is 300-acre tract of land for potential development northwest of Kinston. The committee believes there would be higher employment growth along the extension of NC 148 compared to the previous model.

All the above comments as well as those mentioned at the September 14, 2016 meeting will be addressed in the new model.

NC 11 from Greenville will be studied as a future interstate from Greenville to the extension of NC 148. The NC 148 extension will then connect with NC 148 and US 70 (Future I-42) in Kinston forming a "Quad Four" future interstate system between Goldsboro (I-795 and US 7-/Future I-42), Wilson (I-795 and US 264), and Greenville (US 264 and NC 11).

The possibility of splitting the TAZ's around the NC 148 extension was discussed. Mr. Bailey noted that the TAZ's are better to be aligned with census blocks than by future routes.

The updated schedule was discussed. The bridge deficiencies and crashes locations will be discussed at the February meeting as well as the transit element of the CTP. The Bicycle and Pedestrian elements of the CTP will be discussed at the April meeting after Mr. Flanagan has a chance to talk with the local areas about their existing bicycle and/or pedestrian plans as well as other identified needs. Progress on development of the travel demand model will also be discussed at the April meeting.

The schedule of S Queen St's new bridge over Neuse River was discussed and traffic counts for the travel demand model will be conducted upon completion of the bridge project.

With no further business, the meeting concluded. The next CTP Steering Committee meeting will be February 8, 2017.