

**Martin County Comprehensive Transportation Plan
Steering Committee Meeting #7
Martin County Government Offices, Williamston, NC
Tuesday April 26, 2016 - 5:30 pm.**

Attendees:

- ✓ **Carlos Moya-Astudillo – NCDOT – Transportation Planning Branch (TPB)**
 - ✓ **Behshad Norowzi – NCDOT – Transportation Planning Branch (TPB)**
 - ✓ **Dock Rosenthal – NCDOT – Transportation Planning Branch (TPB)**
 - ✓ **Gretchen Byrum – NCDOT – Highway Division 1**
 - ✓ **Justin Oakes - MERPO – RPO Planner / Mid-East Commission**
 - ✓ **Nancy Winslow – Citizen, Oak City / Hamilton**
 - ✓ **David Bone – County Manager, Martin County**
 - ✓ **Dempsey Bond – Eastern Commissioner, Martin County**
 - ✓ **Lula Council – Mayor, Town of Parmele**
 - ✓ **Dean McCall – Martin General Hospital, Town of Williamston**
 - ✓ **Bill Smith – Town of Williamston**
 - ✓ **Kathleen DeVore – Town of Jamesville**
 - ✓ **Bill Webb – Town of Williamston**
 - ✓ **Joyce Whichard-Brown – Mayor, Town of Williamston**
 - ✓ **Charlotte Griffin – Mayor, Town of Bear Grass**
 - ✓ **Gina Powell – Martin County**
 - ✓ **Frank Hubey, Jr – Martin County Transit / DSS**
- ❖ Justin Oakes discussed the CTP survey and updated the attendees on progress made tallying the results. The survey had excellent participation, online surveys have been tallied and the RPO is still working on tallying the paper surveys. Some of the preliminary results are:
- A small percentage of Martin County residents have a barrier to access transportation or see lack of access to transportation as a barrier to making trips (elderly, disabled, or unemployed)
 - A small percentage of residents, affiliated with the Martin Community College, see cycling as a viable option to access campus
 - More than 50% of respondents did not see the value in construction of sidewalks
 - Greenways are preferred over on-street bike facilities
 - There is little interest in drive alone alternatives such as carpool or bus
 - Damage to the roads caused by large trucks is a greater concern to residents than the volume of large truck traffic
 - The most popular destinations in descending order are: Williamston, Greenville, Washington, Edenton, and Raleigh

- ❖ Carlos Moya-Astudillo asked the group if there were any further questions about the survey results or any further comments about the preliminary results, no comments were made. Carlos distributed copies of draft Highway maps, draft Problem Statements, Base Year (2015) Volume/Capacity map and Future Year (2040) Volume/Capacity map.
- ❖ There were no comments made regarding revisions for the Highway element. A comment was made suggesting a proposed improvement be included for the intersection of US 64/NC 171 due to the short radius of the curve for Westbound traffic and short reaction time it creates before the signal. David Bone mentioned that NCDOT had begun some improvements such as moving back a flashing “signal ahead” sign to give drivers more warning and to remove some of the bush around the intersection to increase the sight distance. Behshad Norowzi commented that a table of some kind including “short term improvements” could be added in the CTP Report with regard to the intersection.
- ❖ Carlos presented the Volume/Capacity maps and Behshad and Carlos discussed the methodology used to generate Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) counts and the future traffic projections. A comment was made regarding seasonal variations in traffic and how that might skew the AADT counts. Behshad replied that if there were variations or observed volumes that might be higher than the included counts a new traffic study could be conducted.
- ❖ Carlos opened discussion about the Transit element, suggesting that with no desire for transit apparent in the county the CTP could include a short section indicating there was no need for transit at this time. Frank Hubey commented that in the past Martin County Transit had operated demand responsive transit service that proved to be more successful than the fixed-route service they operated subsequently and suggested a comment reflecting that should be included. A comment was made regarding the exclusion of a large number of survey results due to the fact they have not been tallied. Behshad responded that all the current maps could be considered draft versions that could be updated if different information was presented or discovered.
- ❖ The Bicycle element was discussed specifically the option of including the East Coast Greenway and “Cut the Corner” Plans. The East Coast Greenway is a proposed bike route from Maine to Florida. It was agreed to include in the Bicycle element, the plans for these two routes running through Martin County.

- ❖ The Pedestrian map will be reviewed by the steering committee with any suggested revisions being presented at the following CTP meeting.
- ❖ Public Involvement was discussed with Carlos suggesting holding at least two meetings: one in Williamston and another in Jamesville or Robersonville.

David asked for an agenda to be created so he could better promote the Public Involvement meetings and suggested that in lieu of a meeting there could be a booth at the Carolina Country Stampede (23rd/24th of September). David also suggested holding any meetings after Labor Day (5th of September) due to travel during the summer. No time or place for the meeting was set.

- ❖ Next meeting set tentatively for Tuesday May 24th, 2016. Final call for comment on the CTP draft Highway maps, draft Problem Statements, Volume/Capacity maps – Present and Future, Transit, Bicycle and Pedestrian maps was made by Carlos; no comments made by the CTP Steering Committee members.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:13 pm.

