

**Halifax and Northampton Counties Comprehensive Transportation Plans  
Steering Committee Meeting  
J. Reuben Daniel City Hall, 1040 Roanoke Avenue, Roanoke Rapids, NC  
June 2, 2010 – 10:00 AM**

**Attendees**

Jason Morris	NCDOT – Division 1, District 2
Dia Denton	Halifax County
Ann Whitley	Peanut Belt RPO
Chris Rountree	Peanut Belt RPO/ Halifax County Planning
Doris Hawkins	Halifax County GIS
Ronnie Keeter	NCDOT – Division 4, District 1
William Flynn	Northampton County
Richard Parnell	Roanoke Rapids
Amanda Jarratt	Roanoke Rapids Planning
Elina Zlotchenko	NCDOT – Transportation Planning Branch
Kerry Morrow	NCDOT – Transportation Planning Branch
Behshad Norowzi	NCDOT – Transportation Planning Branch
Saeed Mohamed	NCDOT – Transportation Planning Branch

**Meeting Minutes**

**Introductions**

Kerry Morrow opened the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves to the group.

**Review of December Meeting**

Mrs. Morrow passed out a copy of the March 10 meeting minutes and gave the committee members a few moments to review the minutes. The minutes were accepted by the committee as presented.

**Draft Highway Recommendations**

**Halifax County**

Mrs. Morrow presented a large Highway Map showing the changes since the last meeting and handed out a copy of the recommendations and descriptions of each. Mrs. Morrow explained the map symbols and pointed out specific areas where the map shows needed improvements and recommended new locations. Widening improvements are recommended for NC 122. NC 43 in Hollister is recommended for realignment of the 5-way intersection to improve safety. NC 301 is recommended for widening through the Town of Halifax. NC 903 and NC 125 are recommended for upgrading. Also recommended is NC 4 south of Littleton to the state park at NC 158. A copy of the recommendations is attached to the minutes. Ronnie Keeter pointed out the location of the new Halifax-Northampton Regional Airport.

Mrs. Morrow handed out copies of the Bicycle Map. Bicycle route recommendations had been added, based on recommendations for these counties provided to Ann Whitley by local bicyclists. Not all the routes that had been suggested were included, but the major routes that will provide links to all the county's towns and the state park

were identified as recommendations on the map. Mrs. Morrow said that Halifax County doesn't currently have any signed bike routes, and having these routes identified in the CTP would enable the roads to get improvements related to bicycling, such as widened shoulders. Mrs. Morrow identified the recommended routes.

### Northampton County

Saeed Mohamed handed out a packet of maps and recommendations with a description of each for Northampton County. The packet is attached to the minutes. He explained the differences in specifications for the different types of highways, such as freeways, expressways, etc, and noted how the type would change along US 158, once the projects that are now in the TIP are constructed. In some places the construction is recommended to be on new location as bypasses, and in other places construction would follow the existing route.

Mr. Mohamed called the committee's attention to the Bicycle Map. He said the existing bicycle route at the top of the map is shown, along with the newly recommended routes. All of the county's towns have been connected with recommended routes and been linked with the existing route, which extends from the mountains to the coast of North Carolina. Committee members recommended adding a bike route between Rich Square and Scotland Neck. They discussed advantages of different routes and how they could best link the routes in both counties. Mr. Mohamed and Mrs. Morrow will add the newly suggested routes to the Bicycle Maps.

### **Multi-modal Plans**

#### Draft Bicycle Recommendations for Both Counties

The bicycle routes had already been discussed earlier in the meeting.

#### Suggestions for Sidewalk Recommendations

Mrs. Morrow showed a map with recommended sidewalk locations in Littleton. She asked committee members if they would point out where sidewalks are needed in the other towns. Dia Denton and Doris Hawkins noted locations where sidewalks are needed in Enfield. Ms. Hawkins also pointed out needs in Scotland Neck, and she and Mr. Keeter noted some locations in Halifax. They suggested asking Monica Moody about the locations around the Historic Center property. The committee looked at Hobgood and the Hollister area. Sidewalks were recommended along NC 561 and Gibb Ave. at Hollister because of the school location and many walkers along those roads.

### **Next Steps**

#### Last Meeting for Halifax/Northampton CTP Committee in Mid-July

Mrs. Morrow told the Committee that they are aiming for the next meeting to be held in mid-July. She said they will have all the final maps at the next meeting.

#### Adoption: Local, Regional, State

The CTP maps will be taken to all of the towns for adoption late this summer and in the early fall. They will go to the counties for adoption once all the towns have adopted them, then to the RPO, and finally they will be adopted at the state level by NCDOT.

### Roanoke Rapids Urban Area - Smaller Committee

Behshad Norowzi said the RRUUA study will take longer than the counties and the committee will be smaller because it will involve only the towns in the urban area CTP. He noted, however, that it would include most of those in attendance.

### **Roanoke Rapids/Weldon/Gaston/Garysburg Study**

#### Update on Travel Demand Model Study

Behshad Norowzi updated the committee on the progress of the Roanoke Rapids area study. He said he made 120 correction to the model and is now working on the calibrations. He started on population and economic data, which will reflect the locations by business in the traffic analysis zones (TAZs). For 2035 projections, he will code projects such as Carolina Crossroads and see how traffic will reroute to those projects. He will also look at sidewalks, bike routes and transit.

#### Growth Trend

Mr. Norowzi said the newest population growth projections for the Roanoke Rapids area are flat.

### **Closing Notes**

There were not further comments and the meeting was adjourned.