



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

J.R. "JOEY" HOPKINS
SECRETARY

Pender County CTP Steering Committee Meeting
February 13, 2024
10:30am

Attendees: Behshad Norowzi; Nazia Sarder; Wongoo Lee; Marty Sung, Danny Stewart (NCDOT TPD), Adam Moran; Justin Brantley; Daniel Adams; (Pender County), Tricell Henry Merritt (Pender Adult Services, Inc.), Sam Boswell (Cape Fear Council/RPO), Michelle Howes; Adrienne Cox (NCDOT Division 3), Stephanie Moore; Doug Shipley (Town of Topsail Beach), Gilbert Combs; Jessica Gray (Town of Burgaw), Amy Kimes (Town of Surf City), Rod Fritz (Town of Wallace), Abby Lorenzo (Wilmington MPO)

1. Introduction to the First Steering Committee Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) Meeting

Welcome by Sam Boswell (Cape Fear Council/RPO) to all Steering Committee Members who attended (total 19), and Nazia Sarder informed attendees that the first steering committee meeting recording has started. Sam Boswell indicated that he looked forward to working with committee members on developing and creating the CTP over the next several months.

2. What is a CTP and Examples of Multi-Modal Maps

Nazia and Sam will be leading the CTP efforts.

- a. Nazia explained 1) the Pender County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) will be a 25-30 year long-range multimodal transportation plan that is not fiscally constrained, 2) major goals of this CTP are identifying transportation deficiencies and establishing improvements, and 3) these recommendations based on local needs or expectations will be only concepts,
- b. Nazia indicated that a CTP provides a framework for local governments, regional planning organizations, and the NCDOT to work together toward a common long-range vision for transportation facilities,
- c. Nazia provided an example of a Facility Types Highway Map in Chatham County that contains all the network roads in our study area currently, as well as improvements being recommended on the roadways 25-30 years out.
- d. Nazia showed a Highway Recommendation Map example and explained that reviewing these roadway characteristics will prompt thoughts such as: to add additional lanes, a median, or a turn lane that requires modernization improvements,
- e. Nazia provided an example of a Public Transportation and Rail Recommendation Map that shows existing corridors and routes, as well as proposed corridors and



routes for transit and rail, including park and ride locations, Amtrak stations, and intermodal terminals,

- f. Nazia showcased a Bicycle and Pedestrian Recommendation map in McDowell County as an example that has existing and proposed facilities. For further CTP examples, a link of Brunswick County CTP that will be adopted by this spring will be sent: https://connect.ncdot.gov/projects/planning/Pages/CTP-Details.aspx?study_id=Brunswick%20County

3. Identification of Roadway Projects

Nazia explained what roads need to be considered/studied for the development of a highway map below:

- a. All facilities with federal functional classification of collector or higher should be included (Interstate, NC, US, etc.),
- b. All facilities identified as NC Strategic Highway Corridors (corridors being studied throughout the state that move large volumes of people, freight and network of multi-modal passageways),
- c. All facilities that carry a significant level of traffic should be included,
- d. All facilities that go through multiple municipalities, counties, states, and serve as external trips. Connectivity needs projects,
- e. All facilities where there are safety concerns,
- f. Additionally, STIP (State Transportation Improvement Program) and SPOT (Prioritization) projects,
- g. Previous CTP projects that have not been completed,
- h. Regional, state, federal plans,
- i. Local plans (municipalities, county, RPO, etc.),
- j. Finally, vision projects that come out of this committee or the public with a significant need (access management, safety, connectivity, etc.).

4. Overview of the CTP Process

The general CTP process includes: 1) develop a vision for the CTP, 2) conduct a needs assessment (what are the needs of the County), 3) alternatives that need to be studied and then select the best alternative for a project proposal, 4) develop the final plan, and 5) adopt the final plan.

5. The Importance of a CTP

Benefits of a CTP:

- a. Collaborative effort amongst all county municipalities, county, RPO and NCDOT,
- b. Local priorities are addressed,
- c. Buy in from local elected officials, RPO TAC, and NCDOT,
- d. Address transportation issues, provide solutions for connectivity, integration, a mutually adopted report, and project submittals for funding,
- e. To have a report that was adopted by locals and NCDOT BOT, where projects will score higher for funding at NCDOT.



6. Pender County Growth Rates

One of the important pieces of information required to develop a CTP is to gather the county growth data that will be used to inform the study. The following growth rates were presented:

- a. According to the data from OSBM, Pender County grew 4.2% from 2021 to 2022,
- b. The Wilmington Travel Demand Model (TDM) includes all of Pender County. The base year for the model is 2021 and future year for the model is 2050. The annual growth from 2021 to 2050 is projected to be 1.9% for Pender County.
- c. The State of North Carolina is growing at 1.3% annually.

7. Steering Committee Roles and Responsibilities

Sam went over the roles and responsibilities during the CTP development:

- a. The Pender County CTP needs local input to develop a local plan that will serve local transportation needs by Steering Committee due to representing each area or organization,
- b. A CTP development is relying on local inputs, expecting members to participate consistently and actively as well providing and gathering information,
- c. Committee members should help elected officials for updating on the progress of the plan that will have initial meetings with all adopting parties but will not present again until we come back for adoptions,
- d. It is crucial that committee members keep them informed so they are not surprised when we come to present the Draft Plan and ask for adoption,
- e. Committee members should engage with the public and to utilize websites, social media presence and other resources, and there will be several opportunities for public input that we will make members aware of throughout the CTP process,
- f. There is a Core Steering Committee comprised of the RPO, County and NCDOT. The Core Committee met before this meeting to assist with administrative tasks associated with the CTP and all members of that committee are also members of this steering committee.

8. Adoptions

Sam went over the CTP adoption process:

- a. The Steering Committee will be going out to adopting agencies to present the Final Plan and request adoptions toward the end of the study,
- b. The agencies who will be asked to adopt include the following: Each municipality in the county will be adopting the plan, the county will be adopting, Cape Fear RPO will be endorsing the plan, and NCDOT Board of Transportation will be adopting after all adoptions and endorsement is complete,
- c. This CTP will cover everything in the County, except for the area that falls in Wilmington MPO.

9. Next Steps/Meeting Schedules

- a. Sam explained next steps of CTP development regarding meeting dates:
 - i. A steering committee handbook will be sent for review,
 - ii. Developing the Vision, Goals and Objectives for the plan,



- iii. Developing a survey to send out to the public related to the Vision Goals and Objectives,
 - iv. Planning to release the survey during the summer months, and committee will have time for review, provide comments, and advertise before releasing the survey,
 - v. Before the survey releases, committee members will ask each Municipal, County and RPO representative to provide an update to town/county council or boards. This way they will know a CTP has started that they will eventually adopt, and committee members can ask him/her to help for advertising the survey.
- b. In addition, Sam went over the meeting schedules:
- i. This Steering Committee meeting held today is the only one for February,
 - ii. Most months, starting next month, we will have two meetings at 10:30 AM – every two weeks and the meetings will be second and all meetings will be virtual,
 - iii. The format of these meetings will generally be:
 - a. A review meeting at the first meeting of the month where we will go over the work products that have been developed,
 - b. Members will be asked to review these and provide comments prior to the next meeting,
 - c. The second meeting will be an approval meeting for the previous meeting materials and will also be used to begin working on the next month's work products or have discussion on the next topic,
 - d. It is likely that these meetings will all occur virtually and again member attendance at these meetings is needed to provide good local input on the development of the plan.

10. Questions and Adjourn

- a. Sam thanked attendees for their participation and provided contact information.
- b. Adam asked about the steering committee roster and overall roles of other agencies and their roles.
- c. Nazia indicated that different local, state, regional, and federal agencies will be involved in the CTP process.

11. Adjourn.

The first steering committee meeting started at 10:30 AM and finished at 10:56 AM.

