

# Final Yearly Narrative

Mid-East RPO  
Annual Performance Report  
Fiscal Year 2014-2015

## Overview

The Lead Planning Agency, the Mid-East Commission, has utilized its staff, technology and resources to participate in a wide variety of planning efforts, facilitated local participation in the transportation decision-making process and support local officials with information, mapping and transportation expertise. We guided local professionals and elected officials through the completion of the Prioritization 3.0 Process, and into the start of P 4.0. Staff also guided Martin County in the initial stages of their Comprehensive Transportation Plan.

### Project Number **1415-000**: **MERPO General Activities**

- RPO staff attended county transportation committees and reported on local projects, comprehensive transportation plans, and regional and state transportation issues.
- RPO staff participated in statewide RPO coordinators quarterly meetings.
- RPO staff hosted regular meetings of the TCC and TAC and prepared the necessary documents and arrangements for each meeting.
- RPO staff prepared all required documentation for quarterly reports and financial reimbursement.
- RPO staff participated in RPO evaluation process and RPO Coordinator evaluations.
- RPO Staff was elected and served as Executive Director of the Eastern NC MPO/RPO Coalition.
- RPO Staff served as host to the NCARPO at its October 2014 Meeting

### Project Number **1415-002**: **SPOT 3.0**

- RPO Staff sought the input of TAC and TCC members for solicitation of projects that they felt would be regionally significant.
- RPO Staff worked with Division Engineers, Division Planners, and surrounding RPO's to analyze project prioritization based on data, local methodology criteria, regional significance, and budget consideration.
- RPO staff held meeting with TAC/TCC to discuss prioritization local input point recommendation; RPO staff advertised the recommended local input points to public prior to final vote to endorse recommended points.
- RPO Staff input approved local input points into SPOT Online.
- RPO Staff presented results of STIP to RPO Members following P 3.0.
- RPO Staff began soliciting input for projects for P 4.0.

### Project Number **1415-003**: **MERPO GIS Data**

- RPO Staff compiled up to date GIS Layers and Shapefiles for member counties.
- RPO Staff generated updated Highway Maps for the RPO and each County.
- RPO Staff generated Bicycle and Pedestrian Maps for the RPO and each County.

**Project Number 1415-004: Martin County CTP**

- RPO staff assisted NCDOT with the development of the Hertford County Comprehensive Transportation Plan. RPO staff participated in CTP steering committee meetings, reviewed materials for TPB, prepared CTP Survey to post online and distribute, collect survey responses, and made regular update reports to the Mid-East RPO TCC and TAC.
- RPO staff reviewed Draft CTP Maps; reviewed System Map in Steering Committee meeting; met with County Manager, County Commissioners, Williamston Planning Director to discuss current system and future land use.

**Project Number 1415\_006: RPO-Transit Workshop**

- RPO staff reviewed recommendations from plan to assist in prioritization of transit projects in the region for Prioritization 3.0.
- RPO Staff worked with new Beaufort Area Transit Director to discuss her role in the RPO; worked with Martin County Transit to discuss future need in CTP

**Project Number 1314-008: Improved Pedestrian Safety Evaluation**

- RPO staff used TEAAS and Traffic Count Data to begin analysis for the Pedestrian Safety in Washington and Farmville.
- RPO established Education and Policy Program recommendations

**Project Number 1415-009: Truck Traffic NC 33 Aurora to Chocowinity Deficiency**

- RPO staff collected and analyzed TEAAS and Traffic Count Data to begin analysis for the Truck Traffic Study along NC 33 from Aurora to Chocowinity.
- RPO Staff held discussion with PCS Aurora staff regarding number of trucks in and out of facility, as well as common safety concerns along the corridor for their trucks, which carry hazardous materials.

**Project Number 1415-010: Multi-Modal Transportation Development Industrial Park**

- RPO staff collected and analyzed TEAAS and Traffic Count Data to begin analysis for Multi-Modal Transportation Development Study.

### **Project Number 1415-011: Regional Highway System Study/Evaluation**

- RPO staff collected and analyzed TEAAS and Traffic Count Data for the Regional Highway System Study and Evaluation.
- RPO Staff met with Planners from the Greenville MPO, Eastern Carolina RPO, NCDOT, and the NC East Alliance to discuss the “Quad East” Regional Highway System.

### **Project Number 1415-012: GIS Layers for proposed Bike and Pedestrian Facilities**

- RPO staff mapped proposed Bike and Pedestrian facilities that were discussed and proposed as recommendations for Bike and Pedestrian plans in Farmville and Washington.
- RPO staff mapped additional proposed bike and pedestrian facilities through shapefiles provided by NCDOT Bike and Pedestrian Division.

### **Project Number 1415-013: Pedestrian Report Development**

- RPO staff worked with the City of Washington to begin developing an updated Pedestrian Plan for the City. Steering Committee meetings, site visits, facility inventory, and crash data analysis were all undertaken by the RPO.

### **Project Number 1415-014: Community Outreach**

- RPO staff presented updates to County Commissioners and Municipal Elected Officials throughout the year, including a presentation to all Martin County Government and their municipalities at their Spring meeting.

### **Project Number 1415-018: GIS Training**

- RPO staff successfully completed GIS Training in Denver as a part of the NADO Annual Training Conference

### **Challenges and Shortcomings**

- **SEI Requirements and Ethics Commission Updates.** There is continued concern regarding the processing of information provided to the Ethics Commission having either not been logged into the system or ignored all together.
- **SPOT Process.** It was extremely challenging to meet all the Prioritization 3.0 requirements, while also maintaining other RPO projects and responsibilities. While the process appears to be better organized than P 3.0, P 4.0 also looks as though it will be a bear to deal with, taking up much of RPO Staff’s time for the upcoming year.

- **Processing and Review of Invoices.** While we have worked through and resolved numerous issues with success, the processing of invoices this year has been very difficult at times. Misunderstandings between RPO Staff and TPB Coordinator have lead to a good deal of time spent on reworking administrative items (invoice and deliverables) as opposed to planning.

## **Lessons Learned**

- Continued regular communication with NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch staff has helped maintain a more productive and positive working relationship.
- Having a CTPs going on ensures that constant communication is upheld with NCDOT TPB staff on a regular basis. That additional communication has helped foster a positive working relationship between both parties.
- The success of the RPO is part staff commitment, part cooperation with NCDOT TPB, and part active/engaged TCC and TAC members. Having local government officials who are energetic and passionate about transportation and getting them appointed by their perspective Counties to serve on the RPO has made for a better experience and product for everyone involved.
- Continued promotion and education of RPO activities and member benefits to local governments is critical to the success of the RPO.
- Participation in the Eastern North Carolina MPO/RPO Coalition has garnered interest from RPO members and has been very beneficial in including the interest of the region with that of the remainder of eastern North Carolina.