

Final Yearly Narrative

Mid-East RPO
Annual Performance Report
Fiscal Year 2015-2016

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 start of the Prioritization 4.0 Process. Staff also guided Martin County in the development of their Comprehensive Transportation Plan, as well as the initiation of the early planning stages of the upcoming Pitt County CTP.

Project Number **1516-000**: **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 served as Executive Director of the Eastern NC MPO/RPO Coalition.
- RPO Staff served on NCARPO Bike and Pedestrian Committee
- RPO Staff served on CTP 2.0 Committee

Project Number **1516-002**: **SPOT 4.0**

- RPO Staff sought the input of TAC and TCC members for solicitation of projects that they felt would be regionally significant.
- RPO Staff input new projects for P 4.0.
- 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 Regional Tier Prioritization Local Input Points recommendation; RPO staff advertised the recommended Regional Tier Local Input Points to public prior to final vote to endorse recommended points.
- RPO Staff input approved Regional Tier Local Input Points into SPOT Online.

Project Number 1516-003: MERPO GIS Data

- RPO Staff evaluated traffic counts and crash data for evaluation of P 4.0 Projects.
- RPO Staff generated Bicycle and Pedestrian Maps for the City of Washington Pedestrian Plan

Project Number 1516-004: Martin County CTP

- RPO staff assisted NCDOT with the development of the Martin County Comprehensive Transportation Plan. RPO staff participated in CTP steering committee meetings, reviewed materials for TPB, collected 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 and population/development projections.

Project Number 1516_005: RPO-Transit Workshop

- RPO staff reviewed recommendations from plan to assist in prioritization of transit projects in the region for Prioritization 4.0.
- RPO Staff worked with Beaufort Area Transit Director to discuss potential new routes to reach underserved areas of the County; worked with Martin County Transit to discuss future transit route needs in CTP

Project Number 1415-008: Assist NCDOT with data Collection and Assessment for US 11/13 Study

Project Number 1415-009: Assist NCDOT with data Collection and Assessment for US 64/I-44 Study

- RPO Staff provided NCDOT with project segments along corridor that had been submitted as SPOT Projects.
- RPO Staff attended NC East Alliance and US 17/64 Association Meetings and provided each group with any requested information on project segments in RPO.

Project Number 1516-010: GIS Layers for proposed Bike and Pedestrian Facilities

- RPO staff mapped updates of Pedestrian facilities that were discussed and proposed as recommendations for updated Pedestrian Plans in Washington.

Project Number **1415-011**: City of Washington Pedestrian Report Development

- RPO staff worked with the City of Washington to develop an updated Pedestrian Plan for the City. Steering Committee meetings, site visits, facility inventory, and crash data analysis were all undertaken by the RPO.
- RPO Staff completed draft document and presented to City's Recreation Advisory Committee for review and adoption.

Project Number **1415-012**: 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 Fall meeting.

Project Number **1415-014**: Merger Process

- RPO Staff attended Scoping Meeting in Raleigh to look discuss project segments, environmental issues, next steps in presenting to public.

Project Number **1415-015**: GIS Training

- RPO staff successfully completed Advanced ArcGIS Training at ECU GIS Center in Greenville.

Challenges and Shortcomings

- **SEI Requirements and Ethics Commission Updates.** Again this year there was 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.** While Prioritization 4.0 so far has been better manageable than the constantly evolving 3.0, it continues to take up a great deal of RPO Staff's time, making work on other items during peak times in the P 4.0 Process difficult to address, particularly CTP items.

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.