

# Final Yearly Narrative

Mid-East RPO  
Annual Performance Report  
Fiscal Year 2012-2013

## 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 provide local officials with information, mapping and transportation expertise.

### Project Number **1213-000**: **MERPO General Activities**

- RPO staff attended county transportation committees and reported on local projects, comprehensive transportation plans, and regional and state transportation issues.
- A Mid-East RPO Facebook page was created and updated to post updates for RPO members and the public. RPO staff continued work on the Mid-East RPO website that is separate from the Lead Planning Agency's.
- 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.

### Project Number **1213-001**: **Older Adult Transportation Service Delivery**

- RPO staff organized two regional workshops with RPO Planners, Transit Providers, Health and Human Service Staff, and other local stakeholders to discuss a regionalized approach for transit service in northeastern North Carolina. The meeting included collaboration with the Albemarle and Mid-East RPO's.
- RPO staff from the Mid-East RPO worked along with staff from the Albemarle and Peanut Belt RPO's to host two stakeholder workshops in the development of the updated Locally Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan, with meetings held in Washington and Elizabeth City.
- RPO staff collected census data, produced GIS Maps, and analyzed routes and data to determine and prioritize transit needs in the region.

### Project Number **1213-002**: **Pedestrian Safety at strategic locations in Martin Co.**

- RPO staff used TEAAS and Traffic Count Data to begin analysis for the Pedestrian Safety..
- RPO staff performed site visits to the area, capturing photos documenting the existing conditions in the area.

**Project Number 1213-003: Truck Traffic at NC 33/NC 306**

- RPO staff used TEAAS and Traffic Count Data to begin analysis for the Truck Traffic Study at NC 33/NC 306.

**Project Number 1213-004: Multi-Modal Transportation Development to Beaufort County Industrial Park**

- RPO staff used TEAAS and Traffic Count Data to begin analysis for Multi-Modal Transportation Development to the Beaufort County Industrial Park..
- Flight data from the Washington Regional Airport was collected to be included in the analysis.

**Project Number 1213-005: Truck Traffic at Williamston Prison Camp to US Hwy 64**

- RPO staff used TEAAS and Traffic Count Data to begin analysis for the Truck Traffic Study at Williamston Prison Camp to US Hwy 64.

**Project Number 1213-006: Martin County LUP/CTP**

- RPO staff assisted with the development of the Martin County Comprehensive Land Use Plan. RPO staff participated in LUP steering committee meetings, advertised for public workshops, reviewed materials, and made regular update reports to the Mid-East RPO TCC and TAC.
- RPO staff created draft Martin County LUP for steering committee review and comment
- RPO assisted with public input workshop for LUP.

**Project Number 1213-007: Traffic Volume Counts**

- RPO staff compiled and analyzed traffic count data throughout the RPO Region for potential project solicitation in SPOT 3.0
- RPO staff analyzed traffic data for input on Martin County LUP planning process.

**Project Number 1213-008: SPOT 2.0/3.0**

- RPO Staff sought the input of TAC and TCC members for solicitation of projects that they felt would be regionally significant.

- RPO staff met with the Eastern North Carolina MPO/RPO Coalition to discuss regionally significant projects. Staff then began to analyze potential projects to identify which ones would have the most significant impact on the local area, as well as the region.
- RPO staff discussed the results of the project analysis with both the TAC and TCC, thus resulting in the selection of a project for recommendation to the ENC Coalition.

#### **Project Number 1213-009: MERPO GIS Data**

- RPO staff compiled updated traffic count information for members counties, as well as collected updated Crash Data from the TEAAS System each quarter.
- RPO staff used TEAAS and Traffic Count Data to begin analysis for Pedestrian Safety, as well as GIS Layers for proposed Bike/Ped Facilities.
- RPO staff compiled up to date GIS Layers and Shapefiles for member counties.
- RPO staff completed a bike and pedestrian inventory for the Martin County LUP/CTP, and assisted LUP steering committee with pedestrian and bicycle recommendations for the LUP/CTP.
- RPO Staff presented Current and Future Year TEAAS Data to Martin County LUP Steering Committee for Endorsement.
- RPO staff created GIS Layers for proposed Bike/Ped Facilities in Martin County.

#### **Project Number 1213-010: Beaufort County CTP**

- RPO staff assisted DOT with the development of the Beaufort County CTP. RPO staff participated in CTP steering committee meetings, advertised for public workshops, reviewed materials, and made regular update reports to the Mid-East RPO TCC and TAC.
- RPO staff distributed maps and solicited comments for steering committee review.
- RPO assisted with public input workshop for CTP.

#### **Project Number 1213\_011: RPO-Transit Workshop**

- RPO staff organized two regional workshops with RPO Planners, Transit Providers, Health and Human Service Staff, and other local stakeholders to discuss a regionalized approach for transit service in northeastern North Carolina. The meeting included collaboration with the Albemarle and Mid-East RPO's.
- RPO staff from the Peanut Belt worked along with staff from the Albemarle and Mid-East RPO's to host two stakeholder workshops in the development of the updated Locally Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan, with meetings held in Washington and Elizabeth City.
- RPO staff collected census data, produced GIS Maps, and analyzed routes and data to determine and prioritize transit needs in the region.

### Project Number **1213\_012**: **Crash Data Collection**

- RPO staff obtained and analyzed updated crash data from TEAAS queries to provide TAC/TCC members input on areas of concern, and potentially needed roadway improvements.
- Data was used to derive input on Martin County LUP planning process for potential road improvements/projects throughout the study area.

### Project Number **1213-013**: **Community Outreach**

- RPO staff reached out to member communities for input on local priority projects to be discussed with ENC Coalition.
- RPO staff provided project updates to member counties to share with various boards and county staff, including County Commissioners.
- RPO staff outreached to communities in Martin County to participate in County LUP/CTP Steering Committee, as well as receive bicycle and pedestrian wants and needs.

### Project Number **1213-014**: **Merger Process**

- RPO staff attended 3 day NEPA Section 404 Merger Process Training Course in Raleigh in November 2012.
- RPO staff participated in Merger Meetings for projects in the region.

### Project Number **1213-015**: **Title VI**

- RPO staff attended Title VI Training and Overview at NCAMPO Conference in Winston-Salem in May 2013.

### Project Number **1213-016**: **Misc. Expenses**

- There was no work charged to Project Number 1213-016.

### **Challenges and Shortcomings**

- **TAC Attendance.** While overall RPO attendance has improved significantly over the past few years, there are still occasional attendance issues with TAC members. Several Mid-East RPO member governments had both the county and municipal TAC representatives resign from the Board following the SEI requirement, with County Commissioners reluctant to take on the role due to the SEI. RPO staff remains hopeful that with the revised Ethics Requirements, membership to TAC/TCC will improve.

## Lessons Learned

- Continued regular communication with NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch staff has helped maintain a more productive and positive working relationship.
- Having 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.