



Sandhills Metropolitan Planning Organization (SMPO)
Minutes for the Regular Meeting of September 18, 2024
Assembly Hall
395 Magnolia Road
Pinehurst, North Carolina
10:00 a.m.

<p>Village of Pinehurst: Voting Member: Patrick Pizzella</p> <p>Town of Southern Pines: Voting Member: Taylor Clement, Chair</p> <p>Town of Aberdeen: Voting Member: Robert Farrell*</p> <p>Village of Whispering Pines: Voting Member: Pamela Harris</p>	<p>Town of Taylortown: Voting Member: Sidney Gaddy</p> <p>Town of Pinebluff: Voting Member: Ronald McDonald, Vice Chair</p> <p>Moore County Voting Member: Frank Quis</p> <p>NCDOT Board Member At-Large: Pat Molamphy</p>
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* = Absent

Ms. Teresa Beavers, Town of Aberdeen Voting Alternate and Councilmember, was in attendance.

Ms. Karyl Fuller, Principal Planner / RPO Director for the Central Pines Regional Council, was present via Zoom.

Approximately 9 audience members in attendance.

I. Call to Order.

Chair Clement welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

II. Ethics Reminder.

Chair Clement verified the Board Members in attendance had reviewed the Ethics Statement and did not have any conflicts.

III. Public Comments.

None.

IV. Adjustments / Approval of the Agenda.

Chair Clement asked to amend the agenda to insert a discussion of the SMPO Bylaws regarding attendance and voting as item number 6.

Upon a motion by Board Member Pizzella, seconded by Vice Chair McDonald, the Governing Board unanimously approved the September 18, 2024, Regular Meeting agenda as amended by Chair Clement by a vote of 8-0.

V. Approval of Minutes.

a. Approval of SMPO Meeting Minutes

- August 21, 2024, Regular Meeting

Chair Clement asked that the August 21, 2024, Regular Meeting minutes be amended by changing “attendance via Zoom” to “present via Zoom” to reflect the Bylaws stating a member is only considered in attendance when physically present at the meeting.

Upon a motion by Board Member Harris, seconded by Board Member Pizzella, the Governing Board unanimously approved the past meeting minutes as amended by Chair Clement by a vote of 8-0.

VI. Discussion of SMPO Bylaws.

The Board discussed Article 4, Section E of the SMPO Governing Board By-Laws relating to attendance and whether a Board Member present via Zoom is considered in attendance and eligible to vote.

The Board agreed to do further research and to possibly amend the by-laws to permit voting via Zoom (if legally permissible).

VII. Report from the TCC.

a. Report from TCC Chair

Mr. Paul Sabiston, TCC Chair and Town Manager for the Town of Aberdeen, provided the Board with an update on the September 04, 2024, Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) Regular Meeting and topics discussed, which included a recommendation to the Governing Board on the Prioritization 7.0 Division Points, a presentation from the NCDOT on Traffic Demand Models, options for filling the SMPO Director position, and the submittal of the Safe Streets Grant application.

Mr. Sabiston, also, announced the newly launched NCDOT website for Sandhills Area Projects (<https://ncdot.publicinput.com/q2681>).

VIII. General Business.

a. NCDOT Traffic Demand Model Presentation

Mr. Amar Pillai, Mr. Amar Pillai, NCDOT Transportation Engineer III (Metrolina Regional Model), reviewed an Introduction to Travel Demand Modeling PowerPoint presentation.

The Board and Mr. Pillai discussed the influence population estimates, comprehensive plans, land use, and growth have on traffic modeling; how categories are determined by the area being modeled and what the model is being developed for, model development timelines; the need to have supporting evidence for adjustments to the traffic model outcomes; how planning and zoning decisions of the member communities impact transportation needs; the importance of member communities to work together; and the 2022 base year Moore County model being ready to send to the planning agency.

b. Approve Prioritization 7.0 Division Points

Mr. Doug Willardson, Village Manager for the Village of Pinehurst, reviewed a memo and table detailing the Prioritization 7.0 Division Points allocation recommendation from the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC).

The Board discussed funding available at both the Regional and Division levels, how point allocations impact funding for projects, and the different categories of projects.

Upon a motion by Board Member Beavers, seconded by Board Member Gaddy, the Governing Board unanimously approved the Prioritization 7.0 Division Points allocation as recommended by the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) by a vote of 8-0.

IX. Division 8 Update

a. September 2024 Update

Mr. Bryan Kluchar, NCDOT Division 8 Engineer, reviewed a table detailing the active and upcoming projects for Division 8, discussed the new NCDOT website on transportation funding (advancenctransportation.com), and provided updates on the timelines for projects U5756, R-5726, and HS-2008F.

X. Other Business

None.

XI. Next Meeting Date

a. October 23, 2024

The Board confirmed the need to have a meeting in October and agreed to hear from citizens regarding the Pinehurst Traffic Circle proposal.

XII. Motion to Adjourn

Upon a motion by Board Member Harris, seconded by Board Member Gaddy, the Governing Board unanimously approved to adjourn the Regular Meeting by a vote of 8-0 at 11:16 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Shannon Konstantinou
Village Clerk
Village of Pinehurst