

What is an RPO?

How the Transportation Planning and Programming Process
Works in Rural North Carolina

Transportation Planning 101

May 21, 2014



Origins of TARPO

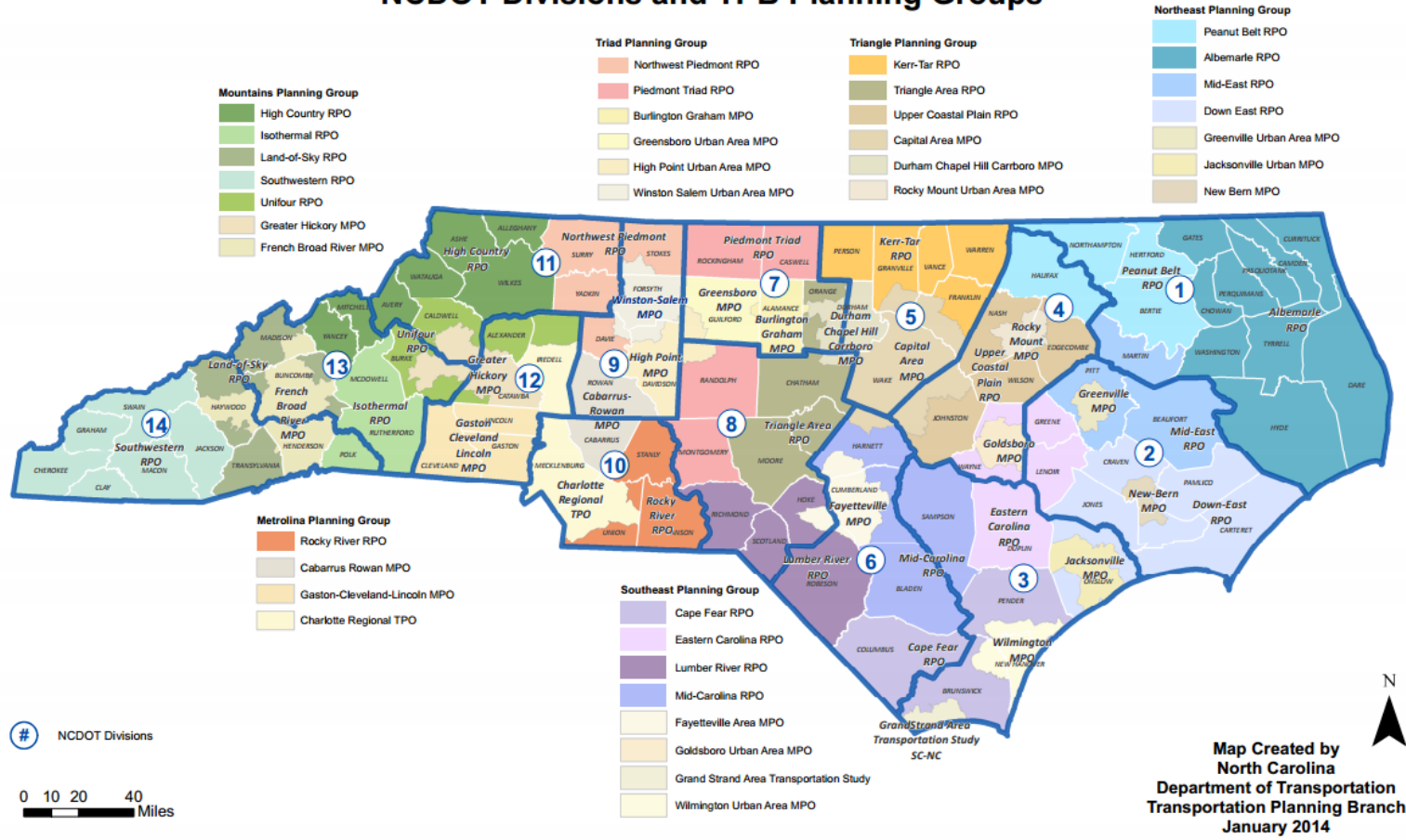
The State of North Carolina created RPOs in the early 2000s, in response to federal regulations requiring that the state establish a process for consulting with rural governments on transportation issues

For those familiar with federal law, this was a provision of TEA-21 (passed in 1998)



RPOs in North Carolina

Metropolitan Planning Organizations, Rural Planning Organizations, NCDOT Divisions and TPB Planning Groups



Legal Framework for RPOs

North Carolina General Statute 136-212 identifies four core duties for RPOs:

- Developing, in cooperation with the NCDOT, long-range local and regional multimodal transportation plans
- Providing a forum for public participation in the transportation planning process
- Developing and prioritizing suggestions for transportation projects the organization believes should be included in the state's Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)
- Providing transportation-related information to local governments and other interested organizations and persons

RPO Organization

By law, RPOs must include at least three contiguous counties or have a total population of at least 50,000

Each RPO has a **Lead Planning Agency** that serves as the administrative and technical staff for the RPO – in our region, this is Triangle J Council Of Governments, and Matt Day serves as the primary staff support person for TARPO

Each RPO also has a **Rural Technical Coordinating Committee (RTCC)** and **Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC)**



TARPO RTCC & RTAC

The **Rural Technical Coordinating Committee (RTCC)** includes staff members from each county and municipality within TARPO, as well as representatives from NCDOT and TJCOG

The **Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC)** is composed of elected officials, and is the decision-making body of the RPO. Each county appoints one commissioner to serve on the RTAC and the mayors of the municipalities within each county select one municipal elected official to serve on the RTAC. One member is appointed from the North Carolina Board of Transportation. Members are appointed to two-year terms.



TARPO Website

<http://www.tarpo.org>

- The website has links to Comprehensive Transportation Plans (CTPs), bicycle and pedestrian plans, and transit plans for the TARPO region, including interactive maps
- The website also has extensive information about the results of previous prioritization processes, our adopted local scoring policy, and active construction projects in the region



Questions?

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