Thank you to everyone who participated in our second round of “virtual” meetings! Your flexibility in participating remotely is greatly appreciated!

At the June 11, 2020 RTCC and RTAC meetings, the following decision items were approved:

- TARPO Fiscal Year 2021 Planning Work Program Amendment #1
- Election of new RTCC Officers for FY21: Chair Theresa Thompson (Pittsboro) and Vice Chair Jack Meadows (Siler City)
- Election of new RTAC Officers for FY21: Chair Donald Andrews (Broadway) and Vice Chair Mick McCue (Foxfire)

Additionally, a presentation was received on the TJCOG Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and information was received on:

- CTP status, including an update on the proposed CommunityViz land use forecasting model for Moore County
- Updates on the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), locally-administered project status, projects moving forward with preliminary engineering, and the schedule for Prioritization 6.0
- Excerpts of slide presentations given by the State Auditor and Secretary of Transportation to the Senate Transportation Committee on the recent audit of NCDOT’s finances
- An update from Board Member Lisa Mathis on the actions being taken by NCDOT to address recent funding issues (also attached to this newsletter)
- Updates from the NCDOT Transportation Planning Division, Division 7, Division 8, and TARPO staff
- TARPO’s third quarter finances

The next RTCC and RTAC meetings will be held on August 13, 2020 in Sanford (if it is possible to meet in person – if not, they will be conducted remotely).

The full slide deck from the meetings can be found here.
Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Input Opportunity

As presented at the June 11, 2020 TARPO RTAC meeting, Triangle J Council of Governments is developing a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), which is a requirement of TJCOG’s status as an Economic Development District (EDD) through the US Economic Development Administration (EDA).

As part of developing the CEDS, TJCOG is conducting a SOAR analysis (Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, and Results) and is seeking your input in response to a series of questions. The prompting questions can be found here and your responses can be sent directly to Lindsay Whitson, TJCOG Senior Planner, at lwhitson@tjcog.org. The questions are also attached to this newsletter as a separate page.

Draft Moore County CTP Final Report

NCDOT has released a final draft version of the Moore County CTP report. This document records the data and recommendations behind the CTP maps that were adopted in 2018. Corrections to the draft document must be sent to Scott Walston, NCDOT Transportation Planning Division (swalston@ncdot.gov) no later than 5 pm on Friday, June 18. The finalized version should be available on the NCDOT website by the end of the month.

Transportation Funding

As many of you are aware, the drop in gas tax/DMV/highway use tax revenues as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic has greatly affected NCDOT’s cash balance. The links below provide additional information:

- COVID Impact on NCDOT – June 11 report from RTAC meeting
- Audit of NCDOT Finances – May 20 & May 27 presentations to legislature
- Locally Administered Projects Status/Next Steps
- State Auditor Report on NCDOT Finances
- Revenue Decline Due to COVID-19 Depletes NCDOT Cash Reserve – May 4
- COVID-19 Impact on NCDOT Revenues Forces Delays of Most Projects – April 21
TJCOG Response to COVID-19

Triangle J Council of Governments is committed to assisting local governments working diligently on the frontlines and finding opportunities for partnership, idea sharing, and resourcefulness in response to COVID-19 challenges. While offices remain closed to the public in accordance with state and local Stay-at-Home guidance, staff are teleworking to continue the mission of the organization and assist local governments across our region. Many programs and projects continue with business as usual, shifting to virtual meetings and online collaboration to meet timelines and achieve intended results. Click here for more information.

- June 30 deadline for NCDOT Bicycle & Pedestrian Planning Grant applications
- NCDMV license & registration expiration dates extended five months
- Reminder – Census 2020 is underway and participation is critical!
- Great Trails State Plan survey is underway
- National Regional Transportation Conference in July will be virtual
- Presentation on COVID impacts to air travel
- BikeWalkNC Summit will be November 6-7, 2020
- Newsletters: Divisions 7 & 8 (April, May, June); NCDOT Rail (May); NCDOT Multimodal (April); NC Moves 2050 (April); NADO Rural Transportation (April, May)

A number of additional news items are available on the News Page of the TARPO Website: http://www.tarpo.org/category/news/

Upcoming Events

- June 17 – Project R-5709 Merger Team Meeting
- July 3 – TARPO offices closed for holiday
- July 17 – Regional Transportation Alliance (RTA) Breakfast in Cary
- July 22 – NCARPO Quarterly Meeting
- July 28-29 – National Regional Transportation Conference
- August 5 – NCDOT Mobi Awards Luncheon in Raleigh

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COVID Impact on DOT - May 2020

What NCDOT CAN do while below the cash floor:
- Continue active projects
- Pay incoming invoices from private sector companies as long as funds exist
- Continue to operate DMV functions
- Respond to emergency situations (with existing staff and materials)
- Hire new employees for critical, safety related positions or DMV functions

What NCDOT CANNOT do while below the cash floor:
- Negotiate right of way purchases on projects not underway
- Purchase additional equipment, supplies or services for transportation projects unless obligated to make such a purchase in an existing contract
- Award new construction, engineering or repair contracts

DOT actions taken:
- Delay 250 projects over the next 12 months @ $2B
- Hiring Freeze
- Reduction in Temporary and Contract Employees
- Furloughs
- Preparing possible plan for stopping work on active projects if needed
- Suspended:
  - Wildflower program
  - Litter sweep
  - Engineering training program
  - HBCU & Summer Internship Program
  - Economic Development grants & projects
  - Passenger Ferry (Hatteras to Ocracoke)
  - Passenger Rail lines (Piedmont)
  - State Park Road Maintenance
  - Reimbursement to Schools for road improvements
- Reductions:
  - Roadway & rest area mowing
  - Storm repairs
  - Sign repairs
  - Patching pavement
  - Incident Management Assistant Program (IMAP)
  - Municipal support for traffic signal/signs/landscaping
  - Traffic signal installation
  - Spot Safety Projects
Impact to STIP:
- Should assume all projects in the STIP not funded by bonds or federal grants will be delayed

Impact to repair of existing infrastructure:
- Only critical activities can take place
- Most activities must wait until funds are available
- Mowing, sign repair, litter and animal pickup will be extremely limited

Impact to Budgeted Accounts:
- Full extent unknown
- Should assume that all will receive substantially less than appropriated in current budget; legislature may adjust FY2021 budget
- Actual amount can’t be determined without knowing if any revenue replacement will come available

How does this impact funding for MPO and RPOs?
- MPOs - Federal Funds, not impacted
- RPOs - State funds, right now no cut; could change if NCDOT doesn’t receive revenue replacement
- NCDOT would provide a 90 day notice
STRENGTHS

Strengths are things that we can build upon.

- What are we doing really well?
- What are our region’s greatest assets?
- What makes our region unique?

OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities reflect our interests as stakeholders.

- How do we make sense of opportunities provided by external forces and trends?
- What partnership opportunities exist?
- How do we collectively understand outside threats and how do we reframe them to be seen as opportunities?

ASPIRATIONS

Aspirations addresses what the Triangle J Region cares deeply about after considering the strengths and opportunities.

- What is most important to us as a community?
- How can our values drive our vision?
- What strategic initiatives would support our aspirations?

RESULTS

Results identify how we as a region are succeeding.

- How do we tangibly translate Strengths, Opportunities, and Aspirations?
- What resources are needed to achieve our goals?
- What meaningful measures would indicate that we are on track in terms of meeting our goals?