

**Foothills Rural Planning Organization
Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) & Transportation Coordinating Committee (TCC) Joint Meeting**

**Meeting Date: November 16, 2022**

**Location: Rutherford County Administration Building, 289 N Main Street, Rutherfordton, NC**

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| **Jurisdiction** | **TAC Representative** | **Present** |
| **Rutherford County** | Michael Benfield |[ ]
| Rutherfordton | Jimmy Dancy (Chair) |[x]
| Forest City | Steve Holland |[x]
| Spindale | Rosaleen Francis |[x]
| Lake Lure | Carol Pritchett |[x]
| Chimney Rock | Vacant |[ ]
| **McDowell County** | Vacant |[ ]
|  Marion | Woody Ayers |[x]
| **Polk County** | David Moore |[x]
| Tryon | Bill Ingham |[x]
| Columbus | Brent Jackson |[x]
| Saluda | Tangela Morgan |[x]
| **Board of Transportation, Division 14** | Dirk Cody |[ ]
| **Board of Transportation, Division 13** | William Clarke |[ ]
|  | **TOTAL VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:**  | **9** |
| **Representing** | **Name** |  |
| Foothills Regional Commission | Alan Toney |[x]
| Foothills Regional Commission | Izzy Norman |[x]
| Foothills Regional Commission | Katelyn Smith |[x]
| Foothills Regional Commission | Danna Stansbury |[x]
| Foothills Regional Commission | Jerry Stensland |[x]
| NCDOT Division 14 | Wanda Austin |[x]
| NCDOT Division 14 | Steve Williams |[x]
| NCDOT Division 14 | Troy Wilson |[x]
| NCDOT TPD | Amin Hezaveh |[x]
| NCDOT IMD | Alexius Farris |[x]
| NCDOT Division 13 | Chris Guffey |[x]
| NCDOT Division 13 | Steve Cannon |[ ]
| NCDOT Division 13 | Stephen Sparks |[ ]
| NCDOT Division 13 | Hannah Cook |[x]
| **Jurisdiction** | **TCC Representative** |  |
| Rutherford County | Steve Garrison (Aubrey Clay) |[x]
| Rutherford County Transit | Kerry Giles |[ ]
| Rutherfordton  | Doug Barrick |[x]
| Forest City | Janet Mason (Bryce Carter) |[x]
| Spindale  | Scott Webber |[x]
| McDowell County | Ronald Harmon |[x]
| Marion | Bob Boyette |[x]
| Polk County | Marche Pittman (Cathy Ruth) |[x]
| Columbus | Tim Barth |[x]
| Saluda | Steven Orr |[x]
| Polk County Transit |  |[ ]
| McDowell County Transit |  |[ ]
| Tryon | Zach Ollis (Tim Daniels) |[x]

**Welcome and Housekeeping**:

1. Introductions: Chairman Jimmy Dancy called the meeting to order at 10:32. Dancy determined a quorum was present.
2. Mayor Dancy read the Ethics reminder and reminded the TAC members of their Ethics standards.
3. The agenda was approved as submitted. The vote was unanimous.

Motion: David Moore

2nd: Woody Ayers

1. Karen Pack was signed up for public comments. Karen provided a packet to the TAC and spoke in opposition to R-5840.

**Action Items**

1. TAC Minutes from 9-13-22 were approved as submitted. The vote was unanimous.

Motion: Carol Pritchett

2nd: Woody Ayers

1. TAC Minutes from 9-20-22 were approved as submitted. The vote was unanimous.

Motion: Carol Pritchett

2nd: David Moore

1. TCC Minutes from 9-13-22 were approved as submitted. The vote was unanimous.

Motion: Janet Mason

2nd: Doug Barrick

1. The Board of Polk County Commissioners submitted a “No-Build Alternative” letter to the RPO for the removal of R-5840 from the STIP. This proposal would remove this funded project from the STIP.

Wanda Austin gave a presentation concerning R-5840. This presentation covered the overall project history, timeline, similar projects in the region, and why it is important.

Wanda answered questions from Doug Barrick concerning standards and David Moore about other similar projects.

Alan Toney made a recommendation to the TAC to keep the project. Alan Toney read the No Build Alternative Letter from Polk County to the Board.

Bob Boyette then opened it up for the TCC to discuss. Bob Boyette asked if anything could be done aside from the RPO voting on this. Alan explained that since the RPO voted to add the project to the STIP, the RPO would also need to vote to remove it. Doug Barrick noted that this project was already scaled down and that it should go forward. Doug made a motion to recommend keeping R-5840 on the STIP to the TAC.

Motion: Doug Barrick

 2nd: Hank Perkins

For: Doug Barrick (Rutherfordton), Steve Garrison (Rutherford County), Hank Perkins (Lake Lure), Ron Harmon (McDowell County), Bob Boyette (Marion), Janet Mason (Forest City), Scott Webber (Spindale), Tim Daniels (Tryon), Steven Orr (Saluda)

Against: March Pittman (Polk County) & Tim Barth (Columbus)

The recommendation was approved 9-2. The TCC recommended to the TAC to keep the project in the STIP.

Chairman Dancy opened the meeting to the TAC members. No discussion took place. David Moore made a recommendation to remove R-5840 from the STIP.

Motion: David Moore

 2nd: Brent Jackson

For: David Moore (Polk County), Brent Jackson (Columbus), Tangela Morgan (Saluda), and Bill Ingham (Tryon)

Against: Carol Pritchett (Lake Lure), Steve Holland (Forest City), Jimmy Dancy (Rutherfordton), Rosaleen Francis (Spindale), and Woody Ayers (Marion)

The motion failed 4-5. R-5840 remained in the STIP.

**Informational Items:**

1. Alan Toney gave updates concerning the most recent NCDOT Carbon Reduction Program. He requested the communities think of projects and that he would be in touch concerning submittals and that this program would be part of the January and March agenda.
2. Hannah Cook gave project updates for Division 13.
3. Stephen Williams gave project updates for Division 14.
4. Alan Toney thanked the board members for their service to the community and their hard work and difficult decision today. Alan mentioned staff updated concerning Foothills. Alan introduced Alexius Farris from NCDOT IMD to give updates concerning multimodal feasibility studies and RAISE grants. Jerry Stensland mentioned the webinar on November 30th and asked questions concerning special consideration for tier 1 counties. Doug Barrick thanked Chris Guffey for his many years of service to the area. He received a round of applause in honor of his retirement.

**Adjournment**

Chairman Dancy adjourned the meeting at 11:59 am.