

William Taylor
TAC Chair

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Down East Rural Planning Organization

Brandi Robertson
TAC Vice-Chair

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DERPO July 2021 Newsletter

From the East Coast Greenway Alliance: Federal RAISE Program and official State Trail Designation (HB 130)

Hello again North Carolina East Coast Greenway Partners,

The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is out early, and the program has been rebranded again. TIGER, which turned into BUILD, is now RAISE (Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity). \$1B in funding is available.

<https://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants>

RAISE applications are due July 12, 2021.

NOFO: <https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/2021-04/FY%202021%20RAISE%20grants%20NOFO%20%28Final%29.pdf>

Again, if anyone is planning on applying or reapplying for a RAISE grant along any section of the ECG in North Carolina, please let the Alliance know. Thank you to those who have already been in touch!

An additional announcement concerning the East Coast Greenway: with Governor Cooper's signing House Bill 130 into law, the ECG is officially recognized as a part of the N.C. State Parks system and an official N.C. State Trail. This will allow the ECG to be eligible to more sources of funding.

Jacksonville Urban Area MPO (JUMPO) Expansion:

The formal boundary expansion of JUMPO to include all of Onslow County went into effect on May 20, 2021.

This means that about 50,000 residents of rural Onslow County living in towns such as Swansboro, Richlands, Holly Ridge, and North Topsail Beach are no longer a part of the Down East RPO. This will unfortunately mean an increase in local dues for FY 2022 since we have a local funding match that we need to maintain.

The exit of Onslow County from DERPO will also require updates to key DERPO documents (Memorandum of Understanding, TCC and TAC By-Laws, etc.), on which we are currently working on draft updates.

From CARTS: Craven County Board of Commissioners, July 6; Proposed Fixed Routes



A public hearing announcement poster for the Craven Area Rural Transit System (CARTS). The poster has a blue background with white and yellow text. At the top, it says "PUBLIC HEARING ANNOUNCEMENT" in yellow. Below that, in large white letters, is "MAKE SURE YOUR VOICE IS HEARD!". To the left of the text is a circular logo for CARTS, which includes the text "CRAVEN AREA RURAL TRANSIT SYSTEM" and "PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION". To the right of the logo, in white text on a blue background, is "BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING". Below that, in white text on a blue background, is "TUESDAY, JULY 6" and "406 CRAVEN STREET". At the bottom, in white text on a blue background, is "7:00 PM". At the very bottom, in white text on a blue background, is "CARTS has proposed changes to the current fixed route system. Riders and the general public are welcome to review the proposed fixed route system changes." To the right of this text is a small Craven County seal.

PUBLIC HEARING ANNOUNCEMENT

**MAKE SURE
YOUR VOICE IS
HEARD!**

**CRAVEN
AREA
RURAL
TRANSIT
SYSTEM**
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

TUESDAY, JULY 6
406 CRAVEN STREET
7:00 PM

CARTS has proposed changes to the current fixed route system. Riders and the general public are welcome to review the proposed fixed route system changes.

Craven County

Tentative TCC Schedule for Remainder of 2021:

To be held @ 10:00 AM at the ECC 3rd Floor Conference Room, New Bern and via Zoom online:

Tuesday, July 20th, 2021 (will almost certainly be postponed until August)

Tuesday, September 21st, 2021 (will probably shift to October)

Tuesday, November 23rd, 2021 (will probably shift to December)

Tentative TAC Schedule for Remainder of 2021:

To be held @ 10:00 AM at the ECC 3rd Floor Conference Room, New Bern and via Zoom online:

Tuesday, July 27th, 2021 (will almost certainly be postponed until August)

Tuesday, September 28th, 2021 (will probably shift to October)

Tuesday, November 30th, 2021 (will probably shift to December)

Comprehensive Transportation Plan Updates:

Carteret County CTP: DERPO worked Carteret County and NCDOT Transportation Planning Division to verify current year future year (2050) data for a Traffic Demand Model (TDM) for Carteret County. The TDM will play a key role in identifying the county's long-term transportation needs. TPD expects to complete the TDM by Fall 2021. Afterwards, work will begin on the CTP proper.

Craven County CTP: The document and maps for the Craven County CTP are complete and were first presented to the public in Havelock before the beginning of the COVID-19 quarantine. The CTP was presented to the Craven County Board of Commissioners on May 17, 2021 to refamiliarize them with the document post-COVID. A second public meeting should be scheduled in the next few months. Further details will be announced when available.

SPOT 6.0 Update:

The SPOT Office is currently scoring all projects; the scores should be released at the end of July. Identified Needs and Complete Streets forms will be due by the end of May. The next meeting of the SPOT Workgroup will determine the SPOT schedule beyond August 2021. Regional and Division projects will require the addition of local input points (LIPs), and our methodology to determine LIPs will also be due at the end of July. We chose to keep our existing competitiveness model, which attempts to maximize the number of projects above a predetermined competitive threshold. The TCC and TAC approved the methodology at our May meetings, and it was subsequently approved by the SPOT Office. Discussions on LIPs will begin in the fall barring any significant changes in the schedule.

TCC Vice-Chair Resignation

Our TCC Vice-Chair, Kate Allen from the Town of Beaufort, has taken another position outside of the DERPO area and has resigned her position as Vice-Chair. We will have a vote for her successor at the next TCC meeting. We wish Kate all the best in her new position and thank her for her work for the RPO!

STIP Project Updates:

B-5938/B-5939 (Upgrades to Atlantic Beach and Emerald Isle Bridges): Work currently at 91.86% complete.

R-1015 (US 70 Havelock Bypass): Construction progress at 27.83% currently. Completion is tentatively scheduled for May 2024.

R-5777A/R-5777B/U-5713 (US 70 James City Improvements to east of Thurman Rd.): Construction progress at 17.01% currently. Completion tentatively scheduled for December 2023.

B-4484 (Replacement of Bridges Nos. 138 and 139 over the Neuse River on SR 1470 (Maple Cypress Rd.) in Craven County). Project let in February 2021, but construction has not started. Completion tentatively scheduled for December 2024.

B-4863 (Harkers Island Bridge Replacement): The project proposes to replace Bridges Nos. 73 and 96 in Carteret County. Let date in FY 2022.

U-3431 (Miller Blvd. Widening in Havelock): Project development is no longer on hold. Right of Way (ROW) Date in February 2027; let date in September 2028.

R-5858 (Improvements to NC 24/NC 58 intersection in Cedar Point/Cape Carteret): ROW date has been accelerated to FY 2021 from FY 2022. Let date is still scheduled for FY 2025.

R-5777C (US 70 Improvements from east of Thurman Rd. to Havelock Bypass): Currently in development. Let date scheduled for Winter 2022; completion of project in FY 2025.

U-5876 (Widening of US 70 between 4th St. in Morehead City and Radio Island; replacement of Newport River Bridge): Currently in development; project no longer on hold. Let date delayed to FY 2027.

R-3403B/R-2513A (Widening of US 17 from SR 1433 (Antioch Rd.) in Bridgeton to SR 1438 (Spruill Town Rd.) in Vanceboro): Let date of FY 2028.

In addition, currently let repaving projects are set be completed on the following dates:

- NC 42, Craven and Pitt Counties, November 2021.
- US 17, Craven County, November 2021.
- US 17, Craven and Beaufort Counties, November 2021.
- Various, Carteret County, February 2022.
- Various, Pamlico County, February 2023.

Highway Safety Improvement Program:

Improved pavement markings will be installed along US 70 between Havelock and Morehead City, and NC 55 between Bridgetown and Bayboro.

Two pedestrian crossings along NC 58 in Atlantic Beach (at E. Bogue Sound Dr. and Brooks St.) will receive Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs).

In Beaufort, the existing traffic signal at SR 1493 (Live Oak Street) at Campen Rd. will be improved by installing a pedestrian crossing with signal heads and a short section of sidewalk on each side of SR 1493 to tie into existing sidewalk on the west side and to tie into the Town of Beaufort sidewalk project on the east side.

In Morehead City, the signals at US 70 (Arendell St.) and Hestron Dr./Crystal Coast Plaza, and Arendell St. and SR 1237 (Harris Rd.)/Shopping Center will be improved with metal poles, mast arms, and dual red indication on Arendell St.

A roundabout will be created at the intersection of SR 1400 (River Rd.) and SR 1450 (Nelson Rd.) in Craven County.