

William Taylor
TAC Chair

Katrina Marshall
TCC Chair



Down East Rural Planning Organization

Brandi Robertson
TAC Vice-Chair

Kate Allen
TCC Vice-Chair

DERPO February 2021 Newsletter

Craven Area Rural Transit System (CARTS) Fares Temporarily Suspended

The Craven County Board of Commissioners approved a temporary suspension of Craven Area Rural Transit System (CARTS) fares from January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021. Fares will resume July 1, 2021. CARTS is the public transit system covering the rural counties of Craven, Jones, and Pamlico as well as the New Bern urbanized area.

For more information visit the Craven County CARTS website at:
<https://www.cravencountync.gov/165/Transportation-CARTS> or call (252) 636-4917.

Jacksonville Urban Area MPO (JUMPO) Expansion:

The JUMPO TCC and TAC approved, at their November 2020 meetings, the boundary expansion to JUMPO that will take the remainder of Onslow County out of DERPO. The expansion has also been approved by Onslow County and the Towns of Swansboro, Richlands, Holly Ridge, and North Topsail Beach. This month, JUMPO will submit the boundary expansion to NCDOT for formal approval. The exit of Onslow County from DERPO will require updates to key DERPO documents (Memorandum of Understanding, TCC and TAC By-Laws, etc.) early in 2021, on which we are currently working on an update. More details will be forthcoming.

Tentative TCC Schedule for Remainder of 2021:

To be held @ 10:00 AM online via Zoom for now; in-person meetings will be held ECC 3rd Floor Conference Room, New Bern:

Tuesday, March 23rd, 2021
Tuesday, May 18th, 2021
Tuesday, July 20th, 2021
Tuesday, September 21st, 2021
Tuesday, November 23rd, 2021

Tentative TAC Schedule for Remainder of 2021:

To be held @ 10:00 AM online via Zoom for now; in-person meetings will be held ECC 3rd Floor Conference Room, New Bern:

Tuesday, March 30th, 2021
Tuesday, May 25th, 2021
Tuesday, July 27th, 2021
Tuesday, September 28th, 2021
Tuesday, November 30th, 2021

Comprehensive Transportation Plan Updates:

Carteret County CTP: DERPO is working with Carteret County and NCDOT Transportation Planning Division to verify 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.

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, but further public meetings and final approval have been postponed until conditions allow for public meetings.

STIP Project Updates:

All Central Let STIP projects (DDRL, Raleigh Let, DB) through FY'25 (June 30, 2025) are approved to move forward with PE. In addition, Division Let STIP projects through FY'23 (June 30, 2023) are approved to move forward.

B-5938/B-5939 (Upgrades to Atlantic Beach and Emerald Isle Bridges): Work currently at 89.54% complete.

R-1015 (US 70 Havelock Bypass): Construction progress at 22.11% 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 13.68% currently. Completion tentatively scheduled for September 2023.

U-5319 (Improvements to Intersection of SR 1308 (Gum Branch Rd.) And NC 53 (Western Blvd.). Construction progress at 67.04% currently.

B-4863 (Harkers Island Bridge Replacement): The project proposes to replace Bridges No. 73 and 96 in Carteret County. Let date in FY 2022.

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. 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): Was recently added to the "Move Forward" list. Let date of FY 2028.

Highway Safety Improvement Program:

NCDOT has released a list of local safety improvement projects that will move forward with Federal funding:

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 Swansboro, the pedestrian signal at NC 24 and SR 1512 (Old Hammocks Rd.) will be upgraded to an audible pedestrian signal.

A project to install new pavement markings and rumble strips along NC 24 between Taylor Notion Rd. in Cape Carteret and US 70 in Morehead City will be presented to the NC Board of Transportation for approval in February.