

**AMENDED  
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR  
COOPERATIVE, COMPREHENSIVE AND CONTINUING  
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF  
A RURAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
FOR**

The Counties of Bladen, Cumberland, Harnett, and Sampson, comprising the Region M Planning Area, and the Municipalities contained therein, excluding Fayetteville, Hope Mills and Spring Lake, and the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

**WITNESSETH**

**Whereas**, on April 17, 2002, the Parties entered into a Memorandum of Understanding which created the Mid-Carolina Rural Planning Organization, hereinafter 'RPO'; and

**Whereas**, the RPO provides rural areas the opportunity to work in partnership with NCDOT toward the development of sound, short and long-range transportation planning for the rural areas of our region; and

**Whereas**, the Parties have agreed to amend the original Memorandum of Understanding and the Rural Transportation Coordinating Committee recommends approval to the Rural Transportation Advisory Committee whom concurs.

**Now, therefore**, the following Amended Memorandum of Understanding is made on this the 28th day of April, 2009.

**Section 1.** It is hereby agreed, that the Counties of Bladen, Cumberland, Harnett, and Sampson, and the municipalities within said counties, excluding the Fayetteville Area MPO, and the North Carolina Department of Transportation intend to establish and participate in a Rural Transportation Planning Organization created for the general purposes and responsibilities outlined in the following:

1. Develop long range local and regional multimodal transportation plans in cooperation with the North Carolina Department of Transportation.
2. Provide a forum for public participation in the transportation planning process.
3. Develop and prioritize suggestions for transportation projects the Rural Transportation Planning Organization believes should be included in the State's Transportation Improvement Program.
4. Conduct transportation-related studies and surveys and to provide transportation-related information to local governments and other interested organizations and persons.
5. Undertake mutually agreed upon transportation-related tasks to enhance transportation system development, coordination and efficiency.

**Section 2.** It is hereby further agreed that transportation plans and programs and land use policies and programs for the Rural Transportation Planning Organization will be coordinated by the Region M Council of Governments, an agency selected on behalf of participating local governments and the North Carolina Department of Transportation to be the administrative entity and serve as the lead planning agency for coordinating transportation planning in the four county Planning Area.

**Section 3.** Establishment of Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC). A Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) is hereby established with the responsibility for serving as a forum for cooperative transportation planning decision making for the Rural Transportation Planning Organization (RPO). The Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) shall have the responsibility for keeping the policy boards informed of the status and requirements of the transportation planning process; assist in the dissemination and clarification of the decisions and policies of the policy boards; and helping to ensure meaningful public participation in the transportation planning process.

1. The Rural Transportation Advisory Committee will be responsible for carrying out the following:
  - A. Establishment of goals and objectives for the transportation planning process.

- B. Endorsement, review and approval of changes to adopted Transportation Plans for the Rural Transportation Planning Organization.
- C. Endorsement, review and approval of a Prospectus for Transportation Planning which defines work tasks and responsibilities for the various agencies participating in the Rural Transportation Planning Organization.
- D. Endorsement, review and approval of Transportation Improvement Projects which support and enhance rural transportation within the Rural Transportation Planning Organization.

2. The membership of the Rural Transportation Advisory Committee shall consist of the following:

- A. One County Commissioner representing each County. One municipal elected official representing the municipal interest in each County.
- B. One member of the Region M Council of Governments Executive Board.
- C. A member of the North Carolina Board of Transportation representing the Department of Transportation.

3. The County Commissioner representing each county shall be elected by the Board of County Commissioners of each county in regular session. The elected municipal representative shall be selected by balloting of municipal elected officials in each county (one vote for each town) every two years. A simple majority vote wins the seat. The term of office for all seats on the RTAC is two years. Re-appointment is possible.

4. The Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) will meet as often as it is deemed appropriate and advisable. A quorum shall be required for the transaction of all business. A quorum shall consist of fifty-one percent (51%) of the active membership of the TAC. On the basis of majority vote of its membership, the Rural Transportation Advisory Committee shall appoint a member of the committee to act as chairperson with the responsibility for coordination of the committee's activities. A member of the staff of the Region M Council of Governments will serve as secretary to the committee.

**Section 4.** Establishment of Rural Transportation Coordinating Committee (RTCC). A Transportation Coordinating Committee shall be established with the responsibility of general review, guidance and coordination of the transportation planning process for the Rural Transportation Planning Organization (RPO) and the responsibility for making recommendations to the Rural Transportation Advisory Committee regarding any necessary actions relating to the continuing transportation planning process.

1. The RTCC shall be responsible for development, review and recommendation for approval of the Transportation Planning Prospectus for the RPO, the Transportation Improvement Plan, and revisions to the Transportation Plan for the RPO.
2. Membership of the Transportation Coordinating Committee shall include technical representatives from all local and state governmental agencies directly related to and concerned with the transportation planning process for the RPO Planning Area. Initially, the membership shall include, but may not be limited to, the following:
  - A. County Manager and County Planner (if designated) from each of the four counties of the RPO Planning Area.
  - B. The Chief Administrative Official or Planner (as designated) from each municipality of 1000 population or more in the RPO Planning Area.
  - C. Executive Director and Transportation Planner, Region M Council of Governments.
  - D. Division Engineer, 3rd Division of Highways, North Carolina Department of Transportation or designated representative.
  - E. Division Engineer, 6th Division of Highways, North Carolina Department of Transportation or designated representative.
  - F. Manager, Statewide Planning Branch, Planning and Environment, North Carolina Department of Transportation, or designated representative.
  - G. Area Traffic Engineer, Division of Highways, Traffic Engineering Branch, North Carolina Department of Transportation.

3. The Transportation Coordinating Committee shall meet when it is deemed appropriate and advisable. A quorum shall be required for the transaction of all business. A quorum shall consist of fifty-one percent (51%) of the active membership of the TCC. On the basis of majority vote of its membership, the Transportation Coordinating Committee shall appoint a member of the committee to act as Chairperson with the responsibility for coordinating the committee's activities. Membership of the Transportation Coordinating Committee may be revised upon the approval of the Rural Transportation Advisory Committee of the RPO.

**Section 5.** It is further agreed that the participating agencies will assist in the transportation planning process by providing planning assistance, data and inventories in accordance with the approved Prospectus of the RPO.

**Section 6.** Parties to this Memorandum of Understanding may terminate their participation in the continuing transportation planning process by giving 90 days written notice to the other parties prior to the date of termination.

**Section 7.** This amended Memorandum of Understanding supersedes and replaces any prior Memorandum of Understanding between the Parties regarding the RPO.

**Section 8.** Municipalities desiring to join the RPO following the signing of this Memorandum of Understanding must do so no later than 90 days after the date given below in Section 4~~0~~ 9 by submitting a fully executed Municipal Statement of Adoption. Any municipality desiring to join the RPO after the initial 90-day period must notify the lead planning agency and the other members of the RPO in writing of its intent to join, and provide each with a copy of a fully-executed Municipal Statement of Adoption. New memberships will become effective July 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

**Section 9.** In witness whereof, the parties of this Memorandum of Understanding have been authorized by appropriate and proper resolutions, and/or legislative authority to sign this Memorandum of Understanding, this the 28th, day of April, 2009.

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Clerk

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Clerk

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Clerk

Bladen County

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

Cumberland County

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

Harnett County

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

Sampson County

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

North Carolina Department of Transportation

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

Region M Council of Governments

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman