

Warren County DOT Planning Committee
Summary – December 13, 2005

This was the first meeting of the Warren County DOT Planning Committee since their appointment by the BOC.

1. Present at this meeting were Linda Jones, Joyce Green-Williams, John Church, Diane Cox, Walter Gardner, Chucke Browne, Michael Humphries, Sara Sherman, Scott Walston, and Katie Scheetz.
2. The group was given a presentation by Sara Sherman about the NCDOT Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) Process. This was a variation on the same presentation that was given to the BOC earlier this year. The group was given a handout showing a more in-depth breakdown of the steps they would be involved with. The group was also given copies of the Warrenton CTP as an example of the format.
3. The group discussed some basics for the plan. All agreed for the plan's base year to be 2004 since that is the more recent traffic counts DOT currently has available. All agreed for the plan's future year to be 2035 since that is consistent with Warrenton's and Norlina's adopted plans.

The group also needed to decide between the 2 options for the Warren County Planning Area. Option #1 would be to create a county plan around the existing Norlina and Warrenton plans. Option #2 would be to create 1 plan for the entire county including the existing Norlina and Warrenton plans. If Option #2 is chosen, Norlina and Warrenton will also need to adopt the county plan. Scott Walston pointed out that both methods are currently being done in other counties throughout the state. He said a pro is to have 1 map for the whole county and to have everyone work together. He said a possible con would be in the future if the towns and/or county are not getting along there could be issues with any updates. It was the consensus of the group that they would prefer to go with Option #2, to just have 1 plan for the whole county. Since Norlina was not represented at the meeting today, input from that town will be sought and a decision will hopefully be made at the January meeting.

4. Sara Sherman told the group that a new component of the CTP process is the requirement of the area having a land use plan (or 1 in progress). NCDOT already has a copy of the Warren County Land Use plan created by Kerr-Tar COG and adopted by the BOC on March 11, 2005. This satisfies the requirement. It was also brought up that Norlina and Warrenton each have zoning maps. Walter Gardner will obtain a copy of Warrenton's map. Norlina will be requested for their map. Linda Jones said that the Recreation Complex will be starting on a bike facility soon and that information may be helpful.

5. The group was made aware that the 1 required public involvement element in the CTP is a public hearing prior to adoption.

The group was shown an example of a Public Goals and Objectives Survey. This would be optional. A pro for using a survey would be to get validation for the plan. A con would be explaining the planning area. If the group decides to use a survey, it would be distributed and administered by local and/or RPO resources. NCDOT can host it on their webpage. The example survey was hosted on a site SurveyMonkey.com for a \$20 fee. The group said a decision could be made at the January meeting.

6. Other items were mentioned that will be important considerations throughout the plan: The High Speed Rail Corridor, documentation of additional elements that will not be on the actual CTP maps (specifically bike and demand-response transit), and the future entertainment complex.

The next meeting is January 20th at 10am. Linda Jones set up the location for today's meeting and offered to do it again for January. A February meeting date, and possibly a regular monthly time, will be determined January 20th. All members are asked to bring their calendars to the Jan 20th meeting.