

# Kerr-Tar Regional Transportation & Land Use News

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## ***Kerr-Tar RPO Regional Survey***

### **Help Shape the Future of the Region**

The survey is available on-line by visiting the Kerr-Tar Rural Planning Organization website. Hardcopies are available upon request. The survey seeks to gauge the general public's concerns and hopes for the future of the region with an eye towards the role of transportation in the process. If you would like to discuss the survey or have any questions about the future of the region, please do not hesitate to contact us.

The survey will remain open until June 1, 2012.

KTRPO website:  
[www.kerrtarco.org/rpo](http://www.kerrtarco.org/rpo)



For Additional Information:  
Michael Ciriello  
Planning Director  
252/436.2048  
[mciriello@kerrtarco.org](mailto:mciriello@kerrtarco.org)

## **NC Secretary of Transportation Gene Conti Visits KTRPO**

The Kerr-Tar Rural Planning Organization (KTRPO) and the Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments hosted NC Secretary of Transportation and former Assistant US Secretary of Transportation in Henderson on January 19, 2012. The Secretary spent time speaking with the public about the 2040 Statewide Transportation Plan and other transportation-related issues impacting the region.



## **Regional Transportation Improvements and Funding Announced**

Several significant funding announcements for regional road improvements since November impacting every county in the region. These include projects to replace aging and dangerous bridges in Warren, Granville, Vance, Person and Franklin counties and the announcement that US 15 north of Oxford to Virginia will be repaved. The total

cost of projects in this region announced in the last several months exceeds \$20 million. For updates on these projects please visit the Kerr-Tar RPO website and click on the county links listed below *County Transportation Project Updates*.

*2020 Statewide Transportation Improvement Projects—*

This is single biggest source of transportation project funding in North Carolina. Projects are submitted to the state by local and regional governments. The latest list of projects is also available on the Kerr-Tar RPO website. Funding decisions for the projects will be made over the course of the next two years.

## **Green Growth Toolbox, 'Freedom Roads' and East Coast Greenway**

Kacy Cook from the NC Wildlife Commission presented the "Green Growth Toolbox" to regional leaders on Friday, February 3 at the KTCOG / RPO quarterly meeting. The Toolbox helps local and regional

planners to better serve outdoor enthusiasts, hunters, farmers and others concerned about protecting and enhancing natural habitats. Information can be found on the KTRPO website.

[www.kerrtarco.org/rpo](http://www.kerrtarco.org/rpo)

NC Freedom Roads is working to identify significant historic sites and routes to freedom used by slaves.

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# Updates

## Southeast Rail

## Bike Funding

## New Stormwater Rules

## East End Connector

### Southeast High Speed Rail

Funding for construction of the project was not approved by the House of Representatives. Funding previously awarded to the project will complete engineering and environmental impact studies that would make the project ready for construction if and when funding becomes available. The KTRPO has been working with DOT officials to clarify whether or not a station would be located in the Kerr-Tar region. Ridership studies indicate that demand would be great enough to support a stop in Henderson. The decision about whether or not trains will stop in Henderson would be made by the service pro-



vider—either Amtrak or some other entity, including perhaps a private operator. In any case, conventional wisdom suggests that a station in the region would help economic development here by enhancing the ability of travelers to visit the area and participate in the region’s growing recreation and tourism economy; providing an alternative for commuters; and attracting investment for businesses looking for easier access to the region’s healthy business climate. Rail ridership between Charlotte and Raleigh as well as Richmond and Washington, DC are among the fastest growing the country. The Kerr-Tar RPO will continue to monitor the situation.

### In other news...

### Bike and Pedestrian Project Funding

A vote in the House of Representative would cut funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects. The vote is scheduled for February 2, 2012.

In North Carolina, bike and pedestrian projects currently amount to \$6 million out of a total transportation budget of \$8 billion. Projects impacted by the funding cuts include safe routes to school for children, sidewalks, and bike routes.

### Falls Lake Rules

The new Falls Lake Water Quality Rules are being implemented by local governments in the Upper Neuse River Basin. The RPO is working to determine the impact of these on development.

### East End Connector On-Track

The “East End Connector” a new freeway connection in Durham that will link I-85 and I-40 via US70 and the Durham Freeway is moving along with right of way acquisition scheduled for this Spring. The Connector will dramatically reduce the amount of time it will take residents from our region to reach the Research Triangle Park, Raleigh-Durham International Airport, and points south of the Triangle. For additional information visit:

[www.ncdot.org/projects/eastendconnector/](http://www.ncdot.org/projects/eastendconnector/)

## Kerr-Tar Region Projects

### Continued

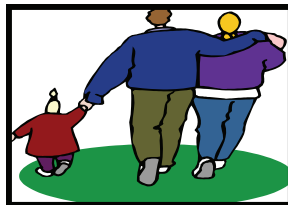
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The project along with other initiatives taking place in the region including the East Coast Greenway, Civil War Trails, and the Kerr-Tar RPO’s “NC Lakes District Regional Bike Plan” to expand recreation, and education opportunities in the region.

### East Coast Greenway

Although funding may be slashed for the construction of bike and pedestrian projects planning will go on for local,

regional, and national plans that might be realized private; private-public, or eventually, if circumstances change, public funding. The East Coast Greenway corridor is for bicyclists and pedestrians and stretches from



Maine to North Carolina to Florida. The route passes through the heart of the Kerr-Tar region. Segments of the trail are completed including the Virginia Tobacco Heritage north of the region and American Tobacco Trail in Durham.

