

MINUTES
LENOIR COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
February 20, 2008

The Lenoir County Transportation Committee met on Wednesday, February 20, 2008 at 8:30 a.m. in the Lenoir County Administration Conference Room at 101 N. Queen Street, Kinston, NC 28502.

Voting members present included: Mr. Russell Rhodes, Chairman, Mr. Buddy Ritch, Mayor of Kinston; Mr. John Craft, Town Manager of LaGrange; Mr. Bruce Parson, GTP Authority Staff; Mr. Joe Bower, Kinston-Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce, and Mr. Bill Whaley, Economic Development Director.

Non-Voting members present included: Ms. Sue Powell, County Manager's Office; Mr. Preston Hunter, NCDOT; Mr. Randy Robb, GTP Authority, Mr. Scott Stevens, City Manager; Mr. Tommy Lee, City of Kinston Planning Board; Mr. Mark Pope, Economic Development and Mr. Adrian King, Pride of Kinston.

Also Present: Mr. Cam McRae, DOT Board Member; Mr. Lynn Everett, NCDOT and Ms. Lashanda Aytch, Administrative Secretary

Members absent included: Mr. Anthony Mitchell, Mayor of Pink Hill; Mr. Chris Humphrey, County Commissioner; Mr. Wayland Humphrey, Lenoir County Planning; Mr. Dan Sale, Lenoir County At-large; Mr. Van Braxton, State Representative, and Senator Charles Albertson.

Mr. Rhodes called the meeting to order at approximately 8:30 a.m.

Upon a motion by Mr. Whaley and a second by Mr. Craft, the minutes of November 14, 2007 were unanimously approved.

US 70 Corridor Commission

Mr. Rhodes reminded everyone of the US 70 Corridor Commission Public Work Session to be held on Thursday, February 28, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. at Lenoir Community College-Science/Lab Building, Room 214. The purpose is to engage the public in a discussion about the US 70 Corridor and potential safety and access improvements. Mr. Craft stated the Town of LaGrange would like the Commission and Committee to consider extending Washington Street to Willie Measly Road, which would improve safety and maintain access to Washington Street. This would allow the Town's only industry safe access on and off Hwy. 70; the Town would also like to retain the traffic light at Little Baltimore as well. Mr. Parson stated he was concerned with retaining the traffic light at Little Baltimore. One of the goals of the US 70 Corridor Commission is to limit the amount of traffic lights along Hwy. 70 stated Mr. Parson. Mr. Lee stated the safety of the traveling public should be the main goal of the Commission. Mr. Craft stated he believes the Town Council would consider some other changes in regards to the traffic light, but the Town would prefer to keep it. After discussion, Mr. Rhodes asked Mr. Craft to draft a resolution endorsing support for the Town of LaGrange request, for approval at the next committee meeting.

Industrial Access

Mr. Hunter stated the access road would be paved next spring and completed by summer 08'.

Bridge Replacement

Nothing new to report at this time.

NC 11 Thoroughfare

Mr. McRae stated a feasibility study has been approved and is underway.

Carey Road Extension

Nothing new to report at this time.

Enterprise Boulevard Extension

Mr. Pope stated he is looking for support in getting the railroad crossing closed at Parrott Dickerson Road and placing a new crossing at the extension of Enterprise Blvd. A project is interested in locating in the area of the proposed rail crossing. Mr. Pope asked for the committee support in getting the railroad crossing moved. The Economic Development Board is in full support of the project. Once approved by the committee, a resolution will be presented to the Lenoir County Board of Commissioners for approval. Mr. Rhodes asked Mr. Pope to draft a resolution for formal approval.

Signal Coordination

Nothing new to report at this time.

New Business

Mr. McRae commended the NCDOT staff for the hard they do on daily basis. There are 14 Divisions of Transportation throughout the state; there are 14 Division members, five (5) of those members are At-Large. Mr. McRae is an At-Large member representing ports and aviation. Mr. McRae wants everyone to know that a lot of people are involved with the expenditures of NCDOT monies. After a brief discussion Mr. McRae thanked the Committee for the work they complete for the citizens of Lenoir County.

Mr. Stevens stated the City would like to re-align King Street to Martin Luther King Boulevard. This would eliminate the traffic light and make a better traffic flow through the area. The City Council has not formally approved the idea to date.

Mr. Lee stated he would like a Resolution Supporting North Carolina Department of Transportation Strategic Highway Corridors Initiative. Mr. Lee stated he would address the issue further at the next Committee meeting.

Adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by
Lashanda Aytch
Clerk to the Board