

MINUTES
LENOIR COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
March 14, 2007

The Lenoir County Transportation Committee met on Wednesday, March 14, 2007 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. Chris Humphrey, County Commissioner; Mr. Buddy Ritch, Mayor of Kinston, Mr. Anthony Mitchell, Mayor of Pink Hill, Mr. Joe Bower, Kinston-Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce

Non-Voting members present included: Mr. Joey Bryan, Lenoir County Manager's Office, Mr. Wayland Humphrey, Lenoir County Planning, Mr. Mark Pope, Economic Development; Mr. Tommy Lee, City of Kinston Planning Board, Mr. Preston Hunter, NCDOT and Mr. Bruce Parson, GTP Authority Staff.

Also Present: Mr. Dan Valeire and Alex Rickard, RPO Planner, John Jarrell, City of Kinston Engineer; and Ms. Lashanda Aytch, Administrative Secretary

Members absent included Mr. John Craft, Town of LaGrange, Mr. Scott Stevens, City of Kinston; Mr. Bill Whaley, Economic Development Board. Mr. Cam McRae, DOT Board Member; 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. Humphrey and a second by Mr. Mitchell the minutes of February 14, 2007 were unanimously approved.

Mr. Pope expressed concern about the development of the Industrial Park on Hwy. 70. Continued growth and development of the Lenoir County Industrial Park will depend on an addition and immediate access to C. F. Harvey Parkway (Crescent Road) from all areas of the park. The Transportation Committee unanimously approved a Resolution In Support of Adding Additional Access to the Proposed NCDOT TIP Project C. F. Harvey Parkway (Crescent Road) R-2719.

US 70 Corridor Commission/MOU – The US 70 Corridor Commission has approved a Memorandum of Understanding. The Commission would like all participating counties to approve the memorandum as well. The purpose of the Memorandum is to unify state and local political jurisdictions along the corridor for implementing regulatory tools and policy measures that will ultimately build a new freeway and protect the integrity of the strategic corridor. Short-term improvements recommended by the US 70 Corridor Commission will improve regional mobility along the corridor and reserve the opportunity to build a freeway in the long-term planning horizon. Mr. Humphrey stated he did not feel comfortable approving the memorandum into the public has had a chance to review and understand the document. Mayor Ritch stated he would like to approve the memorandum to show that Kinston-Lenoir County is on board with the project. Mayor Ritch made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding presented by the US 70 Corridor Commission. The motion died due to a lack of a second from the other voting members.

Industrial Access at Friendly Grocery – Mr. Pope stated the access road is becoming a problem due to employees at the Alside Plant existing and entering the plant behind the Friendly Grocery store. The project has been looked at and it has been concluded that there is not new right-of-way available to complete the project. Upon a motion by Mr. Mitchell and a second by Mr. Bower, the committee supports a Resolution Extending the Existing Three Lane Section of SR 1578 (Airport Road) from SR 1604 (Farmgate Road) to SR 1579 (Academy Heights Road) and Widening SR 1604 (Farmgate Road) to Accommodate Separate Left and Right Turnlanes on SR 1604 (Farmgate Road) Leaving the Alside Company.

Kinston Comprehensive Transportation Plan Update – Mr. John Jarrell, City Engineer, addressed the Committee. Mr. Jarrell stated the new Comprehensive Plan is in the process of being developed; the plan is to be completed in April. Mr. Scott Walston of NCDOT is helping to develop the plan. Mr. Rhodes asked about the rail controversy at the Carey Road Extension. Mr. Jarrell stated the cost of the Carey Road Extension Bridge would be included in the plan. If the bridge were put in afterwards, the rail would have to pay for the bridge. Mr. Parson stated that the county could not attract big businesses without rail service; the roads are very important, but the rail system is just as important.

Resolution Supporting I-117 – Mr. Rhodes stated NCDOT would like to turn Hwy. 117 into an Interstate. Upon a motion by Mr. Humphrey and a second by Mr. Bower, the committee supported a Committee Resolution to support the Hwy. 117

Bridge Replacement: Mr. Rhodes stated there is no news regarding the bridges from DOT.

TIP Priorities for Lenoir County – Mr. Rhodes stated he wanted the Priority List completed as soon as possible for approval. Mr. Rhodes asked everyone to review the attached document for approval at the next Board Meet. Mr. Vanliere stated the committee should review and begin reviewing the document now for approval possibly in July.

Respectfully Submitted by
Lashanda Aytch
Clerk to the Board