

MINUTES
LENOIR COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
April 8, 2009

The Lenoir County Transportation Committee met on Wednesday, April 8, 2009 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. Joe Bower, Kinston-Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce, Mr. John Craft, Town of LaGrange; Ms. Treva Brigman, Mayor of Pink Hill; Mr. Bill Whaley, Economic Development Board; and Mr. Don Howard, GTP Authority.

Non-Voting members present included: Mr. Tommy Lee, City of Kinston Planning Board; Mr. Scott Stevens, City Manager; Mr. Preston Hunter, Ms. Betty Caldwell; NCDOT; Mr. Mark Pope, Economic Development, Mr. Adrian King, Pride of Kinston and Mr. Alex Rickard, RPO Planner.

Also Present: Ms. Lashanda Aytch, Administrative Secretary

Members absent included: Mr. Wayland Humphrey, Lenoir County Planning; Ms. Sue Powell, Lenoir County Transit; 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. Craft and a second by Mr. Whaley, the minutes of February 11, 2009 were unanimously approved.

NCDOT Update – Mr. Hunter stated DOT will be presenting the Secondary Road Improvement Program to the Board of Commissioners’ at their next meeting. The program has an estimated cost of \$1,545,000. Mr. Hunter reviewed the program with committee members. Ms. Caldwell stated there will be a meeting regarding Crescent Road on June 16, 2009. Mr. Rickard stated the RPO has adopted a priority list the ranking is as follows; Goldsboro Bypass #1, Kinston Bypass #2 and Carey Rd. Extension is #3. The TIP Ranking will be delayed for nine months; a statewide priority listing will be developed soon. Mr. Rickard stated House Bill 758 has been introduced to the legislation. HB 758 would require all counties to be responsible for maintaining their Secondary Road Programs. The Lenoir County Board of Commissioners has opposed this Bill

GTP Rail Spur/Administrative make-up as related to NC Government – Mr. Rhodes stated the Public Hearing held on February 18th, regarding the GTP Rail Spur went very well. Mr. Rhodes stated all positions at the GTP would remain at this time.

US 70 Corridor Commission - The Commission made a very good presentation. The Commission is reviewing pilot projects.

Industrial Access: Airport Road – Mr. Hunter stated the project was still on hold due to funding issues.

Bridge Replacement – NCDOT held a meeting in March to discuss two (2) alternatives for the bridge closure to allow for free flowing traffic. There will be another public meeting soon.

NC 11 Thoroughfare – Mr. Rhodes stated no meeting has occurred with the Greenville RPO. Mr. Rickard stated he is still trying to follow up and make the meeting happen.

Carey Road Ext. – No updates to report – Mr. Stevens stated council is still seeking funding for the project.

Harvey Parkway Section A – Mr. Hunter stated the project would start construction in June.

Keeping Elected Officials Informed – Mr. Rhodes stated he would continue to keep government officials informed to Lenoir County's transportation issues.

MLK and King St., Roundabout – Mr. Stevens stated City Council is awaiting funds to start the project.

Traffic Pattern at US 70 and Hill Farm Rd. – Mr. Hunter stated the intersection is being monitored closely by DOT officials. Plans are in the works to make changes to the intersection to make it safer for citizens.

New Business

Train Depot – Mr. Stevens stated demolition has begun on the train depot; 1/3 of the materials from the depot will be saved to re-construct the depot at another location. The rail alignment for that area is moving ahead quickly.

Mr. Rhodes stated that a lot of attention has been made to the County's priority listing; but Wayne County has more exposure with the help of a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). Lenoir County needs more exposure as well, hopefully with the help of the RPO that exposure will be granted. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by
Lashanda Aytch
Clerk to the Board