

MINUTES
LENOIR COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
August 10, 2011

The Lenoir County Transportation Committee met on Wednesday, August 10, 2011 at 8:30 a.m. in the Lenoir County Administration Conference Room at 101 N. Queen Street, Kinston, NC 28502.

Voting members present included: J. Mac Daughety, Interim Chairman, Dan Sale County at Large, Bill Ellis, Interim Kinston City Manager representing Mayor B.J. Murphy, Joe Bower Kinston-Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce, and Bill Whaley Lenoir County Economic Development Board.

Non-Voting members present included: Wayland Humphrey, for Lenoir County Planning Board, Brian Lucas, City of Kinston Street Superintendent, Mark Pope, Director of Lenoir County Economic Development, Adrian King, Pride of Kinston, and Preston Hunter, NC DOT.

Also Present: Mrs. April L. Banks, Administrative Secretary

Members absent included: Woody Gurley, Mayor of LaGrange, Donald King, Mayor of Pink Hill, Charlie Diehl, GTP Authority, Joey Bryan, for Lenoir County Manager, Betty Caldwell, NC DOT, and Joe Albright, Manager Town of Grifton.

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

Mr. Daughety presented the Power Point map from the Local Official meeting held on August 4, 2011 regarding the Hwy 70 Bypass project. The project started with approximately 300 different routes for the bypass and has been narrowed down to 30. There are optional routes to the north and south. On August 30, 2011, a public hearing will be held at the City of Kinston complex from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. and also on August 29, 2011 at Kinston High School from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. The hearings will allow the public to comment and input their suggestions on the project. Mr. Daughety stated there is a strong emphasis on the northern route. After the public hearings, the number of options will be reduced. There will be another public hearing for citizen input. The decision will be confirmed May to June of 2012. Mr. Humphrey stated there aren't many options to the north and the officials may want to make it known what routes are strictly off limits. Mr. King questioned if the northern route would require a bridge to cross the Neuse. Mr. Daughety answered almost any northern route would require a bridge. He advised the members to attend one of the public hearings for an update.

Mr. Hunter provided the update on the projects below:

TIP Projects:

- Kinston Global Trans-Park Freight Rail Improvements – Construction approximately 40% completed, but should be at 60%. Anticipated completion date is December 2011
- US 258, South of SR 1141 (John Green Smith Road) – Contract awarded to Barnhill, Date of Availability September 1, 2011

ARRA Project:

- Crescent Road (Kinston) – Approximately 74% complete, about 5% higher. Estimated completion is October 2012.
- NC 11/NC 55 (King Street) – Complete

Non-TIP Projects:

- US 70 at Lenoir Community College entrance – Complete
- NC 58 from Lenoir Community College entrance to SR 1900 – Awaiting Water Quality Review of Blue Line Stream. Utility relocation underway
- SR 1546 (Banks School Road) – Work has not started
- Left Turn lane on Hull Road onto Rouse Road – Right of Way acquisition underway
- Traffic Circle at Martin Luther King Blvd. – Complete
- Mill and resurface NC 11 north – Complete
- Carey Road Extension – Construction 80% complete, waiting on completion of the Fire Department

Secondary Road Construction Projects:

- SR 1091 Hugo Grifton Road – Work has started and a contract for paving will go out Spring 2012
- SR 1721 Canady Road – Grade, Drain Base completed, paving anticipated Fall 2011
- SR 1141 John Green Smith Road – Work has started, paving and resurfacing anticipated Spring 2012
- SR 1340 Pruitt Road – Grade, Drain, and Base completed, paving anticipated Fall 2011

Mr. Daughety stated he spoke with DOT regarding the Smithfield Way project. The first part of the process is to acquire the land. Mr. Pope stated he will provide meeting dates with them once available. The rail front land will be a valuable asset for the Industrial Park.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting. Upon a motion by Mr. Bower and a second by Mr. Sale, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Mr. Daughety stated DOT's preference to have a local group of officials and business persons to select an independent consultant to review the median project data. The City appointed Clarice Bryant and the County appointed Wayland Humphrey. Mr. Humphrey stated he and Clarice met twice to narrow down the list and eliminate anyone who may have a conflict of interest. They each chose five (5) people and met again to discuss. There were two (2) people they had in common. Contact was made with these individuals, but no feedback has been provided as of yet.

Mr. Ellis stated approximately a year ago, negotiations began with the railroad regarding closing the College Street crossover. Upon meeting with the railroad again, a proposal was drafted that would benefit the city, county, and the rail. The proposal includes approximately \$250,000 in improvements. Heritage Street would be widened and also on the north side where

Rite Aid is located. A parking lot would be paved where the old depot was located. A written and verbal agreement is in place stating if any grant money comes available; the monies would be used to reconstruct the railroad depot at a location of choice. Mr. Ellis anticipates the agreement being signed within the next 90 days. Mr. King asked if there was written reference to the construction in the agreement and Mr. Ellis confirmed there was.

Upon a motion by Mr. King and second Mr. Sale, the meeting adjourned at 9:11 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by
April L. Banks
Administrative Secretary