

MINUTES
LENOIR COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
August 12, 2010

The Lenoir County Transportation Committee met on Wednesday, August 12, 2010 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. B J Murphy; Mayor of Kinston; Mr. Joe Bower, Kinston-Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Bill Whaley, Economic Development Board; Mr. Dan Sale, County at Large; and Mr. Don Howard, GTP Authority.

Non-Voting members present included: Mr. Brian Lucas, City of Kinston, Ms. Betty Caldwell, Mr. Preston Hunter, and Mr. Len White, NCDOT; Mr. Patrick Flanagan, RPO Planner and Ms. Leigh McNairy, DOT Board Member.

Also Present: Ms. Lashanda Aytch, Administrative Secretary

Members absent included: Mr. Woody Gurley, Mayor, Town of LaGrange; Mr. Rodney Howard, Town of Pink Hill; Mr. Joey Bryan; Lenoir County Transit; Mr. Adrian King, Pride of Kinston; Mr. Mark Pope, Economic Development; Mr. Scott Stevens, City Manager; Mr. Joe Albright, Manager of Grifton, and Mr. Wayland Humphrey, Lenoir County Planning.

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

Upon a motion by Mr. Murphy and a second by Mr. Whaley, the minutes of July 21, 2010 were unanimously approved.

Ms. Caldwell reviewed the Division 2 project listing with the Committee. The concrete island on SR 1548 (Hill Farm Road) from US 70 to north of Joan Drive will be installed next week. Construction on the new traffic circle at Martin Luther King Boulevard, is awaiting final approval from the City of Kinston. Mr. Flanagan reported that Green County and Mt. Olive have started their Comprehensive Transportation Plans (CTP). Lenoir County's CTP will start when 2010 Census information has been obtained.

Mr. Howard stated the GTP Rail Spur is 95% through right-of-way clearing and is ten days ahead of schedule. Some of that time may be loss due in December. Mayor Murphy stated the US 70 Corridor Commission meeting will be held Thursday, August 13th in New Bern. Access Management Priorities will be taken to the meeting for discussion. Mr. Hunter stated NCDOT will go back before City Council with alternatives to the traffic issue at Mr. Vernon Park Road.

Mr. Rhodes presented the Committee with a draft of the US 70 Access Management Priority List. The listing is as follows: 1. Skinner Bypass Square Loop Pilot Project – Including all access management projects from the Neuse River to the Tabernacle on US 70; 2. LaGrange East Washington and Willie Measley Road including a Square Loop to add North South access over US 70; 3.) Access improvements as are designed and approved in the future for the Eason Road section of US 70; 4.) From West to East, median opening alternations, as approved in the future, from Willie Measley Road to the Eason Road Project, and 5. Lenoir Community College (LCC) approved access management alterations to the median openings on US 70 near the College's US 70 access. Mr. Rhodes stated LCC requested their road access be added to the priority listing. Upon a motion by Mr. Humphrey and a second by Mr. Bower, the committee approved the Priority Listing as presented.

Mr. Flanagan has received draft maps of the NC 11 as a Thoroughfare from Greenville. Completed maps will be ready in two (2) months; County and City officials will be invited to view the maps and obtain more information.

Alternate Three (3) of the Hwy. 11 to Hwy. 70 Connector Feasibility Study is the most sensible of the alternates presented. The cost for the connector is estimated at \$230 million; objections towards traffic signals must start now.

Upon a motion by Mr. Humphrey and a second by Mr. Whaley the Committee approved the Resolution Objecting to Traffic Signals on the current US 70.

Carey Road Extension has been partially funded and right of way access has been identified for 2019. Harvey Parkway Section A is 45% complete. The Roundabout at MLK and King Street is awaiting approval from the City of Kinston. Mayor Murphy stated the City will hold a public event for the citizens of the community before construction starts. Hull Road will be widened for better travel.

Ms. McNairy stated the NCDOT STIP 6-10 Year Developmental Program is very important to Kinston-Lenoir County. It is imperative that the community stayed united in projects to be presented to NCDOT. The goal is to get more projects “shovel ready” for when monies are received so work can begin immediately.

Upon a motion by Mr. Humphrey and a second by Mr. Sale the Committee approved a Resolution of Support to allow Access Changes to Lenoir Community College (LCC). LCC has approved the changes for better traffic flow and access to the college; the LCC Board of Directors has approved the Access Changes as well.

Respectfully Submitted by
Lashanda Aytch
Clerk to the Board