

MINUTES
LENOIR COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
October 10, 2007

The Lenoir County Transportation Committee met on Wednesday, October 10, 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. John Craft, Town Manager of LaGrange; Mr. Dan Sale, Lenoir County At-large; Mr. Joe Bower, Kinston-Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce and Mr. Bruce Parson, GTP Authority Staff.

Non-Voting members present included: Mr. Scott Stevens, City Manager; Mr. Tommy Lee, City of Kinston Planning Board; Mr. Adrian King, Pride of Kinston, and Mr. Mark Pope, Economic Development.

Also Present: Ms. Lashanda Aytch, Administrative Secretary and Mr. Dan VanLier, RPO Planner.

Members absent included: Mr. Anthony Mitchell, Mayor of Pink Hill; Mr. Buddy Ritch, Mayor of Kinston; Mr. Wayland Humphrey, Lenoir County Planning; Mr. Bill Whaley, Economic Development Director; Mr. Joey Bryan, County Manager's Office; 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. Parson and a second by Mr. Ritch, the minutes of August 8, 2007 were unanimously approved.

Under "Old Business," the US 70 Corridor Commission was discussed. Mr. Lee stated it is becoming more and more difficult to find a direction and a unified goal for the US 70 Corridor. The Commission seems to be digressing; the commission can not unite to make unified decisions. Mr. Rhodes stated several property owners have expressed their concerns about the design and traffic flow of the proposed US 70 Corridor. Mr. Stevens stated the Corridor Commission has to be clear on the goal of the corridor before it is ever presented to the public. If there are different views presented throughout each county of how the corridor will be completed, it will cause confusion for the public. The purpose for the corridor must be concrete before it is presented. Mr. Rhodes stated there will be more meetings regarding the US 70 Corridor; everyone has to work together to bring the project to fruition. Mr. Lee stated in order for Lenoir County to proceed, it must decide now what it is willing to accept; or either move on to other transportation projects.

Mr. Humphrey stated he as well as others feel the Corridor Commission is focusing on the speed along US 70 instead of the safety concerns of the citizens and property owners of Lenoir County. Mr. Craft stated the entire county needs to support a unified plan. Mr. Rhodes stated he is willing to present plans to the Board of Commissioners and update the public as well. Mr. Lee stated there are a lot of other options for the growth of Lenoir County besides US 70.

Industrial Access – Mr. Rhodes stated the project would be funded in the spring.

Bridge Replacement – Mr. Rhodes stated there are some issues with NCDOT regarding on-site vs. off-site detours during the bridge replacement process. NCDOT has disagreed with the idea of an on-site detour. Mr. Rhodes will inform the committee as news develops.

NC 11 Thoroughfare – Mr. Rhodes stated NCDOT has not accepted the Greenville SW 264 Bypass in Ayden to US 70 on the TIP Listing. Mr. Rhodes stated the committee would have to obtain a feasibility study for the NC 11 Connector. After a brief discussion, a sub-committee was formed by Transportation members Mr. Bruce Parson, Mr. Tommy Lee, Mr. Mark Pope and Mr. Russell Rhodes to discuss the feasibility study with DOT Board Member Mr. Cam McRae.

Under “New Business,” Mr. Stevens stated the feasibility study has been completed for the Carey Road Extension. The City Council has discussed the Carey Road Extension issue and asked how does the City obtain the funds to complete the project. Mr. Rhodes stated he would set up a meeting with Neil Lassiter of NCDOT to discuss how funds can be obtained. Mr. Stevens and Mr. Pope will join the meeting as well.

Under “Projects of Concern,” Mr. Pope stated he would like the committee to draft a resolution to send to NCDOT approving the extension of Enterprise Boulevard which would create another access to Banks School Road for better traffic flow within the industrial park. Upon a motion by Mr. Parson and a second by Mr. Craft, the Committee unanimously approved drafting the resolution.

Mr. Humphrey addressed his concerns about the traffic light at Caswell Center coming out of Pecan Lane. The light can hold traffic at the intersection for an extremely long time. Mr. Rhodes stated he would address the issue with Mr. Steve Hamilton of NCDOT.

Adjourned at 9:23 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by
Lashanda Aytch
Clerk to the Board