

MINUTES
LENOIR COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
November 14, 2007

The Lenoir County Transportation Committee met on Wednesday, November 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. John Craft, Town Manager of LaGrange and Mr. Bruce Parson, GTP Authority Staff and Mr. Bill Whaley, Economic Development Director.

Non-Voting members present included: Mr. Joey Bryan, County Manager's Office; Mr. Preston Hunter, NCDOT; Mr. Randy Robb, GTP Authority and Mr. Mark Pope, Economic Development.

Also Present: Ms. Lashanda Aytch, Administrative Secretary and Mr. Lynn Everett, NCDOT and Mr. Neil Lassiter, NCDOT.

Members absent included: Mr. Anthony Mitchell, Mayor of Pink Hill; Mr. Scott Stevens, City Manager; Mr. Tommy Lee, City of Kinston Planning Board; Mr. Wayland Humphrey, Lenoir County Planning Mr. Cam McRae, DOT Board Member; Mr. Dan Sale, Lenoir County At-large; Mr. Joe Bower, Kinston-Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce, 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. Humphrey, the minutes of October 10, 2007 were unanimously approved.

US 70 Corridor Commission

Mr. Humphrey stated the Commission would be meeting on November 15, 2007 in New Bern for a public information session on the corridor.

Industrial Access

Mr. Hunter stated the access road would be paved next spring and completed by summer 08'.

Bridge Replacement

Mr. Hunter stated NCDOT had an Internal Constructability meeting in regards to Bridges No. 42 and 43 on US 70 Business over the Neuse River. On-site and off-site detours were discussed. It has been determined that the East Side of the bridge could be of historical content, this would limit construction of the bridge. It has not been determined the type or length of the bridges. If the detours are kept on-site, traffic will become a major concern. Emergency Medical Service workers are especially concerned about the traffic pattern this presents. Mr. Hunter stated he would present more information, as it becomes available.

NC 11 Thoroughfare

Mr. Parson stated Mr. McRae had been contacted regarding the project. A feasibility study has been approved for the project thus far. Mr. Lassiter stated and estimated cost of the project will be included in the feasibility study. If completed NC 11 will become a strategic corridor NCDOT is supportive of this project.

Carey Road Extension

Mr. Lassiter stated it is very important that the entire community is in full support of the project. Funding has to be secured and the community has to step-up to accelerate the project.

Enterprise Boulevard Extension

Mr. Pope stated he has been working with Mr. Lassiter on the project in conjunction with the Felix Harvey Parkway. Right-of-way has been obtained for Enterprise Boulevard, but an issue could be at the railroad site; NCDOT officials are still discussing the issue.

Signal Coordination

Mr. Rhodes stated communication has been sent out to NCDOT in regards to timing issues at US 70 Business (Vernon Ave.) at Pecan Lane and Hardee Road. Mr. Hunter stated the equipment was upgraded last month, commuters should see a better traffic flow.

New Business

LaGrange Re-paving project

Mr. Hunter stated the paving is underway and should be completed very soon. Mr. Craft stated he was very thankful for everyone who assisted in getting the project completed.

Mr. Lassiter stated all bridges within the county should be addressed now. There are 8,300 bridges that must be replaced. In the year 2017-2018 some of those bridges will be 50 years old or older. NCDOT would like to replace 100 to 125 bridges a year. It cost a minimum of \$500,000 to replace one bridge. More funding is needed to replace these bridges. Mr. Bryan stated he would send out information on all Lenoir County bridges to the committee. Mr. Robb asked about revenues that could be generated through toll roads. Mr. Lassiter stated there are no roads in the area that could be categorized as a toll road. After discussion the committee agreed that bridge replacement is a very high priority for Lenoir County.

Adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by
Lashanda Aytch
Clerk to the Board