

**Minutes**  
**Lenoir County Transportation Committee**  
**Lenoir Economic Development Board Room**  
**Scheduled Meeting**  
**May 11, 2016 – 8:30 a.m.**

**Attendance:**

<b>Voting</b>	<b>Non-Voting</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Bill Whaley, Lenoir County at Large, Chair	Angie Greene, Transit Director	Mike Jarman, Manager, Lenoir County
Tony Sears, Manager, City of Kinston (BJ Murphy, Mayor, City of Kinston)	Brian Lucas, City of Kinston	Woody Gurley/John Craft, Town of LaGrange
Harold Thomas, Lenoir County Economic Development Board	Jeff Cabaniss, Division Planning Engineer, NC DOT	Carol Sykes/Donald King, Town of Pink Hill
Eric Rouse, Lenoir County Commissioner	Mary Jane Westphal, NC GTP Authority	Joe Albright, Town of Grifton, Manager
John Marshall, Kinston-Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce	Mark Pope, Executive Director, Lenoir County Economic Development	John Rouse, Division Engineer, NCDOT
Rick Barkes, NC GTP Authority		Adam Short, City of Kinston
		Dan Sale, Lenoir County, Member-At-Large
		Aaron Bullard, District Engineer, NC DOT
		Patrick Flanagan, RPO Planner
		Adrian King, PRIDE of Kinston

**Chairman Bill Whaley called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m. Quorum was present.**

**Update:**

**TIP Projects – Jeff Cabaniss, NC DOT Division Planning Engineer**

- **B-4565:** Bridges #42 and #43 over Neuse River on US 70 Business (Queen St.). Awarded to Thalle Construction Co., Inc. Project approximately 65% complete.
  - Overflow bridge Stage 1 is complete. Beginning work on Stage 2.
  - Neuse River bridge to begin deck pours on May 13. All pours complete by end of May.
- **EB-3314D:** Kinston Riverwalk, multi-use path from downtown through Pearson Park to the Power Plant. Awarded to Lanier Construction. Project is complete; turned over to the City.

**Resurfacing – Jeff Cabaniss, NC DOT Division Planning Engineer**

- **NC 148:** Resurface from 2215 ft West of SR 1575 (Poole Rd) to NC 58. Awarded to Barnhill Contracting Co. Available July 1, 2016 with a completion date of November 1, 2016. This project will begin once US 258 is complete.
- **US 258:** Resurface from 300 ft South of SR 1342 (Will Baker Rd) to US 70. Awarded to Barnhill Contracting Co. Available May 2, 2016 with a completion date of September 30, 2016. Project anticipated to begin on July 7.
- **US 70:** Resurface from Bear Creek bridge to Mt Vernon Park Dr (excluding NC 148 interchange). To be let on May 17, 2016. Available July 1, 2016 with a completion date of December 1, 2016.
- **Secondary Roads:** Awarded to S.T. Wooten Corp. Available July 1, 2016 with a completion date of October 15, 2016.
  - SR 1152 Smith-Grady Rd, resurface from NC 11 to NC 55
  - SR 1546 Banks School Rd, resurface from US 70 to 100 ft East of Eastwood Dr

Commissioner Eric Rouse asked Mr. Jeff Cabaniss when the Goldsboro Bypass project is anticipated to be complete and open to the public. Mr. Jeff Cabaniss stated that the last update specified that the road would be open by the first part of June. Mr. Harold Thomas stated that Secretary Tennyson stated at the Interstate Designation ceremony that the bypass would be open in May.

Commissioner Eric Rouse asked when the public would be able to drive on the first leg of the Queen Street Bridge. Mr. Jeff Cabaniss stated that the last they heard, it would be August before one side of the bridge was open to traffic.

Mr. Brian Lucas stated that the City of Kinston waterline project is complete from Spring Hill Street to Blount Street. The next phase of the project will begin work at Highland Avenue and moving north. The sewer contractor plans to start at Capitola, north of Vernon Avenue, and move south on June 9. The City of Kinston did not want to be working in the same area as the sewer contractor, therefore they are working north of this anticipated starting position.

### **Old Business:**

#### **Approval of Minutes – Bill Whaley, LCTC Chairman**

- A quorum was present. The minutes were reviewed by the committee for April 13, 2016. Mr. John Marshall made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Harold Thomas seconded the motion. All voting members were in favor of accepting the minutes as presented. The minutes were approved by the committee.

#### **NC GTP Report – Rick Barkes, NC GTP Interim Executive Director**

- Mr. Rick Barkes stated that the Antonov has been into the GTP every third day through the month of May. He stated that he would be happy to host anyone that would like to see the Antonov.

#### **Economic Development Report – Mark Pope, LCED Executive Director**

- Mr. Mark Pope stated that there is a current project looking into the Shell Building. He then stated that the BBQ festival was a great success and he looks forward to receiving the numbers related to the event.
- Mr. Mark Pope stated that Grainger Stadium Ballpark is hosting the Region I Tournament this week. Mr. Tony Sears stated that the championship game will begin at 12:00 today.
- Mr. Mark Pope stated that the 2016 NJCAA Division III World Series Tournament will begin on Friday, May 27, with a banquet dinner featuring guest speaker, Jerry Narron. He is a former major league player and coach. The tournament will continue through to June 1. Sanderson Farms is the title sponsor for this event. Smithfield Farmland is the next largest contributor of the event with a Grand Slam Sponsorship, 3,500 hotdog donation, and Smithfield NASCAR staging for Saturday, May 28.
- Mr. Mark Pope stated that the C100 Anniversary Celebration is scheduled for Tuesday, May 17. The event will begin with the facility tour of North State Aviation's Kinston facility at 9:00 am. The luncheon will end the event, beginning at 11:30 am, with Mr. Charlie Creech, President of North State Aviation, as the guest speaker. Chairman Bill Whaley stated that he encouraged all committee members to attend this event.

Chairman Bill Whaley stated that Mr. Adrian King announced last week that he will be retiring as Executive Director of the PRIDE of Kinston effective December 31. He then asked Mr. Tony Sears what the plans were for the City of Kinston to fill this position. Mr. Tony Sears stated that filling this position would be up to the PRIDE of Kinston board. Commissioner Eric Rouse stated that it was his understanding that this position was funded by the special downtown tax.

#### **SPOT Project Review – Jeff Cabaniss, NC DOT Division Planning Engineer**

- Mr. Jeff Cabaniss stated that Mr. Patrick Flanagan, RPO Planner, prepared two handouts detailing Region B, Eastern Carolina RPO, and Lenoir County Projects from SPOT 4.0. Lenoir County is in Region 2/3.
- Mr. Jeff Cabaniss stated that the Kinston Bypass scored the highest for Lenoir County with 45.93 points received out of 70. Please be reminded that the scores released are preliminary. There are two large pieces of the puzzle. The project must make it onto the STIP and then it must be funded within the first five years to remain on the STIP.

- Mr. Jeff Cabaniss stated that the RPO will apply priority points to the regional projects before the end of July. He then stated that the division projects would go through the same process by the end of September or beginning of October.
- Mr. Jeff Cabaniss stated that the approved projects should be released by November.

### **County Transportation Plan Steering Committee Nomination – LCTC Voting Committee Members**

- Chairman Bill Whaley asked if representatives have been selected at this time to serve on the steering committee. Mrs. Amanda Conner stated that Mr. Patrick Flanagan is currently compiling a spreadsheet with various organization representative nominees. She stated that Mr. Patrick Flanagan suggested that each organization select their own representatives instead of one being assigned. The members of this steering committee will need to commit to meeting for approximately one hour, once a month, for the next two years.
- Commissioner Eric Rouse asked if the LCTC would vote to have a representative on this committee. Mr. Bill Whaley stated that the LCTC will nominate and vote for a member to represent them on the steering committee for the CTP.
- Commissioner Eric Rouse nominated Chairman Bill Whaley to represent the LCTC on the County Transportation Plan Steering Committee. Mr. John Marshall seconded the motion. All voting members were in favor of accepting Chairman Bill Whaley as their representative. Chairman Bill Whaley accepted the appointment as representative for the CTP Steering Committee.

### **New Business:**

#### **Request of New Business – Bill Whaley, LCTC Chairman**

- Chairman Bill Whaley asked LCTC members if they had any new business to bring before the committee.
- Mr. Jeff Cabaniss stated that NC DOT attempted to bid out the Highway 11 North Project that improves the turn lanes from Highland Avenue in Kinston to Jacksontown Road in Ayden. He then stated that the project bid came in over budget. When options were discussed on how to utilize safety money to complete these upgrades, it was stated that the project would need to eliminate two crossovers. Commissioner Eric Rouse asked if accident reports supported the removal of the selected crossovers. Mr. Jeff Cabaniss stated that the accident report is not readily available, however, truck traffic is expected to increase once the Greenville Southern Bypass is complete. Commissioner Eric Rouse asked if the project could be split into multiple projects. Mr. Jeff Cabaniss stated that this particular project needs to be completed at one time. He then stated that by attempting to use the safety funds, which are competitively divided on a regional level, splitting the project may keep sections of the project from receiving funding. Mr. Harold Thomas asked which two crossovers are being considered for elimination. Mr. Jeff Cabaniss stated that they were not determined at this time. He then stated that Mr. Preston Hunter was reviewing crossover elimination options.
- Chairman Bill Whaley asked if the LCTC needed to provide some assistance to help get this project funded and let. Mr. Jeff Cabaniss stated that formal support for the project would assist the process in getting this project funded to let. He then stated that they are looking to have this project go to let by June.
- Mr. Tony Sears made a motion for a resolution to be drafted in support of the Highway 11 Upgrade project and be submitted to the Lenoir County Board of Commissioners for approval. The resolution will include the elimination of two crossovers and the installation of left and right turn lanes. Mr. John Marshall seconded this motion. Chairman Bill Whaley, Mr. Tony Sears, Mr. John Marshall, Mr. Rick Barkes, and Mr. Harold Thomas voted in favor of accepting the motion as presented. Commissioner Eric Rouse opposed the motion stating that he would like a chance to review the data reports for the project before supporting the motion. With a majority of the votes in favor of the motion, the motion was approved by the committee.
- Mr. John Marshall stated that the crossover at the Chick-fil-A, Lowe's, and Wendy's is always congested. He then asked if there have been any studies for this crossover to determine if something can

be done to make it safer. Mr. Jeff Cabaniss stated that he was not aware of any studies that have been conducted, however, he would discuss the matter with Mr. John Rouse.

- Mr. Mark Pope stated that the Highway 70 Corridor Commission has initiated a group known as the Eastern North Carolina Rail Coalition. They are tasked to bring counties together from Johnston County to New Hanover County and other coastal counties to assist with moving freight by rail and truck. Developers will meet to represent the counties involved. Rail development is essential to economic development in Eastern North Carolina. This collaboration will assist in the communication efforts with the various rail providers. Mr. Jack Best, Goldsboro representative, is the chairman for this group. The next meeting will help to identify the needs of this association.

The next transportation meeting will be Wednesday, June 8, at 8:30 a.m.

**Much discussion followed**

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 a.m.**