

**Minutes**  
**Lenoir County Transportation Committee**  
**Lenoir Economic Development Board Room**  
**Scheduled Meeting**  
**June 8, 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
Dan Sale, Lenoir County, Member-At-Large	Jeff Cabaniss, Division Planning Engineer, NC DOT	Carol Sykes/Donald King, Town of Pink Hill
Rick Barkes, NC GTP Authority	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	Harold Thomas, Lenoir County Economic Development Board
	John Rouse, Division Engineer, NCDOT	Adam Short, City of Kinston
	Aaron Bullard, District Engineer, NC DOT	Eric Rouse, Lenoir County Commissioner
	Patrick Flanagan, RPO Planner	Adrian King, PRIDE of Kinston
	Lauren Tuttle, RPO Planner	
	Jerry Kanter, NC GTP Board	

**Chairman Bill Whaley called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Quorum was present.**

**Update:**

**TIP Projects – Aaron Bullard, NC DOT District 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. Stage 2 underway.
  - Neuse River bridge deck pours on-going. All pours complete by end of June.
- **W-5202K/NC 11:** Add additional left turn lanes from Mewborn Ave to north of Odham Rd and remove 2 crossovers, Let date June 22, 2016, available August 1, 2016 with a completion date of July 1, 2017
- **W-5601ES/NC 11:** Upgrade guardrail end units at various locations, awarded to Reynolds Fence & Guardrail, available June 20, 2016 with a completion date of September 30, 2016.

**Resurfacing – Aaron Bullard, NC DOT District Engineer**

- **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. Estimated start date early July, though may begin late June.
- **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. To be done after completion of US 258.
- **US 70:** Resurface from Bear Creek Bridge to Mt Vernon Park Dr. (excluding NC 148 interchange). Awarded to Barnhill Contracting Co. Available July 1, 2016 with a completion date of December 1, 2016. To be done after completion of NC 148.
- **Secondary Roads:** Awarded to S.T. Wooten Corp. Available July 1, 2016 with a completion date of October 15, 2016. Estimated start date early July.
  - 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.

Chairman Bill Whaley asked Mr. Aaron Bullard if DOT was still anticipating one lane of traffic being open in August for the Queen Street Bridge. Mr. Aaron Bullard stated that DOT is awaiting a revised schedule from the contractor, however, they are still expecting to have one lane of traffic open by the end of July to early August.

Chairman Bill Whaley asked NC DOT for an update in regards to the Ferrell Road project on Highway 11. Mr. Jeff Cabaniss stated that the plans are being finalized. Mr. John Rouse stated that they are expected to complete this project during the summer while school is out.

Chairman Bill Whaley asked for an update on the temporary traffic light near Ma's Hotdog House. Mr. John Rouse stated that DOT will evaluate the need for this light once the bridge project is complete and the traffic pattern resumes its natural flow.

Mr. Jerry Kanter asked if DOT could give an update on the CF Harvey Parkway section that will connect to Highway 11 from Highway 58. Mr. John Rouse stated that he is working to accelerate this project. He then stated that the environmental impact study has been drafted and a public workshop should be scheduled at the end of this month or the beginning of next month. The design and acquisition of the right of way for this project should be underway by September. He stated that it should be Let to construction late next year.

### **Old Business:**

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

- A quorum was present. The minutes were reviewed by the committee for May 11, 2016. Mr. John Marshall made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Dan Sale 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 was featured in the Kinston Free Press. He then stated that he would be happy to host anyone that would like to see the Antonov. It is expected to be at the GTP several times this week and next. He also stated that the Jetport ranked from 4<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> within the 72 airports analyzed for wages, employment numbers, etc. in the 2016 Economic Contribution of North Carolina Airports Study.

#### **US 70 Corridor Update – Mark Pope, LCED Executive Director**

- Mr. Mark Pope stated that the US 70 Corridor met last week in New Bern. The Corridor has put together a report from their workgroup session and this report is included in your notebooks.
- Mr. Mark Pope stated that the Goldsboro Bypass is complete and has been designated as Interstate 42. Signage is being developed now to be placed on the side of Highway 70 in LaGrange, Dover, and New Bern.
- Mr. Mark Pope stated that the Kinston Bypass is unfunded in the 2016-2025 STIP.
- Mr. Mark Pope stated that the Havelock Bypass has been funded for both right of way and construction in the 2016-2025 STIP. The Record of Decision is scheduled for the summer 2016.
- Mr. Mark Pope stated that the improvements for US 70 near Wilson's Mills in Johnston County will be upgraded to a freeway from US 70 Business to the Neuse River Bridge. This is fully funded in the STIP.
- Mr. Mark Pope stated that US 70 improvements near Pine Level in Johnston County are fully funded in the STIP.
- Mr. Mark Pope stated that the US 70 improvements in James City will upgrade the highway to freeway standards. This project is fully funded in the STIP. There are also improvements from James City to Havelock. The right of way has received funding in the STIP.

- Mr. Mark Pope stated that the Morehead City improvements that include the Newport River bridge upgrades are fully funded in the STIP. Mr. John Rouse stated that traffic will be on the bridge by the spring of next year.
- Mr. Mark Pope stated that Slocum Gate improvements began last year and will hopefully be let in June 2017.
- Mr. Mark Pope stated that each project detailed in the US 70 Corridor report for June 2016 includes information regarding the funding status, schedule, activities either underway or completed, upcoming actions, and maps.

#### **NC DOT Report – John Rouse, NC DOT Division Engineer**

- Mr. John Rouse stated that the biggest thing that happened this year is receiving Interstate Designation for Highway 70. It has a regional impact for protecting the bases from the BRAC and for economic development in recruiting industries to the region. He stated that companies want to know how many minutes the communities are from an interstate and if it is not favorable then the community is out of the running for the project. Signs indicating the future interstate designation will begin going up through controlled access areas along the highway.
- Mr. Jeff Cabaniss stated that the issue brought forth by the committee at the last meeting regarding the intersection at Chick-fil-A was discussed and the only way to solve this issue would be to control access. He stated that they looked at this issue in the past and received resistance to changing the intersection. Mr. John Rouse stated that this would restrict the right in and the left out for the intersection. Mr. Mark Pope asked what assistance would be needed to assist with the effort to make this intersection safer. Mr. John Marshall stated that vehicles are coming from various directions and do not know which one should go first or which direction they need to go. Mr. John Rouse stated that the businesses have to buy in to the change. He then stated that it will not be well received for traffic attempting to move west from that intersection because they will have to go to the light to make that movement.
- Mr. Dan Sale asked what the cost estimates would be for the Kinston Bypass project. Mr. John Rouse stated that the entire project would cost approximately a little more than \$300 million. Mr. John Rouse stated that the project is currently in the prioritization process and will most likely receive funding if it receives full support. Mr. Patrick Flanagan stated that the monies available for the STIP will help in determining when it will receive funding designation. Mr. John Rouse stated that Southern options are still being discussed. He then stated that the Shallow Bypass received the most support.
- Chairman Bill Whaley asked Mr. John Rouse about the dredging issue regarding the North Carolina port. Mr. John Rouse stated that dredging takes place to help with military and commercial use of the ports. He then stated that it is a depth issue for the North Carolina ports. He also stated that Morehead City has great sea access, but has an issue once it reaches land. Wilmington Port has issues with depth of the port. The Core of Engineers is looking for a long term solution to this problem.

#### **City of Kinston Update - Tony Sears, City Manager**

- Mr. Tony Sears stated that the project is moving along as planned. He then stated that most of the work remaining will take place on the shoulders. He anticipates the sewer project to begin soon.

#### **RPO Update – Patrick Flanagan, RPO Planner**

- Mr. Patrick Flanagan stated that the prioritization 4.0 results have been released. He then stated that the handouts that have been provided for each board member includes Lenoir County specific project sheets outlining the description, ID number, category, location, improvements, maps, and methodology scoring details for each project in the system. He also stated that points for local and division have not been added at this time. Mr. Mark Pope is the Lenoir County representative on the subcommittee for applying points. Mr. Patrick Flanagan stated that he would like direction for these projects from the Lenoir County Transportation Committee. He then stated that this would give Mr. Mark Pope and him direction as to what the top priorities are for Lenoir County.

- Chairman Bill Whaley asked what the committee needs to focus on. Mr. Patrick Flanagan stated that it is important for the committee to look at the DOT data. He would like for the committee to note that the score is out of 70. He then stated that if you are not in the top tier, then you have no chance of getting the project funded.
- Mr. Dan Sale asked what the top scoring projects were for Lenoir County. Mr. Patrick Flanagan stated that the Kinston Bypass new road south of Highway 58 and the Jim Sutton/Willie Measley Road interchange upgrades scored the highest.
- Mr. Patrick Flanagan stated that the third highest scoring project for Lenoir County was the Highway 11 upgrades to interstate standards. He then stated that aside from the score, another thing to consider is the total amount of funds available for the region.
- Chairman Bill Whaley asked the committee for comment. Mr. John Marshall stated that it is important to show united support for all projects relating to the Kinston Bypass since it scored the highest in the Prioritization 4.0. Mr. Jerry Kanter stated that the committee needs to make a conscience effort to choose projects that encourage aviation in our area. Mr. Patrick Flanagan stated that the region has been intentional in their efforts to support aviation. Chairman Bill Whaley stated that Mr. John Marshall's comment to prioritize the Kinston Bypass project and its supplemental projects makes sense to him. Mr. Dan Sale stated that the Bypass project for Kinston shown in the handout only shows a \$130 million cost instead of the \$300 million cost. Mr. John Rouse stated that the Kinston Bypass project has been broken into 5 sections in order to get it funded. He then stated that the Goldsboro Bypass was broken into 4 sections. Mr. Mark Pope stated that he feels it is important for Mr. Patrick Flanagan to show where other RPO's may share the responsibility of funding some of these projects.
- Mr. Patrick Flanagan stated that the Highway 11 upgrades are split between 2 RPO's and 1 MPO. He then clarified that the money comes from the same region, but the points applied to the project comes from different planning organizations. He also stated that each of these entities do support the Highway 11 upgrade project. This project may be one that has to be split into multiple projects to help reduce the cost and kick start the efforts behind the overall project.
- Mr. John Marshall made a motion for the Lenoir County Transportation Committee to submit the prioritization to the Lenoir County Board of Commissioners ranking the top six projects for Lenoir County; SPOT ID H090128-B (#1), H150962 (#2), H090128-AB (#3), H090128-AA (#4), H090128-CA (#5), and H111202-B(#6). Mr. Rick Barkes seconded the motion. All voting members were in favor of accepting the rankings as presented. The rankings were approved by the committee to be submitted to the Board of Commissioners.
- Chairman Bill Whaley asked that Mrs. Amanda Conner draft the resolution of this motion and rankings to be presented to the Lenoir County Board of Commissioners at their next session.

### **New Business:**

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

- Chairman Bill Whaley stated that the first Comprehensive Transportation Plan meeting will be today at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Patrick Flanagan stated that various organizations will have a representative voice on the CTP steering committee. He then stated that this initial meeting will be an orientation and overview of the process for representatives selected to attend the meeting.
- Chairman Bill Whaley reminded committee members that they will not meet in July.

The next transportation meeting will be Wednesday, August 10, at 8:30 a.m.

**Much discussion followed**

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

*Transcription: Amanda A. Conner, Office Manager, Lenoir County Economic Development*