

MINUTES
LENOIR COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
January 10, 2007

The Lenoir County Transportation Committee met on Wednesday, January 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 of LaGrange and Mr. Bill Whaley, Economic Development Board.

Non-Voting members present included Mr. Wayland Humphrey, Lenoir County Planning, Mr. Mark Pope, Economic Development; Mr. Scott Stevens, City of Kinston; Mr. Tommy Lee, City of Kinston Planning Board, Mr. Preston Hunter, NCDOT and Mr. Bruce Parson, GTP Authority Staff.

Also Present: Mr. Jim Daughtry, RPO Planner, Steve Hamilton, NCDOT; Mr. Eon Solomon, Principal of North Lenoir High School; and Ms. Lashanda Aytch, Administrative Secretary

Members absent included Mr. Anthony Mitchell, Mayor of Pink Hill, 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.

Ms. Kim Braxton of Institute Township addressed the Committee regarding traffic problems at Hwy. 258 and Institute Road at North Lenoir High School. Ms. Braxton's son was involved in a motor vehicle accident on October 27, 2006 at the intersection of Wheat Swamp Road and Hwy. 258 North. Ms. Braxton stated there have been 3 additional accidents at the intersection since November 1, 2006. Mr. Roger Dail, Emergency Services Director, stated he has observed the intersection in the mornings and evenings and there should be some type of improvements made at the school. Parents are dropping off and picking up students on the side of the road. The parking lot for the students should be reversed so students will not come in and out at the intersection. Students were allowed to park at a convenience store located across the street from the school, which made matters worse in the evenings when school was adjourned. Luckily there have been no fatalities from the accidents that have taken place.

School Resource Office Joey Briley stated the owner of the store was contacted last year and was asked to post the property. The property has been posted and several cars have been towed, this action has stopped students from parking at the store location. Mr. Eon Solomon, Principle of North Lenoir High School, stated the school is land locked, making the parking situation very bad. It will take extra manpower to direct parents on and off school property in an orderly fashion.

Mr. Steve Hamilton, NCDOT Engineer, stated that in the last 5-year period from 2001 through 2006, there have been ten- (10) reported accidents at the intersection adjacent from the school. A report regarding the last 3 accidents for 2006 has yet to come in yet. In researching each accident it was discovered there were no patterns involved with each accident. In observing students leaving school at the end of the day, students are blocked off by other students who are exiting a vacant lot beside the school that had no been designated as a parking area. Mr. Hamilton recommended the following improvements be made: additional property being acquired, loading lane for parents and students established, encourage parents and students to

utilize existing traffic plan, stop parents from parking on the side of the road. After further discussion, Principle Solomon stated that he would take the recommendations from NCDOT back to his staff implementation. Mr. Rhodes thanked everyone for his or her comments regarding the matter.

Trucks on Queen St. North of Courthouse no discussion taken.

Late Night Flash – Mr. Stevens stated flashing would not be happening right now for the city. Mr. Stevens stated the item should come off of the agenda for now. Mr. Rhodes stated he would remove the item immediately.

Rouse Chapel Road – Mr. Hunter stated the road has been constructed and paved, making the project complete. The item can now be taken off of the agenda. Mr. Rhodes stated he would remove the item immediately.

Alternate Route to the Airport – Mr. Hunter stated there would be a new Savannah School site; the committee should wait and see where the school might go. Also, the speed limit for Hwy. 11 will be going up to 60 mph.

US 70 Corridor Commission – Mr. Chris Humphrey stated the next Corridor Commission meeting will be held on January 18, 2007 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in Goldsboro at City Hall.

Industrial Access – Mr. Hunter stated engineers have not gotten the updated plans together has of yet.

Vacancies – Mr. Don Howard will possibly be taking the place of Ms. Nancy Stallings on the Transportation Committee.

Bridge Replacement: Bridges NO. 42 & 43 on US 70 Business Over the Neuse River; Meeting will be held January 16, 2007 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Bullock Building NO. 1 at Lenoir Community College.

New Project

Mr. Pope stated he would like the construction of Crescent Road from Hwy. 258 to Hwy. 70 place on the agenda for further discussion. Mr. Rhodes stated he would do so.

Upon a motion by Mr. Humphrey and a second by Mr. Rhodes, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:45 a.m.