

MINUTES
LENOIR COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
February 16, 2011

The Lenoir County Transportation Committee met on Wednesday, February 16, 2011 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. Dan Sale County at Large, Mr. J. Mac Daughety County Commissioner, Mr. B. J. Murphy Mayor of Kinston, Mr. Joe Bower Kinston-Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce, Donald King Mayor of Pink Hill, Mr. John Craft Town of LaGrange, Mr. Bill Whaley Economic Development Board, and Mr. Don Howard GTP Authority.

Non-Voting members present included: Mr. Brian Lucas City of Kinston, Mr. Mark Pope Economic Development; Mr. Scott, Stevens Kinston City Manager and Mr. Joe Albright Town of Grifton Manager, Ms. Lynn White Lenoir County Planning, Mr. Preston Hunter and Ms. Betty Caldwell NCDOT.

Also Present: Ms. Latanya Green, Administrative Secretary (Interim)

Members absent included: Mr. Rodney Howard Town of Pink Hill, Mr. Joey Bryan Lenoir County Transit, Mr. Joe Albright Manager of Grifton, Mr. Wayland Humphrey Lenoir County Planning, Adrian King Pride of Kinston, and Mr. Alex Rickard RPO Planner.

Mr. Rhodes called the meeting to order at approximately 8:30 a.m.

Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Mr. Murphy, the minutes of January 12, 2011 were unanimously approved.

Mr. Hunter presented committee with update on the Parrott and Fred Everett Road project.

Ms. Caldwell stated the issues with the median project on US 70 are being worked out.

Ms. White updated the committee on status of the Felix Harvey Parkway project. Ms. White stated the project is 60% percent complete. The estimated date of completion is October 2012 and the estimated date of pavement is 2013.

Mr. Howard stated that he has not heard anything from Spirit in regard to the Rail Spur. Due to volume and time the majority of the work is scheduled for August and September.

Mr. Daughety addressed the board in regard to the US 70 Corridor Commission. The subcommittee meeting is scheduled for 2/18/11. Mr. Daughety and Mr. Murphy will attend meeting. Mr. Murphy stated the committee has never met before. Mr. Daughety stated the county will appoint representatives and asked the committee for suggestions on who should be on committee. Mr. Murphy stated that in the past there were two representatives from the county. Mr. Daughety suggested that two representatives be appointed in the event that one is rejected and they must resign. Mr. Murphy stated he has concerns in regard to the Corridor Commission meeting. Mr. Daughety stated this has been brought up before but never followed-up on and it needs to be reformed and active compared to the US 17 Corridor Commission

meetings. Mr. Daughety suggested that they look how they interacted with the Legislature “it is a working committee”. The Transportation Committee discussed suggestion for appointments to the subcommittee. Mr. Murphy stated he had no vote on appointments to the committee. Mr. Daughety was appointed to subcommittee by Mr. Murphy. Mr. Rhodes stated he is not sure about the appointment of two representatives. Mr. Daughety suggested there should be two appointed to the subcommittee. Upon a motion by Mr(?) and a second by Mr. Daugherty unanimously approved. Mr. Daughety will make the recommendation to the County Commissioners.

Mr. Haywood Daughety and Mr. DeWayne Aligood of NCDOT presented the committee with the option putting a road going through the back of the neighborhood at Mt. Vernon. The city held a public meeting with citizens of the neighborhood and they were not interested in this option. The citizens felt that Option 3 made sense if the east bound light is removed with a left turn signal, and to restrict Mt. Vernon Park left turn, or u-turn. Option 3 stated:

- Construct mainline leftover into Mount Vernon Park & signalize westbound US 70
- Estimated cost - \$310, 000
- Benefit-to-Cost Ration (B/C)-2.15
- Indicates \$2.15 of savings in crash reduction for every \$1.00 spent
- Could not be completed entirely with Spot Safety Funds, but would require companion funding
- Eligible for Highway Safety Improvement Program Funds, but would likely not receive funding for foreseeable future due to low B/C

The committee questioned U-turn availability. The signal is not based on federal mandates and warrants. Spot safety will pay to remove leftover into Ruby Tuesday’s and two signals will be needed to allow for two cars to be parked before the signal is tripped. This light at this intersection services all the business in that area. Mr. Murphy recommended that there be two different votes. The public was concerned on the removal alone and the close of the leftover at Ruby Tuesday’s, Option 3 due to public safety (fire station, traffic will slow down fire trucks). The city is supportive of this but, is not responsible, and feels that the crossover is beneficial. Mr. Rhodes asked if the closure would be approved and stated the summer beach and Ruby Tuesday traffic would have to compete. Mr. Murphy made a motion for Option 3 and a second by Mr. Daughety for the east bound light to be removed. A motion was made for the closure of leftover. It was suggested that someone from the committee consult with Ruby Tuesdays on the changes and Mr. Rhodes agreed to do so. Item tabled by a motion by Mr. Murphy and second by Mr. Daughety.

Ms. Caldwell stated no contact has been made in regard to the Median Project starting in March 2011. She stated they are looking a shifting the eastbound traffic into Barnhill Co. and trucks may have issues with U-turn locations. There have been 100’s of comments from the public about the Median Project. It will be advertised three weeks before it starts. Ms. Caldwell stated they will talk to the City about access to Kangaroo.

Mr. Murphy stated bridge replacement is up to date with bridges NO. 42 & 43 on the US 70 business over the Neuse River.

Mr. Flanagan stated the NC 11 through fare from Greenville will be presented at the next Commissioners meeting.

Mr. Rhodes stated the roundabout at Martin Luther King will start in March 2011. There will be a public event for the kick-off.

Mr. Rhodes presented the committee with an Amtrak article stating they are looking for a secure parking station around rail line for buses and would like help from NCR. A study expected to be done in March to determine the availability of bus connections, between the Morehead City area and Amtrak's passenger train stations in Wilson and Rocky Mount. The committee questioned how rankings affected the order of projects on the TIP list. It was suggested that they be sent to county commissioners and support resolutions be created. Priorities will be set next month and committee will go through them on a list. Mr. Murphy addressed the board in regard to Carey Road being in the top three on the TIP list. It was stated the Carey Road project will help move traffic away from U.S. 70 and Mr. Daughety asked that the committee review work list to evaluate how the projects will help with economic development. Mr. Rhodes suggested that a Regional List and an Urban List be created. Mr. Daughety stated the #13 on the TIP list would last 12-24 months and on the DOT website bridges are listed as #3. Mr. Rhodes stated we must dig deeper and the 10 year plan is already done. Mr. Daughtey suggested that more action needs be done to accelerate projects. Mr. Murphy asked the committee take the top 10-15 that the City can do and give them ranking. Mr. Rhodes will put list together and discuss them at next meeting. Mr. Rhodes asked to consider appoint a chair and nominated upon a motion by Mr. Rhodes and a second by Mr. Daughety.

Adjourn 9:44 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by
Latanya Green
Administrative Secretary (Interim)