

MINUTES
LENOIR COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
March 9, 2011

The Lenoir County Transportation Committee met on Wednesday, March 9, 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. J. Mac Daughety, County Commissioner; Mr. B J Murphy; Mayor of Kinston, Mr. Dale Sale, Lenoir County at Large, Mr. Bill Whaley, Economic Development Board

Non-Voting members present included: Mr. Brian Lucas, City of Kinston, Mr. Mark Pope, Economic Development, Mr. Scott Stevens, Kinston City Manager, Mr. Alex Rickard, Mr. Preston Hunter, and Ms. Betty Caldwell, NCDOT.

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

Members absent included: Mr. Rodney Howard, Town of Pink Hill, Mr. Joe Albright, Manager of Grifton, Mr. Wayland Humphrey, City Manager, Mr. Joe Bower, Kinston Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce, Mr. John Craft, Town of LaGrange, Lenoir County Planning; Adrian King, Pride of Kinston, Mr. Don Howard GTP Authority, Mr. Alex Rickard, RPO Planner and Ms. Leigh McNairy, DOT Board Member.

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

Certification of Quorum

Mr. Daughety stated that there were not enough members present to form a Quorum. Ms. Caldwell stated that in the past if this happened the meeting would be for informational purpose only.

District Transportation Report/Division II Transportation Report/Regional Transportation Report

Mr. Hunter presented the Committee with the District Transportation Report he stated there is not much that is new since last month.

Mr. Rickard stated the next RPO meeting is on March 17, 2011 and they will talk about the Budget and the TIP Priority List. On March 14, 2011 the Pitt County Board of Commissioners will be presented with the NC 11 Corridor Study. There will be an update on the Warsaw, Mt. Olive and Greene Countys Transportation plan once they get further along, especially with Hwy 58 and 258.

Old Business

Mr. Murphy stated there are changes that need to be made to minutes and asked that they be approved at the next meeting. On the second page of the minutes the top paragraph should read the Committee approved unanimously a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners to serve on the U.S. 70 Subcommittee. On the second page the last paragraph it was possible the TIP was voted on and what the vote was (this may have been tabled). The Committee was advised to email Ms. Green with any corrections to the minutes and Mr. Daughety stated we need indulgence with these kinds of transitions. Mr. Daughety stated the County Commissioners took a vote on the past Monday to remove Russell

Rhodes as Chairmen to the Transportation Committee. Mr. Daughety stated, Mr. Michael Jarman asked Mr. Bower to step in as temporary Chairman and was offered his assistance in helping him fill in. Mr. Bower was asked to be Vice-Chairman before and did not want to at the time. Mr. Daughety stated the US 70 Corridor Commission has dealt with the traffic signal at Mt. Vernon Park and it was voted on and then sent to the County and it would look better if it was addressed by the City Council also.

Mr. Haywood Daughety presented the Committee with an update on the Kinston Median Project, he stated there were modifications made based on Public Comments. There has been a request made to the City to take it over for maintenance.

Ms. Susie Jenkins, Owner of the Kinstonian Family Buffet addressed the Board in regard to the Kinston Median Project. Ms. Jenkins stated she has not been notified by anyone, or heard anything from the Commissioners. Ms. Jenkins stated if the Median goes up her business it will go down. Ms. Jenkins stated someone needs to do something for the poor people. Ms. Jenkins asked, if anyone tried to see what this would do for the poor people. Ms. Jenkins stated the average person would not be able to take the turn around, and it will affect everyone. This is an inconvenience for people and the last two years have been bad for business. Mr. Alligood stated that info was sent out to business owners and it was put in the newspaper. The purpose of the project is to improve safety. Ms. Jenkins stated there is a petition with names of people who are against this. Ms. Jenkins stated no one will ever give her any answers. Mr. Murphy stated the U-turn would cut back through Pearsons and the Kinstonian and asked if there was another way to get access. Mr. Murphy stated it will affect the Kinstonian and Knots warehouse and this could create problems accessing the property. Mr. Daughety asked Ms. Jenkins who owns the property where her business is located and she stated the owners are from New York. Mr. Bob Smith from Josh Allen Mens Ware addressed the Committee, and stated he was hoping to hear a Resolution to support the business owners in the area. Mr. Smith stated for the record the Resolution to stop the Median project was tabled. Mr. Smith then read the Resolution in submitted to the Board of Commissioners opposing the Median Project, and comments were not allowed. Mr. Smith stated he has local, and out of town business, and they enjoy the easy access. The Department of Transportation (DOT) is trying to limit this; it is a barrier to business. Mr. Smith stated he pays both County and City tax, and this is no different than a bypass. The numbers do dictate that. Mr. Smith read quotes from the newspaper made by Mr. DeWayne Alligood that stated "drivers will adapt to reach their destination. Mr. Smith stated he was looking forward to the Resolution. Mr. Daughety stated it will be put on the agenda for the next meeting. Mr. Russell Rhodes president and CEO of the Neuse Sports Shop stated the Median Project has been worked on and a lot of time has been spent on this project. Mr. Rhodes stated Mr. Haywood and Mr. Alligood did a lot of work on this project and they were confident about it. Mr. Graham Knott has been in business since 1904 and gets nothing out of this. Mr. Rhodes asked to consider the people who have worked for years at these businesses and there is little consolation. Mr. Rhodes asked the committee to vote against this and the people who represent this have no idea what it will do. Mr. Smith stated the Median will limit access if a barrier is put there. Ms. Jenkins stated that older people will not be able to make a U-turn, they are senior citizens. Mr. Daughety stated they will still have access to Queen Street and that driveway will not have an issue. The project is due to start in May and it has not been finalized yet, it maybe if the next four months. Older drivers have higher tendencies to have certain types of crashes. Mr. Daughety stated this will be brought up at the next meeting for a Resolution. Mr. Daughety stated Mayor Murphy and Mr. Lassiter will meet with the DOT staff to look at potential routes. Ms. Murphy stated since the item was tabled they were hoping to handle this at the joint meeting and talk about any concerns or questions.

Mr. Stevens stated there is no update on the Cary Road extension and the fire station is on time table for ten (10) months. The Harvey Parkway section is on schedule and it is actually a little ahead of schedule.

Mr. Murphy asked for any updates on the rail system. Ms. Caldwell stated the contract is schedule to be completed.

Mr. Charles Deal stated they have no decided on a replacement for Mr. Don Howard on the GTP Board.

Mr. Murphy asked about two members being from Lenoir County on the GTP. Mr. Pope stated attendance is the key on how things get done and Lenoir County must be represented. Mr. Daughety stated he will asked Ms. Darlene Waddell to attend the next meeting.

Mr. Stevens stated the MLK and King Street roundabout is a fifty(50) projects that will close access to Vernon Avenue. There will be a dedication scheduled.

TIP Priority List

Mr. Rickard stated the stop system is changing. The RPO will assign individual highway projects and there will still one hundred (100) points left over. This will be finalized in September. Mr. Dauhety stated the Pink Hill the Pink Hill by-pass is 5-6 miles in Lenoir County. If points are assigned to another County it would not normal fall in the priority list, and under the new system it will give points to that project. Mr. Daughety asked to have a priority list at the next meeting.

New Business

Mr. Scott Stevens asked the Board to review the Comprehensive Plan. The DOT asked about comments on the book. Then they went back to the top ten(10) on the list to see which one had the most pressing needs and this will be helpful with potential projects. Mr. Rhodes stated he will send the link to everyone for the book. Mr. Rhodes stated there has been an issue with the Comprehensive Transportation bypass is a local preferred option, and it needs to take acceptance.

Mr. Daughety stated there is not any update on the Land Usage Plan at this time. Mr. Daughety stated the landscape portion will not really change, and that is the part of the County with future growth.

Respectfully Submitted by
Latanya Green
Interim Clerk to the Board