

MINUTES
LENOIR COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
May 9, 2007

The Lenoir County Transportation Committee met on Wednesday, May 9, 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. Joe Bower, Kinston-Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce and Mr. Bill Whaley, Economic Development Director.

Non-Voting members present included: Mr. Joey Bryan, Lenoir County Manager's Office, Mr. Mark Pope, Economic Development; Mr. Tommy Lee, City of Kinston Planning Board, and Mr. Bruce Parson, GTP Authority Staff.

Also Present: Ms. Lashanda Aytch, Administrative Secretary

Members absent included Mr. Buddy Ritch, Mayor of Kinston, Mr. Anthony Mitchell, Mayor of Pink Hill, Mr. John Craft, Town of LaGrange, Mr. Scott Stevens, City of Kinston Mr. Wayland Humphrey, Lenoir County Planning, Mr. Preston Hunter, NCDOT, Mr. Adrian King, Pride of Kinston, 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.

Mayor Ritch requested that Mr. Lee represent the City as a voting member on his behalf. Mr. Lee became a voting member for the May 9, 2007 meeting by request.

Upon a motion by Mr. Humphrey and a second by Mr. Lee the minutes of March 14, 2007 were unanimously approved.

Mr. Rhodes asked for an update from the US 70 Corridor Commission Overlay District Committee. The members of the committee were Mr. Parson, Mr. Whaley, Mr. Bower and Mr. Lee. Mr. Lee stated the Corridor Overlay District Sub-committee has met three (3) times. Face-to-face meetings were held involving Cam McRae, Neil Lassiter, and John Rouse. The unanimous consensus was that Lenoir County must become more involved with the transportation network in order to spur desirable growth and economic development; land use controls are the most effective means of corridor protection in North Carolina; corridor protection accelerates the road-building process and significantly reduces construction costs; and finally the proposed City of Kinston Comprehensive Transportation Plan has several road segments that, if built in cadence with related regional projects affecting highways US 70 and NC 11, will have an extremely positive impact on Lenoir County, the GTP, Kinston and parts of the Eastern Region. Mr. Lee stated an accelerated adoption and implementation of transportation corridor protection measures is warranted in all planning jurisdictions in Lenoir County. Mr. Lee stated the NC 11-US 70 connector is not on the TIP in the Kinston Comprehensive Plan; once adopted, it should be placed on the TIP. Mr. Rhodes stated he would engage the Mayor of Grifton to help with the protection of the NC 11 corridor, which will essentially protect the eastern loop of Kinston. Mr. Humphrey stated the US 70 Corridor Commission will be meeting on Thursday, May 17, 2007; the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be discussed.

Mr. Bob Griffin, County Attorney has concerns regarding the MOU. Mr. Griffin has stated the MOU is a binding document, time stamped and is not accurate. Mr. Rhodes stated he would like the Committee to vote the MOU up or down at the next meeting.

Industrial Access at Friendly Grocery – Mr. Pope stated stakes have been set out and a new name for the road must be chosen. After a brief discussion the committee agreed on Alside Drive as the name of the new road.

Kinston Comprehensive Transportation Plan Update – Mr. Rhodes stated he is requesting the plan be reviewed again by the committee at the next meeting. Mr. Rhodes stated he was concerned about the railroad in front of Hill Crest Road.

Membership Vacancies – Mr. Rhodes stated he would be in contact with Ms. Darlene Waddell, Executive Director of the Global Transpark (GTP), regarding the GTP vacancy.

Bridge Replacement: Mr. Rhodes stated there is no news regarding the bridges from DOT. There will be an on-site detour constructed.

TIP Priorities for Lenoir County – Mr. Rhodes stated he wanted the Priority List completed as soon as possible for by the committee and the RPO Board. The committee discussed re-arranging several items on the list. Mr. Rhodes stated he would present the changes to the voting members as soon as possible and for approval at the next committee meeting.

Adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by
Lashanda Aytch
Clerk to the Board