

MINUTES
LENOIR COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
May 14, 2008

The Lenoir County Transportation Committee met on Wednesday, May 14, 2008 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. Anthony Mitchell, Mayor of Pink Hill; Mr. Joe Bower, Kinston-Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Bruce Parson, GTP Authority Staff; and Mr. Bill Whaley, Economic Development Director.

Non-Voting members present included: Mr. Preston Hunter, NCDOT; Mr. Tommy Lee, City of Kinston Planning Board; and Mr. Scott Stevens, City Manager.

Also Present: Mr. Steve Hamilton, NCDOT; Mr. Neil Lassiter, NCDOT; Mr. Len White, NCDOT; Mr. Alex Rickard, RPO Planner, Mr. Ian Solomon, Principle of North Lenoir High School, Mr. Ronald Dunn, Chairman North Lenoir High School PTSA and Ms. Lashanda Aytch, Administrative Secretary

Members absent included: Mr. Buddy Ritch, Mayor of Kinston; Mr. Dan Sale, Lenoir County At-large; Mr. John Craft, Town Manager of LaGrange; Mr. Wayland Humphrey, Lenoir County Planning; Mr. Mark Pope, Economic Development; Mr. Randy Robb, GTP Authority, Ms. Sue Powell, County Manager's Office; Mr. Adrian King, Pride of Kinston; Mr. Van Braxton, State Representative, and Senator Charles Albertson.

Mr. Rhodes called the meeting to order at approximately 8:35 a.m.

Upon a motion by Mr. Humphrey and a second by Mr. Parson, the minutes of April 9, 2008 were unanimously approved.

NLHS – PTSA Request for School Access Improvements

Mr. Dunn stated North Lenoir High School (NLHS) has 1,100 students. There has been a problem for several years at the school regarding transportation and enforcement. Parents and students are not following proper safety practices when approaching or exiting the school. This has caused several accidents with students and some parents involved. The school has taken several steps to help ensure the safety of the students entering and exiting the school, but has no help in enforcing the rules that have been created. The Sheriff's department has been contacted several times to help the school address the safety concerns at the school, but no resolution has been made. The NLHS PTSA has made several recommendations to ensure the safety of its students and the general public as follows: Limit access on Miller Creech Road by NCDOT. By eliminating this access, it will decrease the number of accidents and make transportation better as a whole for the school. Place no parking, no stopping signs in front of school; provide a caution light at the intersection of Wheat Swamp and Institute Road; and finally clear up brush and trees of the side of the road that obstructs the view of students/parents exiting the school.

Mr. Solomon stated the school has tried to eliminate access to parking at the church across the street from the school. The church has placed no parking signs on the property, but the Sheriff's department will not enforce the no parking signs. Mr. Lassiter stated he was encouraged by the steps the school has taken to try to alleviate some of the problems. If the school would like to abandon Middle Creech Road from the maintenance program, the Lenoir County Board of Commissioners must pass this request by resolution. Mr. Lassiter stated NCDOT would clear the brush and trees off the right-of-way. Mr. Hamilton stated he would research getting the speed on Wheat Swamp Road reduced. Mr. Hamilton stated adding additional turning lanes to the school should be added to the Secondary Road Improvement Program for next year.

US 70 Corridor Commission

Mr. Lee stated the US 70 Corridor Commission held its meeting on May 8, 2008 in Morehead City. The Commission decided not to accept proxy votes, a 24 hour advanced notice will be given before a vote is taken. The intersection at Highway 11/55 (Skinner's Bypass) is being reviewed to seek what type of improvements can be done. The Commission would like to make the intersection safer; a feasibility study has been completed. The Commission meeting will be held on July 10, 2008 in Havelock, NC.

Industrial Access

Mr. Hunter stated work will begin on the project in the next two (2) weeks.

Bridge Replacement

Mr. Lassiter stated the project is scheduled to start in FY 2010-2011. Closing Queen Street is becoming problematic. Mr. Stevens stated City officials were concerned about all the traffic coming through Skinner Bypass. Mr. Lassiter stated the rising cost of the project is becoming a major concern as well.

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Resolution to support Strategic Corridors within Lenoir County (US70, NC11, US258, NC58)

Mr. Parson made a motion and Mr. Whaley provided a seconded to endorse the Strategic Corridors within Lenoir County resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

NC 11 as a thoroughfare from Greenville's SW 264 Bypass in Ayden to US 70

Mr. Rickard reported that the East Carolina RPO has included in its budget, funds to work with the Greenville MPO and the East Carolina RPO to address NC 11 as a thoroughfare from Greenville to Kinston.

Carey Road Extension Sub-Committee

Mr. Parson reported that the sub-committee met. Additional meetings are scheduled to work on the issue.

National Truck Route Data for Lenoir County – 53' and tandem trailer limitations

Alex Rickard reported that he would coordinate with Mark Pope at EDC to determine if there are any industries that routinely use 53' or tandem trailers that are located outside the National Truck Route trade area.

Respectfully Submitted by
Lashanda Aytch
Clerk to the Board