

**MINUTES**  
**LENOIR COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**  
**July 13, 2011**

The Lenoir County Transportation Committee met on Wednesday, July 13, 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, Interim Chairman, Mr. Dan Sale County at Large, Mr. B. J. Murphy Mayor of Kinston, Mr. Joe Bower Kinston-Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Donald King Commissioner of Pink Hill, Mr. Bill Whaley Lenoir County Economic Development Board, Mr. Charlie Diehl GTP Authority, and Mr. John Craft representing Woody Gurley, Mayor of LaGrange.

**Non-Voting members present included:** Mr. Brian Lucas City of Kinston, Mr. Wayland Humphrey, for Lenoir County Planning Board, Ms. Betty Caldwell NCDOT, Mr. Preston Hunter NCDOT and Mr. Alex Rickard RPO Planner.

Also Present: Ms. April L. Banks, Administrative Secretary

**Members absent included:** Mr. Joey Bryan, for Lenoir County Manager, Mr. Mark Pope, Director, Lenoir County Economic Development, Mr. Adrian King, Pride of Kinston, and Mr. Joe Albright, Manager of Grifton.

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

Mr. Hunter provided the update on local projects. He stated there have been improvements at LCC concerning the cross-over. Pruitt Road and Canady Road are being finished up with the grades, drains, and bases being completed. Paving is anticipated for both this upcoming fall.

Ms. Caldwell stated rail improvements are behind schedule. There is no new anticipated completion date, but they are working with the contractor.

Mr. Daughety discussed the Median Project update. He stated DOT has agreed to fund an independent study regarding the project. They will verify if the projects needs to be done based on the findings of the study. There is a need for a local committee to assist in choosing a consultant for this study. Mr. Daughety suggested for Mr. Humphrey to possibly sit in on the meeting to represent Lenoir County. The original study was completed five or six years ago, and it is time for an update of information.

Mr. Daughety stated there are ongoing discussions with Neil Lassiter and Mark Pope regarding alternative financing for Smithfield Way. This will allow the project to be completed quicker. The first stage is to acquire the land. Mr. Daughety stated Mark Pope contacted the Department of Agriculture to discuss swapping of the land in the county. A side benefit of acquiring the land is rail front economic development property.

Mr. Rickard stated RPOs and NPOs are submitting requests for projects. In August and September, the SPOT office at DOT will be coming up with scores for ranking. By October and November, all divisions will receive information on each project and then they will be ranked. In November and December, statewide scores are released and January and February, a round of

investment strategy summits will take place to decide which projects to fund. By spring next year, all projects will have been ranked and parties notified.

The Committee discussed the ranking of projects to be submitted to the RPO. The decision was made to combine the Harvey Parkway Section "A" New Interchange project and the Smithfield Way project. Mayor Murphy questioned if all 15 projects should be ranked and submitted or only the top 5 or 6. Mr. Rickard answered that all 15 can be ranked and submitted. Mr. Rickard also stated that an official request is still needed for the NC 11 Feasibility Study. Mr. Diehl wanted to reiterate that GTP priorities would be the GTP Northern Freeway Loop, Spine Road, and the Harvey Parkway Section "C". He also mentioned that the GTP Northern Freeway Loop could be merged with the Kinston Bypass (Northern Route) into one project. After the discussion, the following ranking was reached:

1. Kinston Bypass (Northern Route)
2. Harvey Parkway Section "C"
3. Carey Road Extension
4. Pink Hill Bypass
5. Skinner's Bypass
6. NC 11 Connector (eastside bypass 11 to 70)
7. Smithfield Way
8. GTP Northern Freeway Loop
9. Square loop at little Baltimore Willie/Measley Road; LaGrange, NC
10. Relocation of East Washington Street; LaGrange, NC
11. Spine Road
12. Plaza Boulevard Extension
13. NC 11 Feasibility Study
14. Queen Street Square Loop & 258 & 70
15. Other regional projects

Upon a motion by Mayor Murphy and second by Mr. Sale, the project ranking was unanimously approved. Mayor Murphy expressed his appreciation for allowing time to review the projects to determine their ranking. He also thanked the committee for everyone's assistance in working together. Mr. Whaley thanked Mr. Daughety for leading the committee through the projects. Mr. Daughety stated he appreciated everyone working together to put the ranking list together. The Transportation Committee is a wonderful board because everybody is doing what is in the best interest of Lenoir County.

Upon a motion by Mr. Craft and second Mr. Bower, the meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by  
April L. Banks  
Administrative Secretary