

MINUTES
LENOIR COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
September 13, 2011

The Lenoir County Transportation Committee met on Tuesday, September 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: J. Mac Daughety, Interim Chairman, Dan Sale County at Large, Mayor B.J. Murphy, Donald King, for Mayor of Pink Hill, Charlie Diehl, GTP Authority, and Bill Whaley, Lenoir County Economic Development Board.

Non-Voting members present included: Mark Pope, Director of Economic Development, Bill Ellis, Interim Kinston City Manager, Adrian King, Pride of Kinston, Betty Caldwell and Preston Hunter, NC DOT, and Patrick Flanagan, RPO Planner.

Also Present: Ms. April Banks, Administrative Secretary

Members absent included: Woody Gurley, Mayor of LaGrange, Joe Bower, Chamber of Commerce, Joey Bryan, for Lenoir County Manager, Wayland Humphrey, for Lenoir County Planning Board, Brian Lucas, City of Kinston Street Superintendent, and Joe Albright, Town of Grifton Manager.

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

Mr. Hunter provided an update on the projects below:

Non-TIP Projects:

- Carey Road Extension – Construction 80% complete, anticipate paving pending Fire Station construction
- US 70 at the Lenoir Community College entrance – median modifications are complete and seem to be working properly.

Secondary Road Construction Projects:

- SR 1091 Hugo Grifton Road – Work has started and paving is anticipated for next spring.
- SR 1721 Canady Road – Paving anticipated for next fall.
- SR 1141 John Green Smith Road – Paving anticipated for next spring.
- SR 1340 Pruitt Road – Paving anticipated for upcoming fall or spring.

Ms. Caldwell provided an update on the projects below:

- Tentative dates for the paving of Harvey Parkway is currently schedules for start date of November 2012 with anticipated completion by September 2014.
- The consultant selected by the committee members for the Kinston Median Project is Martin, Alexiou, Bryson. The scoping meeting is planned for September 26.
- Goldsboro Bypass schedule – R-2554C and R-2554BB are currently scheduled to be let November 2011. These will be from US 70 at the Wayne/Lenoir County line to I-795; R-2554A is anticipated to be let September 2012.

TIP Projects:

- Kinston Global Trans-Park Freight rail improvements – Moving slowly due to issue with the contractor. There are ongoing meetings and project is approximately 40% complete. Mr. Daughety inquired on behalf of the citizens and business owners in the area if there are possible penalties and/or incentives that can be assessed to the contractor to help expedite the project and about possible mitigation for losses. Ms. Caldwell stated she will review the contract and report back to Mr. Daughety and the committee.

Non-TIP Projects:

- Hull Road – Anticipated three to four weeks before completion.

ARRA Projects:

- Crescent Road – Approximately 65% complete; estimated completion October 2012. Mr. Ellis stated 30,000 cubic yards of dirt has been provided to the City. This is a significant savings.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting. Upon a motion by Mr. White and a second by Mr. Whaley, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Mr. Daughety stated the Hwy 70 Bypass hearings have been rescheduled. There will be one on Tuesday, September 30 held at Kinston High School from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. The next hearing will be Thursday, September 22 at the City of Kinston Complex from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. The project started with approximately 300 different routes for the bypass and has been narrowed down to 30. There are optional routes to the north and south. The hearings will allow the public to comment and input their suggestions on the project. Mr. Daughety stated he will appreciate any of the members' attendance to ask questions and provide answers. He also informed the Committee of his meeting in Raleigh with General Trogden. They would like to set up a meeting with the business owners regarding the project, but a date has not been established as of yet.

Mr. Daughety provided an update on the Smithfield Way project. He and Mr. Pope discussed options with the agricultural people such as swapping land or purchasing the right-of-way. The project seems to be progressing smoothly. Mr. Whaley inquired about sketches of the curves. Mr. Pope responded one option is going straight out and the other possible options are right in and right out or traffic signals. Mr. Hunter stated there is no decision made about signals until the project is complete to determine traffic flow. He does not anticipate this to be a high traffic area. Mr. Daughety stated he attended the Hwy 70 Corridor Subcommittee meeting held approximately two weeks ago. The local DOT Board Member, Leigh McNairy asked the committee to endorse the Pink Hill Bypass 11/241 Project.

There will be a RPO Meeting held Thursday, September 15 at the City of Kinston Complex. Mr. Daughety stated Wayne, Greene, Lenoir and Duplin County are included in the RPO. Lenoir County's projects will be rated near the top. He met with the Down East RPO about project needs and they are supportive of what the County is trying to accomplish. Mr. Flanagan stated there will be 1300 total points to divide among projects. Each project requires a minimum of four points and a maximum of 100. Multiple projects can be assigned the maximum amount of points. Mayor Murphy inquired about the likelihood in which RPOs or NPOs will assign points to projects. Mr. Flanagan responded they are allowed to assign points, but any projects with 100 points cannot be assigned additional points. Mayor Murphy also asked if members of the Merger

Team will be present at the upcoming workshops. Ms. Caldwell stated citizens will be able to make comments. They are then taken to be reviewed and answered. The attendees from the merger group have not been confirmed at this time. Jamille Robbins, NCDOT Transportation Engineer from Raleigh, plans to attend along with several staff members. Division staff will be glad to introduce Mayor Murphy to any NCDOT or merger members that may attend. Ms. Caldwell also stated Mr. Hunter is now the acting Maintenance Engineer in Greenville at Division 2.

Mr. Daughety provided a map of all rail connections in Lenoir County. He stated the rail spur is a part of the original GTP master plan developed 20 years ago and not a Spirit rail spur. The company did assist in putting the infrastructure in place. Any company in the GTP can utilize the rail. If Smithfield Way is completed with land swapping, then the land on Hill Farm Road will have rail sidings. If the Defense Logistics Center or the Industrial Refrigerant Unit and Inland Port come to the GTP, the rail spur will have a significant impact. The connections are important so that the GTP will have access to the rail line. Spirit is not utilizing the rail at the present time. If the connection is completed it would put both rails in competition, therefore lowering the prices to make it more economical for Spirit to utilize rail shipments. This will also give Lenoir County connection to the Port of Norfolk. Mayor Murphy asked at the point in which the rail ends on highway 11, is the plan for GTP to connect in GTP or the City of Kinston? Mr. Diehl responded the GTP Master Plan includes pursuit of dual rail, but does not specify how. Norfolk Southern has exclusive rail rights on the rail running east to west. The rail rate is approximately ten times the truck rate. The development of Spirit accelerated the process of getting the rail spur in place. Mr. Pope stated as production increases at Spirit, rail is the ultimate shipping method.

Mayor Murphy expressed concern regarding plans of the CSX Line due to the unexpected rail needed at the GTP. The rail was constructed because of Spirit's location. Mr. Daughety stated the funds used were an investment at GTP and for Smithfield Way. Mr. King asked if there were any rules in the Rail Legislature on competition. Mr. Diehl stated there are no rules against competition, but he thinks the best business model would be to deal with Norfolk Southern. The contract will end in 2014, but they will have the option to renew.

Mr. Daughety stated it is the committee's responsibility to educate the community. Mayor Murphy suggested Mr. Daughety author an editorial column in the Free Press on a Wednesday as a guest in order to inform the citizens of the County. He agreed to research the idea.

Upon a motion by Mayor Murphy and second Mr. Sale, the meeting adjourned at 9:43 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by
April L. Banks
Administrative Secretary