

Minutes
Lenoir County Transportation Committee
Lenoir Economic Development Board Room
Scheduled Meeting
January 13, 2016 – 8:30 a.m.

Attendance:

Voting	Non-Voting	Absent
Gordon Vermillion, Lenoir County at Large, Chair	Lauren Tuttle, RPO	Mike Jarman, Manager, Lenoir County
Carol Sykes/Donald King, Town of Pink Hill	Angie Greene, Transit Director	Woody Gurley/John Craft, Town of LaGrange
Bill Whaley, Lenoir County Economic Development Board	Adam Short, City of Kinston	Mark Pope, Executive Director, Lenoir County Economic Development
Mary Jane Westphal, NC GTP Authority	Barry Seay, Lenoir County Planning Board	Joe Albright, Town of Grifton, Manager
Dan Sale, Lenoir County, Member-At-Large	Jeff Cabaniss, NC DOT	Eric Rouse, Lenoir County Commissioner
John Marshall, Kinston-Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce	Adrian King, PRIDE of Kinston	BJ Murphy, Mayor, City of Kinston
	John Rouse, Division Engineer, NCDOT	
	Brian Lucas, City of Kinston	
	Aaron Bullard, District Engineer, NC DOT	
	Tony Sears, City of Kinston	
	Brandon Holland, City of Kinston	
	Craig Hill, Lenoir County Commissioner Chairman	

Chairman Gordon Vermillion was called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Quorum was present.

Update:

TIP Projects – Aaron Bullard, NC DOT

- **B-4565:** Bridges #42 and #43 over Neuse River on US 70 Business (Queen St.), Awarded to Thalle Construction Co., Inc. Project approximately 30% complete.
 - The Southbound overflow bridge caps are complete. Anticipate girders to be set within next two weeks.
 - The Southbound Neuse River Bridge completely removed; Northbound Neuse River Bridge 75% removed. Working on interior bents/caps. Anticipate girders to be set early February.

EB-3314D: Kinston Riverwalk, multi-use path from downtown through Pearson Park to the Power plant, contract awarded to Lanier Construction, project is approximately 80% complete. Began paving on 1/11/16.

Resurfacing - Aaron Bullard, NC DOT

- **NC 148:** Resurface from 2215ft West of SR 1575 to NC 58, awarded to Barnhill Contracting Co., available July 1, 2016 with a completion date of November 1, 2016
- **Secondary Roads:** Contract awarded to S.T. Wooten Corp., available July 1, 2016 with a completion date of October 15, 2016
 - SR 1152 Smith-Grady Rd, resurface from NC 11 to NC 55
 - SR 1546 Banks School Rd, resurface from US 70 to 100 ft East of Eastwood Dr
- **Asphalt Preservation Project:** Apply joint sealer on 15 roads, Let December 9, 2015, awarded to Slurry Pavers, Inc., available January 1, 2016 with a completion date of March 15, 2016

Chairman Vermillion asked Mr. Aaron Bullard what the expected timeline of completion and opening for both projects were. Mr. Aaron Bullard stated that the Riverwalk should be completed and open by the end of February 2016 and the Bridge should have one side, providing north and south bound travel, open by the middle of May 2016 with the 100% completion in August 2016.

Mr. Adrian King asked Mr. Aaron Bullard about the landscaping component of the bridge project. Mr. Aaron Bullard stated that the City of Kinston is looking to present a design to the City Council.

Chairman Vermillion asked Mr. Tony Sears how the City of Kinston's repaving plan fit into this completion date for the bridges. Mr. Tony Sears stated that NC DOT will not pave until the infrastructure upgrades have been completed by the City. He then stated that the City has received the grant money needed complete the water line project. Mr. Brian Lucas stated that South of Queen Street upgrades are completed. He then stated that the City is currently working between Payton Avenue and King Street moving south starting at Blount Street. This phase of the project should be completed in late March to early April. One lane of traffic remaining open extends construction time for this project. The City is looking at approximately 3 months to complete this phase of the project. The next phase of the project will be from complete the Northern portion of Queen Street. The sewer contractor has not been selected. Bids are due back on the 19th. Construction of the sewer lines is expected to start in April. The entire sewer project will end in the late spring or early summer of 2018.

Mr. Tony Sears stated that the sewer line is in rough shape. This is a lengthy process. This will give the City time to finalize all designs on Queen Street. The City staff is not only handling this project but also answering service calls.

Mr. Gordon Vermillion asked if Queen Street would be completely closed. Mr. Sears stated that it would not be completely closed. Individual intersections and one lane of the traffic will be closed during this process. Mr. Brian Lucas stated that they would be working with the contractor to limit the disruption of traffic. Keep in mind that this does extend the length of the project but this will enable businesses to remain operational and accessible to customers.

Mr. Tony stated that all the pipes reach a cross section at Vernon. Kinston has several upcoming events that will add to this disruption in traffic. Mr. Brian Lucas assures the committee that the City is working to complete this project while minimizing the impact as quickly as possible.

Old Business:

Approval of Minutes – Gordon Vermillion, Chairman

- A quorum was present. The minutes were reviewed by the committee for November 18, 2015. Mr. John Marshall made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Bill Whaley seconded the motion. All voting members were in favor of accepting the minutes as presented. The minutes were approved by the committee.

RPO Report – Lauren Tuttle, Eastern RPO Planner

- Ms. Lauren Tuttle stated that NC DOT is getting ready to begin the Lenoir County comprehensive transportation plan. She then stated that she should have more information in a month or so. A presentation will be given to the Lenoir County Transportation Committee about what a transportation plan is and the developmental process of creating a plan. She then stated that NC DOT will release their raw data for the SPOT 4.0 at the end of January. The Eastern RPO will have an opportunity to review this information.

Highway 258 South Temporary Stoplight Resolution

- Chairman Vermillion asked Mrs. Amanda Conner who presented this original request. Mrs. Amanda Conner stated that the request was submitted by Commissioner Eric Rouse on behalf of Commissioner Mac Daughety. She stated that Commissioner Daughety submitted support letters for this request to Commissioner Eric Rouse in an email and they were then forwarded to her for placement on the November meeting agenda. Chairman Gordon Vermillion stated that the committee voted in November to request a study of the traffic movement at this intersection to determine if permanent placement of a stoplight is needed. Mrs. Amanda Conner drafted a resolution for committee approval. The Lenoir County Transportation Committee reviewed the presented resolution. Commissioner Chairman Craig Hill asked if the resolution was in support of the light or support of the study. Mrs. Amanda Conner read from the resolution, “support reviewing traffic movement at the intersection of Highway 258 South and Will Baker Road/Central Avenue to determine if the temporary signal should become permanent.” Chairman Vermillion asked if the committee needed to submit a resolution. Mrs. Amanda Conner stated that the committee determined during the November meeting that a resolution was needed for the request to reach NC DOT. Chairman Vermillion asked who would complete this study. Mr. Jeff Cabaniss stated that the Division staff would conduct the study. Chairman Vermillion asked if any other committee members had any questions. There being no more questions, Mr. Dan Sale made a motion to approve the presented resolution. Mr. John Marshall seconded the motion. All voting members were in favor of submitting the resolution to the Lenoir County Commissioners.

New Business:

Request of New Business – Gordon Vermillion, Chairman

- Chairman Gordon Vermillion stated that this would be his last meeting. He has thoroughly enjoyed working with this Committee and would like to thank Commissioner Chairman Craig Hill for selecting him to serve as Chairman of the Lenoir County Transportation Committee. Chairman Vermillion stated that he thinks that this is the most productive committee that he has sat on in many years and he wishes the committee much success. He stated that he would be attending in the future on behalf of the City interests. He stated that he was not being fired, that the newly approved bylaws state that an elected official cannot hold the position as Chair for the Committee. Commissioner Chairman Craig Hill stated that he appreciates Chairman Vermillion’s willingness to serve and the Board of Commissioners felt that the committee has moved forward in a positive direction under Chairman Vermillion’s leadership. They are looking forward to naming a new person for this role at the next Commissioners meeting. This appointment is not made solely by Commissioner Chairman Craig Hill, but by the full Board of Commissioners for Lenoir County. The new Chairman for the Lenoir County Transportation Committee will be announced at the February meeting.

The next transportation meeting will be Wednesday, February 10, at 8:30 a.m.

Much discussion followed

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 a.m.