

Minutes
Lenoir County Transportation Committee
Lenoir Economic Development Board Room
Scheduled Meeting
January 14, 2015 – 8:30 a.m.

Attendance:

Voting	Non-Voting	Absent
Gordon Vermillion, Lenoir County at Large, Chair	Adrian King, PRIDE of Kinston	John Rouse, Division Engineer, NCDOT
John Marshall, Kinston-Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce	Adam Short, City of Kinston	Chris Harper, County Transport
Bill Whaley, Lenoir County Economic Development Board	Mike Jarman, Manager, Lenoir County	Tony Sears, Manager, Kinston
BJ Murphy, Mayor, City of Kinston	Brian Lucas, City of Kinston	Donald King, Town of Pink Hill
Dan Sale, Lenoir County, Member-At-Large	Barry Seay, Lenoir County Planning Board	Patrick Flanagan, RPO
Mary Jane Westphal, NC GTP Authority	Jeff Cabaniss, NC DOT	Joe Albright, Town of Grifton, Manager
	Mark Pope, Executive Director, Lenoir County Economic Development	Eric Rouse, Lenoir County Commissioner
	Rob Will, RPO Planner	John Craft, Manager, Town of LaGrange
	Aaron Bullard, Interim District Engineer, NC DOT	

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

Chairman Vermillion welcomed the new NC GTP Authority Controller representative, Ms. Mary Jane Westphal, and the NC DOT Interim District Engineer representative, Mr. Aaron Bullard.

Update:

TIP Projects – Jeff Cabaniss, NC DOT

- **B-4565:** Bridges #42 and #43 over Neuse River on US 70 Business (Queen St.), Right-of-Way April 18, 2014, Construction Let date January 20, 2015. Bids were opened for this project and there is a construction company on board, Thalle Construction Company. Expected to begin construction in March.
- **US 70 and NC11/55:** intersection improvements, contract awarded to Barnhill Contracting Co., ***Project Complete except for thermoplastic striping***
- **W-5202K:** NC 11- Construct 21 left turn lanes at existing median openings from Highland Ave to North of Odham Rd, Anticipated Let date June 2015
- **EB-3314D:** Kinston Riverwalk, multi-use path from downtown through Pearson Park to the Power plant, currently under design, anticipated Let date June 2015. A meeting is scheduled for the next month and Mr. Adam Short will send an email out when the date and time has been selected.

Non-TIP Projects – Jeff Cabaniss, NC DOT

- **Smithfield Way:** (49005) - extend road from SR 1548 Hill Farm Rd to US 258, awarded to Bornman Construction, approximately 46% complete. The hired contractor has abandoned the project. The NC DOT will take over the project. Bridge department will work on the structure and maintenance will assist the on-call contractor (Barnhill) to get the project complete. Since Barnhill also has the Hill Farm Road project, they will be able to pave both at the same time. The electrical line has been moved. Waiting to get a communication line moved by Century Link.
- **Hill Farm Rd:** (48102) - extend existing turn lane on SR 1548 (Hill Farm Rd) past Kinston FD Station 3 to 465 ft north of SR 2021 (Smithfield Way), awarded to Barnhill Contracting Co., available March 16, 2015, completion date of December 31, 2015
- **Resurfacing:**
 - **NC 903:** Resurface from SR 1309 Jenny Lind Rd to the Duplin Co line (9.8 miles) Awarded to Barnhill Contracting Co., ***Project Complete***

- **NC 55:** from NC 11 to the Craven Co line, contract awarded to Barnhill Contracting Co., work planned for Spring, completion date June 30, 2015

Mr. Jeff Cabaniss announced that the NC DOT will hold public meetings in regards to the DRAFT STIP. The regional meeting that Lenoir County will be included in will take place on March 19th, in Kenansville, at James Sprunt Community College, from 4 pm to 7 pm. The focus of this meeting will be the processed used to develop the STIP and the results released in the DRAFT document.

Old Business:

Approval of Minutes – Gordon Vermillion, Chair

- A quorum was present. The minutes were reviewed by the committee for November 12, 2014. Mayor BJ Murphy made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Bill Whaley seconded the motion. All voting members were in favor of this motion. Minutes approved by the committee.

Federal and State Transportation Funds – Gordon Vermillion, Chair

- Chairman Vermillion stated that questions were presented on this issue at the last meeting. Mr. Jeff Cabaniss provided the documentation to assist with the committee's understanding of how NC DOT is funded. Chairman Vermillion stated that the committee could review the documents at their own discretion and ask questions as they arise.
- Chairman Vermillion asked Mr. Jeff Cabaniss and Mr. Aaron Bullard if the gas tax would be raised since the price per gallon is so low at this time. Mr. Jeff Cabaniss and Mr. Aaron Bullard stated that they have not heard anything in that regard at this time. Mr. Dan Sale asked if the gas tax as a fixed rate or varied by the price. Mr. Mark Pope stated that the gas tax was a fixed percent per gallon. Mr. John Marshall stated that there was a recent report on how the efficiency of vehicles are affecting the amount of tax being collected.

RPO Report – Rob Will, RPO Planner

- Mr. Rob Will stated that copies of the DRAFT STIP are in the committee handouts. Mr. Rob Will wanted to take this time to review the first page in the regional projects. He asked the committee to look at the reporting data for the Harvey Parkway- Part C. He stated that the project was placed in the Developmental Program. It is scheduled to be started in FY 2022. He explained that since it was not in the State Transportation Program, the project would need to go back into SPOT. Mr. Rob Will stated that the Eastern RPO did not receive funding for many projects. The only other projects funded for the Eastern RPO were; an interchange on 117 in Wayne County by Country Club Road, the completion of the Goldsboro Bypass, and I-40 resurfacing in Duplin County. He stated that the Eastern RPO projects did not score well for regional or state.
- Chairman Gordon Vermillion questioned the proposed cost of \$62 million for the Harvey Parkway – Section C project. Mr. Mark Pope stated that the feasibility study from the project estimated a cost for a little over \$30 million.
- Mayor BJ Murphy asked if the Governor recently came out with an initiative for funding projects and if the Harvey Parkway – Section C could tie into that initiative. Mr. Jeff Cabaniss stated that the governor would be going to the legislators asking for a bond. He also stated that the project scores were a reflection of traffic count versus need based. Mr. Jeff Cabaniss detailed that the bond would be applied to shovel ready projects who only lacked funding.
- Mayor BJ Murphy asked what deemed a project shovel ready. Mr. Jeff Cabaniss stated that the project environmental documents would be completed and only needing funding to be eligible for the bond funds. Mayor BJ Murphy asked what would need to be done for Harvey Parkway to have it shovel ready. Mr. Jeff Cabaniss stated that since the project was in the Developmental Program, that it needed the environmental documentation. Mayor BJ Murphy then asked how the Highway 70 – Kinston Bypass project would be affected by the bond. Mr. Jeff Cabaniss stated that it should not be affected because it has to go through the merger process. He also stated that he does not think that the Harvey Parkway – Section C project will have to go through the merger process.
- Mr. Mark Pope asked if Lenoir County could attach the Harvey Parkway – Section C project to the Greenville project to make it a regional effort. Mr. Jeff Cabaniss stated that the project was already considered a regional project as associated with the Quad East concept and would not receive additional points just because it was regional. Mr. Mark Pope asked how Lenoir County could get the Harvey Parkway – Section C pushed forward. Mr. Jeff Cabaniss stated that the only hope would be in the next round of SPOT.

- Mayor BJ Murphy asked if there was anything the Lenoir County Transportation Committee could do, via resolution or letter, to move the environmental procedures up for this project. Mr. Jeff Cabaniss stated that he did not know.
- Chairman Gordon Vermillion stated that his bigger question was what the future of Eastern North Carolina will be if this is all that is given out of a huge budget. He stated that the larger counties are receiving the most funds. Mr. John Marshall stated that this was all the more reason for everyone to think more regionally. He feels that Lenoir County already has adopted this philosophy. Mr. John Marshall feels that the bond is an effort to appease the rural counties.
- Mr. Mark Pope stated that there is a BOT Work Group meeting on February 4th. It may be of interest for some of the Lenoir County Transportation Committee members to attend and ask some of these questions.
- Mr. Rob Will stated that the RPO is strategizing on how to deal with this situation. He will be attending a meeting this afternoon in Goldsboro to look at where the RPO needs to go with this draft release. Mr. Rob Will stated that there is a group that meets bi-weekly to assess the statistical workings of the STI.
- Chairman Vermillion asked what projects Pitt County received. Mr. Jeff Cabaniss stated that they received transition projects and an intersection project.
- Chairman Vermillion wanted to know what regional meetings on behalf of transportation the Lenoir County Transportation Committee members are invited to attend. Mayor BJ Murphy stated that he and Commissioner Eric Rouse attend the regional RPO meetings.
- Chairman Gordon Vermillion feels that the committee should express their concern through a organized, professional letter. Mr. John Marshall stated that the committee should receive the input of Mr. John Rouse while composing this letter. He also recommended that the committee invite the NC DOT representatives to attend the February meeting. Chairman Vermillion stated that he would like to invite Mr. John Rouse, Mr. Ferrell Blount, and Major General Hugh Overholt to the February meeting. All committee members agreed to extend an invitation to the specified individuals.

New Business:

By Law Approval by Lenoir County Board of Commissioners – Barry Seay, Lenoir County Planning Board

- Mr. Barry Seay stated that the Lenoir County Commissioners approved the drafted by laws submitted by the Lenoir County Transportation Committee. He stated that the Commissioners only had one question in regards to the proposed by laws, continuity of a Chairman due to wording, and after discussion agreed that it would not pose an issue.

Chairman Vermillion asked Mr. Mike Jarman if there was anything that the committee should be doing in regards to the current issue that they have not already planned to take action with. Mr. Mike Jarman stated that he has not heard anything from the board directing additional steps and that he personally feels that the Lenoir County Transportation Committee is approaching the current issues in the proper manner.

Ms. Amanda Conner stated that one of the meeting dates on the calendar for the 2015 year falls on a holiday. She asked the committee if they would like to move the meeting to the following day, Thursday, November 12, 2015 or to the next week, Wednesday, November 18, 2015. All voting members were in favor of moving the Wednesday, November 11, 2015 meeting to Wednesday, November 18, 2015.

Chairman Vermillion thanked Mr. Aaron Bullard and Ms. Mary Jane Westphal for attending the meeting on behalf of their organizations.

The next transportation meeting will be Wednesday, February 11, at 8:30 a.m.

Much discussion followed

The meeting was adjourned at 9:19 a.m.