

MINUTES
LENOIR COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
October 13, 2010

The Lenoir County Transportation Committee met on Wednesday, October 13, 2010 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. B J Murphy; Mayor of Kinston; Mr. Joe Bower, Kinston-Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Bill Whaley, Economic Development Board; and Mr. John Craft, Town of LaGrange.

Non-Voting members present included: Mr. Brian Lucas, City of Kinston, Ms. Betty Caldwell, Mr. Preston Hunter; Mr. Mark Pope, Economic Development; Mr. Scott Stevens, City Manager; Mr. Alex Rickard, RPO Planner and Ms. Leigh McNairy, DOT Board Member.

Also Present: Ms. Lashanda Aytch, Administrative Secretary

Members absent included: Mr. Rodney Howard, Town of Pink Hill; Mr. Dan Sale, County at Large; and Mr. Don Howard, GTP Authority Mr. Joey Bryan; Lenoir County Transit; Mr. Adrian King, Pride of Kinston; Mr. Joe Albright, Manager of Grifton, and Mr. Wayland Humphrey, Lenoir County Planning.

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

Upon a motion by Mr. Humphrey and a second by Mr. Craft, the minutes of August 12, 2010 were unanimously approved.

Ms. McNairy stated a called meeting was held to discuss the potential of a Northern or Southern Bypass in Lenoir County; there was no agreement made on where to place the bypass. Ms. McNairy stated there seems to be a key policy disconnect in coming to a conclusion in this matter. The NC Department of Cultural Resources, The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and NCDOT are having conflicts in making a conclusion as well, even though the Army Core of Engineers has signed off on the placement of the bypass. Ms. McNairy concluded meetings need to be held immediately to come to a resolution on the project.

Ms. Caldwell reviewed the Division 2 project listing with the Committee. Project R-2719A – Crescent Road in Kinston from US 70 to US 258 is approximately 50% complete; estimated completion is October 2012. The replacement of bridge #79 over Gum Swamp Creek is 80% complete; estimated completion is November 2010.

Mr. Rickard stated the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) has been approved in Beulaville; Warsaw, Mt. Olive and Greene County are now having discussions regarding their CTP. The Committee agreed that a Municipal CTP would need to be incorporated in Lenoir County's CTP. Mr. Rickard stated it should be discussed soon if the CTP has to go before the Board of Commissioners for approval before it goes before the Rural Planning Organization (RPO) Board.

Mr. Murphy stated Mr. Durwood Stephenson is doing a very good job and is keeping all members well informed regarding US 70 Corridor Commission activities. Mr. Scott Walston was surprised there is controversy on the proposed route of the US70 Bypass.

Mr. John Craft, Town Manager of LaGrange, addressed the Committee. Mr. Craft stated the North Carolina Department of Transportation has contacted the Town to accelerate the construction of "Section 2" of the Goldsboro Bypass. The project would connect Wayne Memorial Drive to U.S. 70 at a new interchange in the area of Promise Land Road near the Chevrolet dealership.

The construction of this interchange would connect the Town of LaGrange to Interstate 795, which could allow for an Interstate Shield designation. More meetings are to take place between the Town and DOT officials, with construction starting as soon as 2011. The Town of La Grange must satisfy certain environmental regulations, including monitoring and limiting nutrient loading, imposing a stream buffer and enforcing impervious surface limits. That means only a percentage of the land in that area could be concreted or impacted by any other material that would prevent the earth from naturally absorbing water. In order for La Grange to institute these polices, it needs to extend its extraterritorial jurisdiction up to the full 1-mile limit. The project is on the Transportation Improvement Plan through NCDOT; the project if completed will be 20 years ahead of schedule. Mr. Craft stated he would be going before the Board of Commissioners to present the information.

NDOT has approved a temporary traffic light on US 70 for Sanderson Farms. Mr. Rickard stated the feasibility study on NC 11 has been completed. Carey Road Extension is currently under historical review; review will take at least one month. Road will not be paved until the first of the New Year. Ms. Caldwell stated the City of Kinston has negotiated some items regarding the MLK Roundabout; the items have been reviewed and sent back to the City for final approval. Design information has not been sent to NCDOT regarding any Hull Road changes; it will be the responsibility of the Veterans Home to send in that information.

The Chairman at Lenoir Community College and its Board of Trustees has approved the resolution allowing more access onto the college. Mr. Rhodes stated he will be presenting the resolution to the Board of Commissioners for support in the coming weeks.

Respectfully Submitted by
Lashanda Aytch
Clerk to the Board