

MINUTES
LENOIR COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
November 12, 2008

The Lenoir County Transportation Committee met on Wednesday, November 12, 2008 at 9:30 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. Joe Bower, Kinston-Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Jimmy Cousins for the Mayor of Kinston, and Mr. John Craft, Town Manager of LaGrange.

Non-Voting members present included: Ms. Amanda Engesether, City of Kinston Planning Board, Mr. Scott Stevens, City Manager; Ms. Sue Powell, Lenoir County Transit; Mr. Len White, NCDOT; Mr. Mark Pope, Economic Development, Mr. Adrian King, Pride of Kinston; and Mr. Alex Rickard, RPO Planner.

Also Present: Mr. Ronald Dunn; NLHS, and Ms. Lashanda Aytch, Administrative Secretary

Members absent included: Mr. Dan Sale, Lenoir County At-large, Mr. Wayland Humphrey, Lenoir County Planning; Ms. Treva Brigman, Mayor of Pink Hill; GTP Authority Staff, Mr. Bill Whaley, Economic Development Director, Mr. Van Braxton, State Representative, and Senator Charles Albertson.

Mr. Rhodes called the meeting to order at approximately 9:30 a.m.

Upon a motion by Mr. Humphrey and a second by Mr. Bower the minutes of October 8, 2008 were approved.

NLHS – PTSA Request for School Access Improvements – Mr. Dunn stated there is still no proper enforcement in place to deter parents and children from parking across the street and along side the school. Mr. Dunn stated citations need to be issued to violators; which would stop a lot of the problems the school is having with school access. The Sheriff's Department will not respond to the request of ticketing violators. Mr. Rhodes thanked Mr. Dunn for the update.

US 70 Corridor Commission – Mr. Rhodes stated there would be a Hwy. 11/55 Improvements meeting held on Tuesday, November 18, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

Industrial Access: Airport Road – Mr. White stated the Historic Preservation Group is in the process of doing geological and archaeological studies on the proposed industrial access. Some items have been found on the site. The project is still delayed.

Bridge Replacement – Mr. White stated no timeframe has been determined to start the replacement process. NCDOT is looking at funding sources.

NC 11 Thoroughfare - Mr. Rickard stated a meeting would be scheduled to discuss the thoroughfare in depth.

Carey Road Ext. – Mr. Stevens stated the City has applied for USDA Funding. The application process would be expedited if 1/3 of the funding was collected by the City. Mr. Stevens stated he feels the project should remain on the TIP Listing.

Harvey Parkway Section A – Mr. White stated the Parkway should be completed by October 2012.

Harvey Parkway Signage Request from Tull Hill Farm - Mr. Rhodes stated he has written a letter to NCDOT requesting signage for Tull Hill Farms. There has been no response to date.

Projects of Concern –

Mr. Rhodes stated the Committee has endorsed Alignment G for the GTP Rail Spur. This endorsement would have a rail crossing across Harvey Parkway. Neither the Committee nor Mr. Rhodes agrees with the proposed rail crossing. The committee does not want this Grade Separation.

Mr. Stevens stated the community did not support a proposed curve on MLK Blvd, but were supportive of a traffic circle. The City Council is now researching the proposed traffic circle.

Mr. Rhodes stated Lenoir Community College has requested NCDOT lower the speed limit on Hwy. 58 in front of the college from a 50 to a 45-mph zone.

Respectfully Submitted by
Lashanda Aytch
Clerk to the Board