

**Minutes**  
**Lenoir County Transportation Committee**  
**Lenoir Economic Development Board Room**  
**Scheduled Meeting**  
**February 10, 2016 – 8:30 a.m.**

**Attendance:**

<b>Voting</b>	<b>Non-Voting</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Bill Whaley, Lenoir County at Large, Chair	Patrick Flanagan, RPO	Mike Jarman, Manager, Lenoir County
Tony Sears, City of Kinston (designee for BJ Murphy, Mayor, City of Kinston)	Angie Greene, Transit Director	Woody Gurley/John Craft, Town of LaGrange
Harold Thomas, Lenoir County Economic Development Board	Adam Short, City of Kinston	Carol Sykes/Donald King, Town of Pink Hill
Eric Rouse, Lenoir County Commissioner	Mark Pope, Executive Director, Lenoir County Economic Development	Joe Albright, Town of Grifton, Manager
Rick Barks, NC GTP Authority	Jeff Cabaniss, NC DOT	John Rouse, Division Engineer, NCDOT
	Adrian King, PRIDE of Kinston	John Marshall, Kinston-Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce
	Brandon Holland, City of Kinston	Dan Sale, Lenoir County, Member-At-Large
	Brian Lucas, City of Kinston	
	Aaron Bullard, District Engineer, NC DOT	
	Mary Jane Westphal, NC GTP Authority	

**Commissioner Eric Rouse introduced the Lenoir County Transportation Committee Chairman, Mr. Bill Whaley. He reminded the committee that Councilman Gordon Vermillion resigned from the committee due to his newly elected position and this conflict with the Lenoir County Transportation Committee bylaw requirements as outlined in Section 3.1.**

**Chairman Bill Whaley 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 40% complete.
  - Girders are set on half of southbound overflow bridge.
  - The Neuse River bridges removed. Working on bents/caps. Anticipate girders to be set late 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 90% complete. Anticipate completion by beginning of March.

**Resurfacing - Aaron Bullard, NC DOT**

- **NC 148** - resurface from 2215ft West of SR 1575 Poole Rd 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

## **Old Business:**

### **Approval of Minutes – Bill Whaley, Chairman**

- A quorum was present. The minutes were reviewed by the committee for January 13, 2016. Commissioner Eric Rouse made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Tony Sears seconded the motion. All voting members were in favor of accepting the minutes as presented. The minutes were approved by the committee.

### **RPO Report – Patrick Flanagan, Eastern RPO Planner**

- Mr. Patrick Flanagan stated that NC DOT has given the RPO two weeks to review the data submitted for projects in the area. These were submitted Friday, February 5, 2016. Scores are expected to be released in March for prioritization. This will tell us what state wide projects are receiving funding. The RPO will have April and May to assign local input points. Regional projects will be reviewed with the Lenoir County Transportation Committee once the scores are released. In July and August, the RPO will be responsible for assigning the district input points. There is a methodology that the RPO will follow to assign those points for all the projects. Mr. Mark Pope represents Lenoir County on the subcommittee that looks at this methodology. The subcommittee will meet prior to April and review the data and hammer out the assignment of local input points.

### **County Transportation Plan Orientation - Patrick Flanagan, Eastern RPO Planner**

- Mr. Patrick Flanagan stated that NC DOT has drafted Lenoir County to have a Comprehensive Transportation Plan created. This is a 30 year vision for transportation needs in the county. In 2007, the City of Kinston completed a comprehensive transportation plan. This plan included multimodal projects and programs planned through 2030. The Kinston plan looked at the municipality and immediate surrounding areas. It did not look at the county as a whole.
- Mr. Patrick Flanagan defined a Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP). He stated that it is a long-range plan that assists local governments and municipalities in making transportation decisions. It tries to address local needs and what locals feel their needs are going forward. It identifies deficiencies and the need moving forward to improve these deficiencies. It needs to be stated clearly that these recommendation are concepts. They are potential solutions. The plan is used to help place projects in the prioritization. It is not financially constrained. It does not need to include unrealistic plans. The recommended plan will need to include multimodal maps adopted by the municipalities, county, and Board of Transportation including reports identifying problem areas. This is an 18 to 24 month process. A steering committee will be formed to assist in getting this complete. The CTP includes roadways, public transportation, rail, bicycle, and pedestrian improvements and recommendations. The CTP will be created to plan for long-range transportation needs over the next 25-30 years.
- Mr. Patrick Flanagan stated that it is important for the county to create a CTP to get everyone on the same page and determine what the long-range vision is for Lenoir County. It will guide future development and transportation decisions. It is a better integration of transportation planning and land use planning minimizing the impacts to the natural and human environment. It is important to hone in on the local priorities and look further ahead with identifying these priorities. This plan will hopefully reduce the project costs for future projects. Detailing potential transportation project information will help to shape development for the county.
- The CTP involves a steering committee to develop the vision, conduct a needs assessment, determine deficiencies, involve public opinion, analyze alternatives, develop a final plan, and adopt a final plan. The overall impression of the public will be conducted through meetings and surveys. Public feedback and their engagement will be compiled and considered before submitting the final plan to the Board of Transportation for final approval.
- Chairman Bill Whaley asked if other counties were participating in this process as well. Mr. Patrick Flanagan stated that Duplin County and Wayne County (different because of having the MPO) are participating in this process. He then stated that although several municipalities have a plan, it was determined that counties need to produce the plan.

- Lenoir County elected officials and staff, municipalities elected officials and staff, local school system, parks and recreation, transit, emergency services, community college, health department, planning and development, the North Carolina Global TransPark, NC DOT, and the public are involved in this process. The steering committee is responsible for working on the local level, meeting once a month, providing feedback to NC DOT. The Lenoir County Transportation Committee will have a voice on the steering committee. The committee input is important to the creation of this CTP for Lenoir County.
- There are various needs that must be studied throughout the process. Safety concerns in locations, connectivity and mobility, traffic or congestion, statewide planning utilizing the North Carolina strategic corridor facilities, and the federally functionally classified roads. These factors will influence the CTP with possible solutions to deficiencies or needs.
- One of the main factors to consider when creating a county CTP is the current population, current employment, and the potential for growth. This projection would then be applied to the network to see how it would affect safety or congestion issues. The state as a whole is growing just below 1% annually. According to the Office State of Budget and Management, Lenoir County has a population under 59,000. It also stated that Lenoir County as a whole is declining a little over 1% annually. The county will be broken down into smaller areas and evaluated. It is important to reflect a positive growth in the plan. Granted, the numbers may not be very high, but all municipalities would come to an agreement as to what this number should be.
- This process will start around March. The steering committee members will be identified and notified when to meet. An orientation presentation to the process will be given to all the towns and cities so that they can understand the process and what it means to them. If this committee has specific recommendations for who should be on the steering committee for developing the CTP, please submit them to Mr. Patrick Flanagan.
- Chairman Bill Whaley asked that Mr. Patrick Flanagan provide a copy of his presentation to be distributed to the Lenoir County Transportation Committee members. Mr. Adrian King asked if this process would include a plan for air transportation. Mr. Patrick Flanagan stated that we could consult with the airport staff, but ultimately they have their own plan.

### **New Business:**

#### **Request of New Business – Bill Whaley, Chairman**

- Chairman Bill Whaley stated that he would like to discuss an issue with the Lenoir County Transportation Committee that has been addressed on other boards he serves on, the Committee of 100 and the Lenoir County Economic Development Board. He then stated that the Historic Preservation Group has submitted a district in the Wyse Fork area for national registration. He stated that we would all like to be supportive of this historic registry nomination for the Wyse Fork Battlefield District; however, we do not want to limit Lenoir County and its growth or development potential. Chairman Bill Whaley then proceeded to show the committee the district proposed on a map. He then stated that he understands that the process requires 51% of all property owners in this district to opt out of the nomination. Commissioner Eric Rouse stated that the Lenoir County Board of Commissioners is not against the battlefield, they are against how the process has been implemented and the massive grab of land for the district. The issue is relevant to this committee because it complicates the Shallow Bypass option for the Kinston Bypass project. Mr. Mark Pope stated that another public meeting will be held in April and then a final decision for submission on the federal level in June. Commissioner Eric Rouse stated that it is his understanding that the relics found on this site were removed and are being kept in a separate location. He believes there is a compromise in the works and the focus at this time is to receive 51% of the landowners' signatures opposing this designation. He also stated that in the public meeting for the Wyse Fork Battlefield District historic nomination it was stated that the initial submission for this property was to stop the creation of a mobile home park and that trying to stop people from using their land as they so choose by utilizing state legislation is taking advantage of the government.
- Mr. Mark Pope stated that the state historic office has contacted DuPont to assess the possibility of their facility and/or property of having any historical significance. He stated that this request was made in

relation to the CF Harvey Parkway options. He then stated that DuPont will not participate in this study due to the confidentiality related to their manufacturing processes.

- Commissioner Eric Rouse stated that the resolution developed by the Lenoir County Transportation Committee requesting a study to be conducted evaluating if a permanent stoplight is needed at the intersection of Highway 258 South and Central/Will Baker met community opposition. The community felt that the resolution would not do any good in helping to make the temporary stop light permanent. He then stated that he had the resolution tabled so that he could come back to the Lenoir County Transportation Committee and discuss the request further. Commissioner Eric Rouse then asked Mr. Aaron Bullard if it was NC DOT's intent to request a study on the necessity of this light remaining at the intersection after the Queen Street Bridge project is complete. Mr. Aaron Bullard stated that the traffic light was put in place specifically for the Queen Street bridge project and to his knowledge after the project the light would come down. Mr. Mark Pope stated that the issue was brought before the transportation committee on behalf of the following request letters: Sandy Bottom Volunteer Fire and Rescue, Sandy Bottom Baptist Church, Jackson Heights Original Free Will Baptist Church, Southwood Volunteer Fire and Rescue, Rivermont Baptist Church, and Lenoir County Public Schools. Commissioner Eric Rouse stated that there is no sense pushing for the state to conduct this study and wasting state money if the community feels requesting the study does not warrant enough support for making the light permanent. Chairman Bill Whaley asked if a study has ever been conducted at this intersection. Mr. Brian Lucas stated that a study was conducted several years ago and it did not meet eligibility requirements for traffic light placement at the intersection. Commissioner Eric Rouse stated that it is his understanding that the traffic flow will return to normal after the bridge project is complete and a study of this intersection would not warrant placement of a permanent traffic light due to previous findings and reduction of the county population rate. Chairman Bill Whaley stated that he feels that the committee referred the resolution to the Board of Commissioners and that if the commission decides to table the resolution, then that is where it will stand. Commissioner Eric Rouse asked if anyone on the committee was passionate about this issue and wanted to discuss it further to please tell him. No one on the committee commented.
- Mr. Tony Sears stated that the City was coming close to the completion of Phase I for the Riverwalk Project. He then stated that they are looking forward to enhancement discussions with the Council.
- Chairman Bill Whaley introduced Mr. Harold Thomas to the committee as the new Lenoir County Economic Development Board Chair and Lenoir County Transportation Committee voting member. All members present at the meeting proceeded to introduce themselves to Mr. Harold Thomas.

The next transportation meeting will be Wednesday, March 9, at 8:30 a.m.

**Much discussion followed**

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 a.m.**