

**Minutes**  
**Lenoir County Transportation Committee**  
**Lenoir Economic Development Board Room**  
**Scheduled Meeting**  
**August 12, 2015 – 8:30 a.m.**

**Attendance:**

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

**Chairman Vermillion was unable to attend the meeting and asked Mr. Bill Whaley to conduct the meeting. Chairman Gordon Vermillion also designated a proxy vote to Mr. Bill Whaley in his absence. Mr. Bill Whaley called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. Quorum was present.**

**Update:**

**TIP Projects – John Rouse, NC DOT**

- **B-4565:** Bridges #42 and #43 over Neuse River on US 70 Business (Queen St.), Awarded to Thalle Construction Co., Inc., Road closure began August 3, 2015. Closure is functioning well for NC DOT. DOT has not had any complaints. There was a back up the first couple of days, but that has worked itself out at this time.
- **W-5202K:** NC 11- Construct 21 left turn lanes at existing median openings from South of SR 1826 Mewborn Ave to North of SR 1719 Odham Rd, Let date June 29, 2015, lowest bid was above the available funding, attempting to re-scope the project. This is between Kinston and Greenville. Bids for the project came in higher than anticipated. The project is being re-scoped to fit the money available.
- **EB-3314D:** Kinston Riverwalk, multi-use path from downtown through Pearson Park to the Power plant, contract awarded to Lanier Constructing, pre-construction meeting held August 7, 2015, and contractor plans to start on August 17<sup>th</sup>, completion date December 16, 2015.

**Non-TIP Projects – John Rouse, NC DOT**

- **Smithfield Way** (49005) - extend road from SR 1548 Hill Farm Rd to US 258, first layer of asphalt complete by Barnhill Contracting, second layer to be placed in conjunction with Hill Farm Rd project. The road is open for use.
- **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., utilities currently being relocated before the rest of the project is completed.

## **Resurfacing - John Rouse, NC DOT**

- **Secondary Roads** - awarded to Barnhill Contracting Co., available July 1<sup>st</sup> with a completion by November 13, 2015
  - SR 1116 Jonestown Rd from NC 11 to US 258, widen from 18' to 24' and resurface
  - SR 1578 Airport Rd from 2 lane section to NC 58, mill and resurface
  - SR 1569 Carey Rd from US 70 Bus. (Vernon Ave) to SR 1571 (Plaza Blvd), mill and resurface

Mr. John Rouse stated that NC DOT has been approached by Fire and EMS staff for Lenoir County about the intersection of Highway 11 and Ferrell Road. This intersection is near Contentnea-Savannah School. There have been problems with buses stopping at the railroad tracks on Highway 11 and again on Ferrell Road to meet the law regarding buses and hazardous waste vehicles stopping for railroad crossings. A bill has recently been introduced to try to get this section of railroad exempt from this law. When a bus stops on Highway 11, there is the issue of traffic going 60 miles per hour. When a bus stops on Ferrell Road, there is the issue of the bus hanging out into Highway 11. There has also been an issue with cars in the morning and in the afternoon stacking up in the median. There have been as many as four waiting side by side. This is a fatality waiting to happen. There have been no fatalities at this time. NC DOT is looking into an approach to solve this problem. In conjunction with receiving the exemption for the rail crossing and the school bus issue, we are looking to put in a super street design. It would make Ferrell Road a right in and a right out. You would not be able to cross directly across Highway 11. The only inconvenience will be the people that will have to be leaving Ferrell Road and heading towards Greenville. This proposed design will solve the safety issue. Highway 11 has high speeds and high volume. A stop light would not be a solution to this problem. Mr. John Rouse asked if any of the Lenoir County Transportation Committee members have any questions. He then stated that NC DOT would need Lenoir County's support to submit this proposed design for the intersection.

Commissioner Eric Rouse made a motion to approve and support the NC DOT submitted design for the intersection at Highway 11 and Ferrell Road. Mr. BJ Murphy seconded the motion. All voting members were in favor of this motion. The design was approved by the committee.

## **Old Business:**

### **Approval of Minutes – Bill Whaley, Lenoir County Economic Development Board**

- A quorum was present. The minutes were reviewed by the committee for June 10, 2015. Mr. John Marshall made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Eric Rouse seconded the motion. All voting members were in favor of this motion. The minutes were approved by the committee.

### **Queen Street Redesign Project – Adam Short, Planner, and Steve Miller, Assistant Public Services Director, City of Kinston**

- Mr. Adam Short stated that conversations have been had in regards to the Queen Street median design. The median design poses threats to the current sewer system. The City of Kinston would like to make the recommendation for the transportation committee to focus more on the diagonal parking design with the trees on the side. Mr. Adam Short then asked the committee if they had any questions.
- Commissioner Eric Rouse stated that he thought the utilities would be replaced or reconfigured during the Queen Street redesign projects. Mr. Steve Miller stated that the City is working to replace the pipes, they will be new but not reconfigured. He feels there will be an issue with planting trees over the pipes for future maintenance. Commissioner Eric Rouse asked if the City of Kinston could reconfigure the pipes while replacing. Mr. Steve Miller said that reconfiguring the pipes would incur an additional cost for the City and with an estimated cost of \$7 million already present, it looks unlikely. He stated that there would be sections of the road that pipes could not be reconfigured from the current layout.
- Mayor BJ Murphy stated that he was for the median parking on South Queen Street and angled parking for North Queen Street. Mr. Adam Short stated that there were more votes for the angled parking when presented at the public meetings.

- Commissioner Eric Rouse asked Mr. Steve Miller if there was a way that the pipes could be connected at certain intervals to coordinate with the design for future maintenance. Mr. Steve Miller stated that the trees are the issue. The median is not the issue.
- Mayor BJ Murphy asked Mr. John Rouse if NC DOT would be okay with public art displayed in the medians. Commissioner Eric Rouse stated that the public art would not get the desired canopy effect that the trees would. Mr. Steve Miller stated that it would be counterproductive to make these improvements and then have to tear them out for maintenance. Mr. John Marshall stated that the trees that were selected for the median would have less intrusive roots. He then stated that the parking would be close in number to the angled parking.
- Commissioner Eric Rouse asked Mr. Steve Miller how deep the pipes were below Queen Street. Mr. Steve Miller stated that some of the pipes were 12-23 feet deep. For service or maintenance you would have to connect to the pipe. Commissioner Eric Rouse asked if there was likelihood that digging would occur or making recommendation based on precaution. Mr. Steve Miller stated that it would be more of a precaution.
- Commissioner Eric Rouse stated that the Lenoir County Transportation Committee would need to formalize its recommendation. Mayor BJ Murphy asked Mr. Adam Short if there would be a difference in design for North Queen versus South Queen. Mr. Adam Short stated that the desired selection for South Queen was Option 2 at public meetings. He then stated that South Queen merchants have requested that they have a separate identity from North Queen that includes receptacles and additional parking. Mr. Bill Whaley asked where the boundaries were for North Queen and South Queen. Mr. Adam Short stated that South Queen would run from the bridges to King Street and that North Queen would run from the railroad tracks to King Street.
- The committee discussed the combination of options for North and South Queen Street. The committee discussed the benefits of each option adding parking to the street. The committee discussed the flow of traffic. The committee discussed pedestrian crossings in relation to the offered options. The committee discussed how the designs would affect the driveways on South Queen Street. The committee discussed the need for consistency versus separate identities. Mr. Adam Short and Mr. John Rouse stated that the Lenoir County Transportation Committee would need to submit a formal resolution of support for a design choice in regards to the project.
- Commissioner Eric Rouse made a motion for the Lenoir County Transportation Committee to recommend and support Option 4 for the Queen Street redesign project for North Queen Street and South Queen Street. Mr. John Marshall seconded the motion. All voting members were in favor of this motion. Recommending and supporting the option 4 for North and South Queen Street in regards to the redesign project was approved by the committee.

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

- Mr. Patrick Flanagan announced that Mr. Mark Pope is representing Lenoir County on the RPO committee. He stated that if there were any questions or comments to please contact Mr. Mark Pope.
- Mr. Patrick Flanagan stated that the first SPOT deadline was set for December 1. This is to modify any existing projects if you want to help them score better. Each committee member was given a spreadsheet of scores and a project sheet detailing the project. The provided handouts outline the projects currently in the system for Lenoir County. The top sections of the sheet are existing projects and have remained in the system. The bottom sections are projects that were removed from the system. He asked the committee to review the remaining projects on each level (state, regional, district) and cross reference the project sheet (project details) with the spreadsheet (final scores) to determine modifications that can be made to help each desired project for Lenoir County to score better.
- The RPO subcommittee will review these projects and return for the Lenoir County Transportation Meeting in September to present their recommendations and get consensus from the committee.
- Some of the projects cannot be altered due to regulations associated with the design and construction of roads. Most of the projects have standards that cannot be deviated from. Some of the projects can be segmented to help with the costs and funding possibilities.

- Mr. Patrick Flanagan stated that some of the projects were placed in the system for a regional impact.

**New Business:**

**Alternate Criteria for SPOT 4.0 –Patrick Flanagan, Eastern RPO Planner**

- Mr. Patrick Flanagan stated that during the last round of prioritization, the RPO was able to determine alternate criteria for Region B, Division 2/3 (Lenoir, New Bern, Morehead City, Jacksonville, and Wilmington). This is the competition for Lenoir County on the regional area. The alternate criteria has to be determined unanimously representing all groups in Region B, Division 2/3. Staff has determined potential criteria for adoption. They will not be voted on until October. The RPO is recommending the following: Regional Level (Benefit Cost 10%, Congestion 10%, Accessibility/Connectivity 10%, Safety 25%, Freight 10%, and Multimodal 5%); Division Level (Benefit Cost 0%, Congestion 10%, Accessibility/Connectivity 5%, Safety 15%, Freight 10%, and Multimodal 10%).

The next transportation meeting will be Wednesday, October 14, at 8:30 a.m.

**Much discussion followed**

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.**