

Henderson County
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
May 15, 2013

The Transportation Advisory Committee met May 15, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. in the King Street Meeting Room at 100 North King Street, Hendersonville.

Members present were Jim Crafton, Chairman at-large, Renee Kumor, Vice-Chairman at-large; Keith Maddox, at-large; Don Farr, Village of Flat Rock; and Robert Vickery, Town of Laurel Park. Members not in attendance were David Jones, at-large; Steve Caraker, City of Hendersonville; Eddie Henderson, Town of Fletcher; Roger Snyder, Town of Mills River; Board of Commissioners Vice-Chairman Tommy Thompson; and Commissioner Mike Edney. Henderson County Staff members included Matthew Cable, Transportation Planner; Autumn Radcliff, Interim Planning Director, and John Mitchell, Business and Community Development Director. Steve Cannon, NCDOT District Engineer was present.

Mr. Crafton called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.. Mr. Crafton opened the floor to public comment. No public comment was provided.

Approval of Minutes:

Ms. Kumor made a motion to approve of the minutes of the April 17, 2013 meeting. Mr. Farr seconded the motion and all members voted in favor. Mr. Cannon clarified the definition of let date, as noted in the April 17, 2013 meeting minutes, should be “bid opening date”. The committee agreed this modification to the minutes should be reflected.

New Business:

Chairman Comments. Mr. Crafton began his comments by pointing out the addition of a new and proposed recurring agenda item referred to as “FBRMPO TCC Meeting Review/Board Preview. He explained that the purposes of this agenda item would be to formally discuss action taken by the MPO TCC and considerations to be held by the MPO Board. Mr. Crafton also noted that the committee would be discussing amendments to the bylaws at his request.

Municipal Representative Updates. Mr. Farr noted that the sidewalk along Blue Ridge Road was nearing completion and should be finished in early June 2013. He further indicated that the Village of Flat Rock is working to identify a recreational connection between Flat Rock’s newly acquired land (proposed park at the former Highland Lake Golf Course) and the Carl Sandburg Home. According to Mr. Farr, the Village of Flat Rock is interested in connection by multi-purpose trails similar those shown in the Complete Streets manual, but not necessarily running alongside NCDOT roads. Mr. Cable indicated that the County was working with Mr. Farr to identify possible sources of funding for this multi-use trail and to assist in the process of funding acquisition as appropriate. Mr. Vickery did not have an updates of significance for the Town of Laurel Park other than mentioning the improvements on Lake Road.

NCDOT Projects Update. Mr. Cannon provided an update regarding several ongoing NCDOT projects in the County.

- NC Highway 225: Project to be completed on or about May 17, 2013.
- Upward Road: Delays for utilities, structures, and contractors result in an overall completion date delay of April 2014, at which point the final layer of pavement is scheduled to be applied.

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- Apple Valley Road: Bridge to be completed in March 2014 (with the structural work being completed in September 2013).
- US Highway 25 South: Resurfacing south of NC Highway 225 to repair damaged areas to begin in June 2013.
- Fruitland Road: Bridge projects (2) to be let in October 2013.
- Locust Grove Road: Bridge projected over Featherstone Creek to begin February 2014.
- Little River Road: Bridges (2) at 45% complete.
- Erkwood Drive/Shepherd Street: Realignment with 7 proposed alternatives which has been delayed by the identification of historic properties and environmental issues.
- Nix Road: NCDOT entered into a contract for the installation of guardrail on Nix Road between North Clear Creek Road and Howard Gap Road.
- Dana Road: Bridge project on Dana Road to let in May 2013.
- Howard Gap Road: The second section will be let in May 2013.
- Fruitland Road: The two bridges on Fruitland Road are set to let in October 2013. Local NCDOT staff is requesting construction begin in summer 2014 in light of school traffic from North Henderson High and Apple Valley Middle Schools.

Interstate 26 Corridor Summit. Mr. Cable briefly discussed the attendees and purposes of the I-26 Corridor Summit Meeting held at the North Carolina Arboretum and hosted by the City of Asheville Chamber of Commerce. The focus of the summit, as Mr. Cable explained, was to principally discuss the history and current status of proposed improvements to I-26 in Buncombe County. Further, the summit included additional information on proposed legislation that will impact interstate funding competition in the future. Mr. Cable indicating these funding impacts would be discussed later in the meeting.

House Bill 817: Strategic Transportation Investments. Mr. Cable then entered into a presentation on a proposed NC House Bill which had been approved by the House and was under consideration by a number of committees in the Senate. Proposed by Governor McCrory, and commonly referred to as the 40/30/30 Plan, this project was a proposed funding strategy for transportation improvement projects for the FY 2016-2025. The presentation provided by Mr. Cable was largely based on a presentation given by NCDOT at the I-26 Corridor Summit meeting. Mr. Cable explained that this legislation, combined with previous legislation (NCGS 136-18) could impact Henderson County transportation projects. The Committee entered briefly into discussion following the presentation of this information. Mr. Cable suggested that he present information on NCGS 136-18 before entering into a full discussion.

NCGS 136-18. Mr. Cable presented information on prior legislation which is impacting the SPOT 3.0 prioritization process. He explained that this legislation, when combined with the new proposed HB 817, could be of concern to Henderson County in that, when combined: (1) Henderson County's local and qualitative input would be diminished, (2) the disconnect between NCDOT and local jurisdictions (including Henderson County) would increase, (3) Henderson County's prior advantages through coordinated local prioritization prior to the MPO meeting would likely be lost, and (5) a lack of Henderson County's ability to provide input into a new local prioritization process. Mr. Crafton expressed concern over the loss of our local impact. He encouraged meeting participants to speak to legislatures regarding these pieces of legislation. Mr. Crafton encouraged all MPO Board members to take an active role in the MPO meetings to ensure any locally developed and controlled processes had Henderson County's influence.

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Travel Survey Status. Mr. Cable indicated that the Board of Commissioners considered the funding of the travel survey again and that the motion to approve failed 2:2. The Board would again consider this item at a future meeting.

FBRMPO TCC Meeting Review/Board Preview. Mr. Crafton inquired as to whether any significant issues were discussed at the MPO TCC meeting or would be discussed at the MPO Board meeting. Mr. Cable indicated that the significant items had already been discussed with the exception of the proposed workgroup to develop local prioritization methodologies for projects to be entered into SPOT. Mr. Cable indicated the MPO TCC had supported the development of the workgroup and it would be to Henderson County's benefit for its MPO Board members to support a workgroup that included Henderson County staff.

Important Dates. Mr. Cable provided the Committee with the meeting dates for the remainder of the year for the Henderson County Transportation Advisory Committee and MPO TCC and MPO Board meetings.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Jim Crafton, Chairman
Henderson County Transportation Advisory Committee