

**MINUTES**  
**Henderson County**  
**TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**January 22, 2009**

The Transportation Advisory Committee met on January 22, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. in the King Street Meeting Room at 100 N. King Street, Hendersonville. Members present were Chairman Jim Crafton; Eddie Henderson of Fletcher; Don Farr, Village of Flat Rock; Keith Maddox, Town of Laurel Park; David Jones, at large; Renee Kumor, at large; and Commissioner Chuck McGrady. Staff members included Anthony Starr, Planning Director; Hope Bleecker, Planner; and Kathleen Scanlan, Secretary. Others present included Jamie Wilson, NCDOT Project Construction Engineer, and Bo Ferguson, City Manager, City of Hendersonville, (sitting in for Barbara Volk). Roger Snyder and Terry Hicks were absent.

**Approval of Draft Minutes**

Chairman Crafton called the meeting to order and noted two corrections to the November 13, 2008 minutes. There were no other changes and the Committee members voted to approve the minutes as corrected.

**Chairman's Report**

Mr. Crafton gave an updated report on the issue of the Crail Farm Bridge in Flat Rock. Mr. Crafton also mentioned that on January 28, 2009 the City Council will meet to discuss their proposal for the alternative traffic pattern for the cemetery project.

Ms. Bleecker presented the latest stimulus project list, showing two projects for Henderson County (NC 225 and Upward Road). The list is not finalized yet and has to go through a public hearing by the MPO. Changes could occur and some of the projects may be dropped.

Mr. Crafton asked whether the new memorandum of understanding for the MPO, regarding switching over from the City of Asheville providing staffing to the Land of Sky been adopted? Mr. McGrady stated that MPO and all the municipalities have signed off on it and eventually will go to the NCDOT Board for the last action.

**21<sup>st</sup> Century Transportation Committee.**

Chuck McGrady gave an update on his participation with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Transportation Committee. The Committee's purpose is to study the transportation infrastructure needs of the State and report on ways to improve the transportation systems in order to promote economic growth and ensure that the State can compete and participate in the global economy.

The committee looked at several new ways to generate revenue. One of the proposed mechanisms would be the vehicle miles transfer fee, which would charge drivers based on the number of miles they drive. The fee would help the State cope with declining revenues from the State fuel and highway-use taxes, which provide more than 80 percent of the N.C. Department of Transportation's budget. Both of those taxes are in steady decline. Another recommendation was an increase in the Highway Use Tax owners pay when they buy their cars. The committee is considering raising that tax rate from 3 percent to 4 percent over a two-year period. The Committee recommendations will be forwarded to the General Assembly when it convenes Jan. 28, 2009 in Raleigh.

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**DOT Update.**

Mr. Jamie Wilson updated the Committee members on the following projects:

- Hendersonville Signal – Should be back on the schedule and finished by end of May
- US 64 West – Job has started, and the road will be closed every night from 7 p.m. – 6 a.m. to install the water and sewer until completed
- Concrete project on I-26 - Stopped temporarily due to weather but has started up again and on schedule and will be completed this year
- Opened two bridge projects - Clear Creek and Mud Creek area – both North of US 25
- Upward Road and US 225 - Still on the Let list

**Highway 191 (Mills River/Hendersonville).**

Mr. Crafton stated in the priority needs list, there is a widening project scheduled for Highway 191 which is included on other plans as well. The item is listed in two sections. Section A is from Highway 25 to Mountain Road and Section B is from Mountain Road to Highway 280 (Boylston Highway). Jamie Wilson of NCDOT indicated that the project is on hold until there is interest in the form of a public hearing or feasibility study. After some discussion it was decided that a feasibility study for the portion from Mountain Road to Boyleston Highway should be requested.

**Municipal Issues.**

Bo Ferguson gave a brief update on Chadwick Avenue Extension and other municipal issues.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.

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Jim Crafton, Chairman