

**Henderson County**  
**TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**March 7, 2012**

The Transportation Advisory Committee met March 7, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. in the King Street Meeting Room at 100 North King Street, Hendersonville. Members present were Chairman Jim Crafton; Steve Caraker, City of Hendersonville; Don Farr, Village of Flat Rock; Renee Kumor, at-large; and Keith Maddox, at-large. Members not in attendance were Eddie Henderson, Town of Fletcher; Roger Snyder, Town of Mills River; Robert Vickery, Town of Laurel Park; David Jones, at-large; Commissioner Mike Edney; and Commissioner Bill O'Connor. Henderson County Staff members included Anthony Starr, Planning Director and Matthew Cable, Transportation Planner. Steve Cannon, NCDOT District Engineer and Bo Ferguson, City of Hendersonville Manager were also present. Mr. Crafton called the meeting to order at 4:28p.m. upon the establishment of a quorum with the arrival of Mr. Starr.

**New Business:**

Chairman Comments. Mr. Crafton began with a discussion of the Complete Streets policy under consideration with NCDOT. Mr Cannon explained the purposes of the NCDOT Complete Streets policy and that it will affect all NCDOT projects. He further explained that the Complete Streets policy was not finalized and that the exact implementation of the program was not fully communicated at this point throughout NCDOT. Mr. Cable explained that, though this policy is not fully in place, its recommendations are already influencing projects such as the Howard Gap Road widening project's inclusion of bike lanes. Mr. Cable also explained that NCDOT had begun requesting feedback from local jurisdictions on new projects (in this case the diverging diamond interchange at I-26 and NC Highway 280) as to their completeness.

Municipal Representative Updates. Mr. Carraker discussed the downtown improvements underway in the City of Hendersonville. He discussed future planned improvements along Main Street and the specifics of both visible (above ground) and invisible (below ground) improvements that were taking place. Mr. Carraker also mentioned the Ecusta Rail Meeting being held on March 28, 2012 by the City of Hendersonville. He encouraged interested members of the Henderson County TAC to attend the meeting as the report is received by the City Council. Mr. Cable indicated he would forward the meeting information to the members of the TAC. Mr. Starr arrived and a quorum was achieved.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Mr. Maddox made a motion to approve of the minutes of the November 2, 2011 meeting. Ms. Kumor seconded the motion and all members voted in favor.

**New Business Continued:**

NCDOT Update. Mr. Cannon provided the following project updates:

- The US 25 Connector project is 99.8% complete. This is the road widening project from I-26 to the four-lane section of US 25.
- The Upward Road project is 40% complete, slightly behind schedule. The anticipated completion date is August, 2013.
- The Howard Gap Road widening project includes paving 12 foot wide travel lanes, geometric improvements, a roundabout at Brookside Camp Rd and bike lanes from US 64 to Jackson Rd in

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Fletcher. The northern section, from near Brookside Camp Rd, will be bid in June of this year. The southern section will be bid in late 2012.

- Two bridges on Little River Road are soon to be replaced. Mr. Starr asked if NCDOT will consider aesthetic improvements to the new bridges since that road is designated as a NC Scenic Byway. Mr. Cannon indicated he would communicate this information and make determinations in this regard.
- NCDOT plans safety improvements on NC 191 from Mountain Rd to Rugby Rd by adding turn lanes at the schools and traffic lights and a center turn lane for the whole section. It is expected to go to bid in January, 2014. Mr. Crafton was pleased that this project was moving forward.
- Erkwood/Shepherd Street intersection with Greenville Highway design work is under way with a consulting firm hired by NCDOT. The firm will present the design alternatives to NCDOT at which time a public hearing will likely be scheduled. Mr. Starr asked that NCDOT forward that information, once received, to Henderson County so that we can provide it to our Board of Commissioners as well as the Village of Flat Rock and City of Hendersonville.

SPOT Highway and Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects Update. Mr. Cable provided a review of the SPOT scoring process and overall ranking of Henderson County projects when compared to projects statewide. He explained the importance of Division 14 point assignments and how it is important that we have open communication with Division 14 in the next process to ensure that the points assigned by the Division match French Broad River MPO assigned points to maximize position in the competitive statewide process. Mr. Cable explained that the Balfour Parkway project was the highest ranking Henderson County project (51 out of over 1,200 road projects entered into SPOT). Of the large projects (cost over \$97M), the Balfour Parkway is the highest ranked project in the State (ahead of 84 others). This should move forward action on this project with the environmental and design work starting first.

Mr. Cable also provided a copy of the Henderson County projects listed in the latest State Transportation Improvement Program (2012-2018). He explained that these would be available at future meetings to aid in discussion about scheduled projects.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

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Jim Crafton, Chairman  
Henderson County Transportation Advisory Committee