

Henderson County
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE: October 18, 2023

The Transportation Advisory Committee held a regularly scheduled meeting on October 18th, at 4:00 p.m. in the King Street Meeting Room and online via Microsoft Teams. Voting members present online are denoted with the letter “O”.

Voting Member	Present	Absent
Beau Waddell, Chair at-large		√
Joe Sanders, Vice-Chair at-large	√	
Sam Henderson, at-large	√	
Warren Ladbrook, at-large	O	
Rebecca McCall, Henderson County	√	
Bill Lapsley, Henderson County	√	
Jennifer Hensley, City of Hendersonville	√	
Anne Coletta, Village of Flat Rock	√	
Shanon Gonce, Town of Mills River	√	
Bob Davy, Town of Fletcher	√	
George Banta, Town of Laurel Park	√	

Also present at the table: Autumn Radcliff, Planning Director; Janna Bianculli, Senior Planner; Tristan Winkler, FBRMPO; and Troy Wilson, NCDOT.

Mr. Joe Sanders, Vice Chair at-large, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Public Comment:

None.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes:

Councilman Bob Davy moved to approve the agenda and the previous month’s meeting minutes. Vice Mayor Anne Coletta seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Discussion:

Presentation: US64 Pedestrian Death

Mrs. Janna Bianculli presented on the recent pedestrian death that occurred on US64 in Hendersonville near the Citgo gas station as it was a requested topic. Information was presented on the circumstances of the accident including location, time of day, lack of crosswalk, and why the pedestrian was wishing to cross in that area. Of note was the higher pedestrian volume on US64 than many people think, as well as the difficulties obtaining information about vehicle crashes since there is no requirement for local law enforcement to collect data on State Highway Patrol jurisdictional cases.

Continued Discussion on SPOT Prioritization (P 7.0) Bike/Ped Submittals

Mr. Tristan Winkler, FBRMPO Director reiterated last month’s request regarding swapping a bike/ped submittal for the Saluda Grade Trail. The city had the most entries, so it was decided to be their call on whether to make the swap. Discussion centered around options as well as the concern that the alignment of the trail past Zirconia is unknown. Councilwoman Jennifer Hensley decided to not swap in the Saluda Grade, but still make a swap to better align with City priorities. She made the motion to swap the Brooklyn Avenue sidewalks with the N Main/Clear Creek bike/ped infrastructure. Vice Mayor Anne Coletta seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Updates:

NCDOT Update

Mr. Troy Wilson, NCDOT gave updates for ongoing projects and projects in development. The project table is attached for reference. Mr. Wilson in particular mentioned that Fruitland, Howard Gap, and Orrs Camp Roads will all have sidewalks and safety improvements by January (most likely). Mr. Sam Henderson asked about the I-26 issue in Green River and Mr. Wilson responded that an oil tankard truck crashed and spilled its contents. All contaminants are cleaned up according to DEQ. An additional guardrail will be installed by the end of November.

Town of Fletcher

Councilman Bob Davy shared that NCDOT worked with residents on the soundwall issue along I-26. After new testing, it was determined that they will move forward with installing soundwalls in those areas. He also informed the TAC that he will not be returning in 2024 for his term with the Town, so he will also no longer be part of the TAC and MPO.

Town of Mills River

Mayor Shanon Gonce reported that the Town just passed their bicycle and pedestrian plan and are excited about that.

Village of Flat Rock

Vice Mayor Coletta updated on the speeding and safety issues in the Village. They've asked NCDOT to review and potentially install a rumble strip along the centerline on both Little River Rd and Blue Ridge Rd. The Village also reviewed data from the speed radars on Greenville Hwy and found that when drivers can see their speed on the monitor, it causes them to reduce their speed. They are looking into putting radars on Little River Rd as well.

Town of Laurel Park

Councilman George Banta stated that their paving project is 1/3 complete. The other 2/3 will be completed next March. The Jump Off Rock entrance now looks really nice. He also mentioned continued discussion with NCDOT regarding lighting on the US64 W project.

City of Hendersonville

Councilwoman Jennifer Hensley updated the TAC that the City is still working on the public input portion of their comprehensive plan and are hoping to receive a lot of input from the community.

Henderson County

Chairwoman McCall shared that the groundbreaking for the Ecusta Trail will be held on October 28th rain or shine and invites the TAC and others to attend.

Next Meeting:

The next TAC meeting is scheduled for November 15, 2023.

The meeting adjourned at 5:09 PM.

Beau Waddell, Chair
Henderson County Transportation Advisory Committee

*Anyone can request a copy of the meeting recording by contacting County staff.