

**Henderson County**  
**TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE: September 20, 2023**

The Transportation Advisory Committee held a regularly scheduled meeting on September 20th, 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	√	
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. Beau Waddell, Chair at-large, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

**Public Comment:**

The TAC heard from one member of the public regarding trucks at intersections at Tracey Grove Road, Howard Gap Road, and Station Road.

**Approval of Agenda and Minutes:**

Henderson County Board Chair Rebecca McCall moved to approve the agenda and the previous month’s meeting minutes. Vice Mayor Anne Coletta seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**Discussion:**

**Presentation: Roundabouts**

Mrs. Janna Bianculli, Henderson County Senior Planner, presented on the safety and cost savings of implementing roundabouts. Committee members asked about before and after accident data for roundabouts in the region, and about projects being considered for roundabouts. Members also discussed adding roundabout training to drivers’ education courses. Adding signalization to help traffic flow at peak times and using landscaping as a beautification and safety tool for roundabouts were suggested as measures to improve effectiveness. Pedestrian safety and the challenge of creating pedestrian crossings at roundabouts was discussed.

**Continued Discussion on SPOT Prioritization (P 7.0)**

Mr. Tristan Winkler, FBRMPO Director provided an update on SPOT, saying it would be delayed by a month. The Saluda Grade Trail is not currently on the submittal list, but this could be a good opportunity to add the trail to the draft submittal list if it is a priority to get construction funding. Chuck McGrady informed the TAC that the Saluda Grade Trail has been added to the Foothills RPO submittal, but that money should be put on it now to ensure the trail has enough to be realized. Mr. Winkler suggested putting the Henderson County side of the trail on the submittal list to create options. Members asked if the project were to change into a passenger rail project rather than a trail, but STBG money would no longer be an option if the project were to not be bike or

pedestrian related. Mr. Winkler suggested that the Henderson County portion of Saluda Grade Trail should be added to the submittal, and the Allen Branch Greenway would be removed, but NCDOT would be asked to submit that project instead with something in writing guaranteeing a cost match.

### **Updates:**

#### **NCDOT Update**

Mr. Troy Wilson, NCDOT gave updates for ongoing projects, including delays. Highland Road project is being delayed due to a lack of timely reviews from the city for utilities. King Street paving project is behind but will be in default if the project isn't finished by the end of October. The committee asked if the Green River Bridge would be expanded, and Mr. Wilson explained that it was constructed in a way that widening could be done without requiring a rebuilding of the bridge. NCDOT would like to abandon the ROW over the road and bridge over Lake Osceola due to substandard safety conditions (the road has been closed since 2016). Mr. Wilson expressed support from Henderson County and Hendersonville is needed since portions are in the ETJ.

#### **City of Hendersonville**

Ms. Jennifer Hensley updated the TAC on LPI Projects, mentioning that they hope to see data improvements. Hendersonville has kickstarted their Comprehensive Plan efforts.

#### **Town of Laurel Park**

Councilman George Banta announced a meeting next week with NCDOT for landscaping in 64 roundabouts, and that they are two thirds done with the paving culvert project.

#### **Village of Flat Rock**

Vice Mayor Coletta received an update on N Highland Road for 09-15-2024 and will be adding 100 days to the schedule.

#### **Henderson County**

Chairwoman McCall updated the TAC that the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the contractor for Ecusta Trail construction and PE.

#### **Town of Fletcher**

Mr. Bob Davy shared two instances of traffic concerns and his amazement at NCDOT response time and how quickly they worked to clear the incident. Mr. Davy also looked at data with DOT to investigate change in accident rates.

### **Next Meeting:**

The next TAC meeting is scheduled for October 18, 2023.

The meeting adjourned at 5:16 PM.

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Beau Waddell, Chair  
Henderson County Transportation Advisory Committee

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