

Henderson County
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE: November 15, 2023

The Transportation Advisory Committee held a regularly scheduled meeting on November 15, 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	O	
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:

None.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes:

Mayor Shanon Gonce moved to approve the agenda and minutes as presented and Vice Mayor Anne Coletta seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2024 Meeting Calendar Adoption:

The Committee was presented with the 2024 Meeting Calendar. The Committee will continue meeting the third Wednesday of the month at 4:00 PM in the King Street Meeting Room and virtually. There are no meetings in July or December. Member-at-large Joe Sanders moved to adopt the calendar and Commissioner Rebecca McCall seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Discussion:

Update on Apple Country Public Transit Feasibility Study:

Mrs. Bianculli provided an overview and update on the ACPT Feasibility Study prepared by AECOM. Mrs. Bianculli shared the various public outreach staff has done, including hosting focus groups, steering committee meetings, targeted conversations with bus drivers, and two different surveys. AECOM has provided a full draft version of the study and staff has reviewed and provided feedback. Once staff is satisfied with the study, it will be reviewed by the steering committee. Any changes provided by the steering committee will be incorporated into the study before being presented to the County Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Bill Lapsley requested that the Transportation Advisory Committee also review the final draft of the study before plan acceptance.

Strong Towns Program:

Mrs. Bianculli gave a presentation on the Strong Towns Program and their Crash Analysis Studio. This Crash Analysis Studio analyzes car crashes through a panel of technical and non-technical experts. This panel then identifies what can be done to reduce the frequency of and trauma of future crashes. Staff provided an example of an unsafe pedestrian crossing along Asheville Highway in Hendersonville. The Committee discussed how this analysis could be applied to transportation decisions before an accident occurs. Staff also shared the NCDOT Vision Zero Policy and the creation of “complete streets” with the Committee.

Updates:

NCDOT Update

Mr. Troy Wilson, NCDOT gave updates for ongoing projects and projects in development. The I-26 project is currently on schedule. Mr. Wilson informed the Committee that there is a road closure on I-26 Wednesday and Thursday night between exits 33 and 37 and exit 44-53. There are engineering issues with the I-26 drainage on the Saluda Grade, but work is expected to start back next week. Mr. Wilson also shared that there is resurfacing taking place along King Street and should be paved in the next week. The preconstruction conference for the Ecusta Trail was also held this week. A full list of project updates is attached.

Town of Fletcher

Mr. Bob Davy shared his concerns about the I-26 construction, specifically the safety of the temporary on-ramps.

Town of Laurel Park

Councilman George Banta shared that paving in Laurel Park is slowing down and will pick back up in the Spring. The Town is currently working with NCDOT on landscaping, lighting, and sidewalk plans along US-64.

Councilman Beau Waddell thanked Mr. Bob Davy for his service on the Transportation Advisory Committee as this is his last meeting serving on behalf of the Town of Fletcher.

Next Meeting:

The next TAC meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2024. There is no December meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Beau Waddell, Chair
Henderson County Transportation Advisory Committee

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