

Henderson County
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
July 23, 2009

The Transportation Advisory Committee met on July 23, 2000 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; Renee Kumor, at-large; Terry Hicks, at-large; and Barbara Volk, City of Hendersonville. Staff members included Anthony Starr, Planning Director; Hope Bleecker, Transportation Planner; and Kathleen Scanlan, Secretary. Also present was Jamie Wilson, NCDOT Project Construction Engineer. Keith Maddox, David Jones and Roger Snyder were absent.

Approval of Draft Minutes

Chairman Crafton called the meeting to order and asked for the approval of May 28, 2009 minutes. Committee member Eddie Henderson made a motion to approve the minutes and Renee Kumor seconded the motion. All members voted in favor.

Chairman's Report

NCDOT SPOT PROCESS:

Jim Crafton commented on how the State, with their new *SPOT* system (Strategic Planning Office of Transportation), will go forward on prioritizes road projects. He stated that the purpose is to create a more data based process for ranking high priority projects and at the same time create new performance measures and targets. Ms. Bleecker supplied a draft chart showing how projects will be evaluated, either quantitatively or qualitatively data. He said the process will include a weighted ranking system based on goal, tier, and MPO/RPO rankings and then evaluated into its own tier. Ms. Bleecker stated that it is a work in progress. Jamie Wilson also added further information to this discussion.

Staff Report

Upcoming Transit Regionalization Study:

Ms. Bleecker stated that NCDOT has made a decision to fund a Transit Regionalization Study and this means that they have called the Apple Country Transit System, Mountain Mobility and Asheville Transit as partners in this study. NCDOT has funded those organizations to look at the potential of consolidating their operations under one house. She stated that she and Anthony had met with the hired NCDOT consultant and have been involved in this for the last month. The Board of Commissioners at one of their last meetings, appointed three board members to serve on the steering committee for that panel. These board members will be Selena Coffey, Assistant County Manager, Anthony Starr and Commissioner Chuck McGrady. Ms. Bleecker said she would serve as Staff member. This panel will be made up of nine members. She stated that the purpose of the study is to look at how the three organizations Buncombe, Henderson, and City of Asheville can be consolidated. There will be two phases to the study which will include addressing the question of whether or not it would be appropriate economically and administratively to consolidate. If so, the second part of the effort would be to address the process of how it might happen. She stated that this is a preliminary effort which will start in October, 2009 and go through February, 2010. The report for the first phase would be released during the spring of 2010. Mr. Crafton asked what the benefit of this study would be to the region or to us. She stated that there may be some efficiencies that could be realized at least from a management standpoint. Mr. Starr added there may be other benefits to marketing, trip scheduling, and consolidating what might be viewed as a duplication of effort among these individual agencies who manage a lot of the same daily tasks. However, if this idea were to move forward, Henderson County would have to be actively involved in deciding how the governing and management end of it would be structured so as to address the County's needs.

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NCDOT Update

Highway 191 Feasibility Study. Mr. Jamie Wilson stated that a feasibility study could be slated through the upcoming SPOT process. After some considerable discussion, Chairman Crafton suggested that at the September's meeting of the Advisory Committee, the discussion will focus on the approach of dealing with NC 191 project and each municipal leader's opinion. He also stated that we should try to determine, along with the guidance of a NCDOT representative, how we should study this either as one piece or in sections and then discuss the funding for it. He asked Hope Bleecker to pull together some of the relevant background data and be ready to talk about the project at the next meeting.

The stimulus project on US 176 - curb and gutter work is being done as well as all of the concrete and intersection work and should be done by August, 2009

US 25 Connector – Has been contracted

US 64 West – Working on retaining walls, ahead of project and might be completed by end of 2010

Concrete project on I-26 - Continuous-will be completed soon

Upward Road – To begin March 2010

Old Spartanburg Highway – Bridge Project under Construction, projected to be finished by October, 2009

Crail Farm Bridge in Flat Rock –Out to Contract, will be completed on or before fall 2009

Howard Gap Road – On Hold due to Funds

Signals in Downtown Hendersonville – Working on getting them synchronized

Municipal Issues

Ms. Barbara Volk informed the Committee members that the sidewalk on US 25 North from Patton Park to Balfour has been started. The lights on Main Street and crosswalks are being completed and the final work has been postponed until fall.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm.

Jim Crafton, Chairman