

**MINUTES**  
Henderson County  
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
July 24, 2008

The Transportation Advisory Committee met on July 24, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. in the King Street Board Room at 100 N. King Street, Hendersonville. Members present were Chairman Jim Crafton, Hendersonville Representative Barbara Volk, Laurel Park Representative Keith Maddox, Flat Rock Representative Don Farr, , Terry Hicks, at large, David Jones, at large, Renee Kumor, at large, Chuck McGrady, Commissioner. Staff members included Jamie Wilson, Project Construction Engineer, NCDOT, Mark Gibbs, District Engineer, NCDOT, Planner Hope Bleecker, Planning Director Anthony Starr and Kathleen Scanlan, Secretary. Those Committee members absent were Eddie Henderson of Fletcher and Roger Snyder of Mills River.

Mr. Starr introduced Kathleen Scanlan, who will be the secretary in charge of preparing the minutes for the Committee meetings.

**Approval of Draft Minutes**

Chairman Crafton called the meeting to order and asked for the approval of March 27 and May 22, 2008 minutes. All members voted in favor of both sets of minutes.

**Chairman's Report**

The Chairman stated that there are many activities happening in Henderson County and that the Committee should be aware of local issues affecting transportation and collectively present them to the MPO, as the MPO is the transportation planning authority for the region.

**Flat Rock Bridge**

The Chairman stated that at the Committee's last meeting in May, there was a discussion regarding the Flat Rock bridge replacement at Crail Farm Road. Neighbors in the area are concerned about the project and feel that they would like to keep the bridge in its current state rather than a bigger and fancier bridge. Jamie Wilson of NCDOT was present to discuss this issue. The Chairman stated that NCDOT's position is that the bridge is a forty-three year old timber bridge, with a temporary center support to sustain its given passageway. He added with a serious flooding condition, the support would be taken out and most of the bridge would be lost. He stated that NCDOT has the opportunity to receive federal funds to replace it so that it would require little or no maintenance compared to the older bridge which results in increasing maintenance expenses. He stated that the Commissioners asked that the Committee make a recommendation regarding that bridge. He mentioned that the Committee members voiced their desire to see the plans and discuss it further at this meeting.

Jamie Wilson showed pictures of renderings used for a similar project in Polk County, and stated that the bridge which is being replaced, is similar to the bridge we propose to replace in Flat Rock. He stated that NCDOT is planning on replacing the older bridge in Flat Rock with a pre-cast culvert that will have a head wall that connect to maintain the road fill. He explained they will establish two nine-foot lanes and minimum shoulders (approximately four-foot shoulders) for a width of 26".

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**Motion**

After some further discussion, Terry Hicks made a motion that the Committee recommends to proceed with construction of the Flat Rock Bridge and that they work with the community to come up with an aesthetic design satisfies the residents. Renee Kumor seconded the motion. Committee members Keith Maddox, Renee Kumor, Terry Hicks, Barbara Volk, David Jones and Chairman Crafton voted in favor. Don Farr voted against the motion. The motion carried six to one.

**NCDOT Update**

**Signals -** Moving forward with the 47 signals in the downtown area.

**US 64 from Immaculata Catholic Church to Blythe Street** – Contract is being prepared in Raleigh and released for September. **Plans** are to show three lanes and then drop to a two-lane design at the YMCA. It is set for a 2 ½ year job. Ms. Volk will fill in with more information.

**Cummings Road** - Contract just received and the bid will be awarded by next week.

**I-26 Project** – Moving forward with the construction

**Upward Road** – On schedule and will be up for bid in February 2009. All of the right-of-way has been acquired or in the process of being condemned and there are some properties that negotiations are being made.

**R505 Project (US 25 Connector)** – It is in right-of-way and all contacts have been made and beginning to purchase right-of-ways. It will be released for next year.

**I-26 Concrete Section** – Mix design has been approved and more crews have been hired and work will be proceeding.

Chairman Crafton brought up the possibility of access roads in the Upward Road area to limit the number of intersections along the major thoroughfare. He asked who is in the best position to encourage those opportunities to be sure as development happens that we try to create access roads and access control. Mr. Wilson stated that it would be Mark Gibbs, District Engineer, who would approve all driveway permits.

Commissioner McGrady informed the Committee that relating to the funding issues of these mentioned projects, the Blue Ribbon Commission that he serves on has been meeting. He said that on September 10 or 11 a reception and report will be given in Asheville and public officials as well as members of this Committee will get invitations to some of the functions.

Commissioner McGrady said NCDOT is looking to divest responsibility for some sets of roads to counties and municipalities, thus freeing up more money from current NCDOT funding sources to pay for all of the projects that are back-logged. Local governments are not sure they

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want the responsibility for this, but if we take responsibility for it, we want funding sources and flexibility.

**Work Plan**

Ms. Bleecker said that the proposed work plan should act as a guideline for committee projects. She stated that the next segment in the work plan is long-range transportation plan dealing with community goals and objectives, working with the MPO on the highway element, analyzing goals, objectives and strategies for the area transit system and providing staff support for public involvement efforts for bicycle and pedestrian planning.

**Municipal Issues**

Barbara Volk updated the Committee on the cemetery issue surrounding Highway 64. She stated that there is a possibility of running a separate road around the back of some undeveloped property to the schools. Several more meetings are scheduled with the committee which has been organized locally. Hendersonville is well into their Comprehensive Plan. A draft plan is being finished by early fall and should be approved by early next year. Regarding the old shopping center that was considered the Sky City Plaza, there is going to be a road that will connect Old Spartanburg Highway to Spartanburg Highway, coming out from Chadwick and the goal is that NCDOT will move the light down to that intersection from where it presently is at McDonald's. She added that this would be part of the signalization process. Her understanding of the signalization goes on US 25 South, is that it goes from NC 191, south to Chadwick, King and Church Streets, and US 64 from Howard Gap Road to Blythe Street – every light through there.

Don Farr said that his local transportation committee recommended that at the intersection of Little River Road and Greenville Highway be made more perpendicular, rather than 45 degrees, to make it easier for larger vehicles to maneuver. He suggested that when NCDOT has a final recommended alternative that Flat Rock needs time to study it and to give suggestions sometime in August.

**New Business**

Mr. Gibbs updated the Committee on some projects coming up and mentioned that the improvement of Old Stepp Avenue project will start in the fall and it will not include any right-of-ways and will expand the roadway and improve the curb and gutter sections.

Chairman Crafton stated there are a couple items he would like to address in September's meeting: (1) By-Law revision, which basically is adjusting the membership aspect to comply with the new charter; (2) the financial resource item; and (3) how the Committee might like to address Highway 191.

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The next meeting will be September 11, 2008 at 3pm.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm.

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Jim Crafton, Chairman