

MINUTES
Henderson County
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
April 26, 2007

The Henderson County Transportation Advisory Committee met on Thursday, April 26, 2007 at 3:00 pm in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the County Office Building.

TAC members in attendance were Jaime Adrignola, Chair Jim Crafton, Captain Steve Carter, Bill Crisp, Eddie Henderson, Terry Hicks, David Jones, Lee King, Vice-Chair Renee Kumor, Jon Laughter, Keith Maddox, Hunter Marks and Matt Matteson. TAC members absent were Chip Gould, Virgle McClure, Steve Orr, Tedd Pearce and Scott Scheneck.

Also in attendance were Commissioner Chuck McGrady and Paul White, NCDOT Engineer, District 14, Planner Autumn Radcliff.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jim Crafton called the meeting to order.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Chair Crafton presented a roster for the four subcommittees. The Safety, Maintenance and Improvements subcommittee members are Chair Jaime Adrignola, Jon Laughter, Steve Carter, David Jones and Virgil McClure. The CTP & MPO subcommittee members are Chair Renee Kumor, Steve Orr, Lee King and Keith Maddox. The TIP subcommittee members are Chair Chip Gould, Eddie Henderson, Tedd Pearce and Hunter Marks. The Alternate Transportation subcommittee members are Chair Matt Matteson, Bill Crisp, Terry Hicks and the Flat Rock representative.

TIP UPDATE

Commissioner Chuck McGrady provided a flow chart of the TIP that was created by the MPO which shows the major roadways projects, which ones are being funded and in what priority they are presently being shown. He invited the TAC to review the information and make recommendations, i.e., if the priorities were in order, something needed to be added, etc. Mr. McGrady would then take that information back to the MPO.

Chair Crafton would give that information to the TIP subcommittee to lead the TAC in its input.

STAFF REPORTS

CTP UPDATE

Autumn Radcliff informed the TAC that per Sarah Smith with NCDOT a firm had been hired to complete the CTP. Per the TAC's request, Ms. Radcliff provided a copy of the Phase I CTP Henderson County data. Ms. Smith and/or other MPO staff would be invited to attend the next TAC meeting to give the TAC an update on the CTP. Commissioner McGrady informed the TAC that at the last MPO meeting it was announced that September 1, 2007 is the completion date for the CTP.

PUBLIC TRANSIT

Ms. Radcliff gave a brief update on the request to add an Apple Country Transit stop at Parkside Commons in East Flat Rock. Although no final decision had been made, consideration was being given to add a stop at Parkside Commons on an as needed basis only. Riders would call in 30 minutes prior to the route schedule to request a bus stop at Parkside Commons.

UPDATES FROM THE MUNICIPALITIES

Keith Maddox informed the TAC that Laurel Park has no request for the STP-DA funds. However, Laurel Park sent a letter to the MPO requesting they use some of the planning funds to do a study on upgrading White Pine Drive from 5th Avenue down Highway 64 West to accommodate additional traffic volumes that will be created with the Highway 64 widening project and development in the area. That project is listed on the MPO flow chart at the bottom of page 3.

Eddie Henderson informed the TAC that the Town of Fletcher had submitted two projects for the STP-DA funds. One was to do sidewalks from Fanning Bridge Road down US 25 on St. John's Road and the other project was to do a greenway connection. Fletcher is also trying to obtain a signal light at the entrance of Broadpointe Industrial Park and Highway 280 to address a safety issue where a fatality occurred recently.

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Jaime Adrignola of the Town of Mills River distributed information on a project that Mills River submitted for the STP-DA funds for realignment of the intersection of Ray Hill Road and Turnpike Road to address safety issues with sight distance and future traffic volume.

Jon Laughter explained that the City of Hendersonville may submit a project for the STP-DA funds for the improvement of the intersection of Shepherd Street contingent on City Council approving the 20% match. Another consideration is improvements at the other end of Rutledge and Brookwood and US 225. The City also hopes to have a connection between Old Spartanburg Highway and US176 that would allow turns off US 225, go down Chadwick Avenue and then straight across Highway 176 and Old Spartanburg Road. The City is also looking at sidewalk improvements as a STP-DA project.

Terry Hicks from Flat Rock explained that beginning in June NCDOT will begin improvements on West Blue Ridge Road. It is listed on the flow chart.

STATUS OF US 64 WIDENING PROJECT

NCDOT engineer Paul White gave a brief overview on the US64 West widening project. He explained that plans are out and efforts underway to buy rights-of-way. Mr. White reviewed the map for that project with the TAC and answered members' questions. The project starts at Blythe Street and goes to Buncombe Street. It is basically a widening project on the existing alignment to create a center turn lane with a sidewalk on either side except for the cemetery section. At the area of the cemetery, the roadway will remain as the existing two lanes. There will be a four feet sidewalk on the southside through the cemetery. Mr. White explained that initially the plan called for a three lane roadway all the way for uniformity but there are actual burial plots and also a historic wall in the area of the cemetery. He further explained the plan details are subject to be changed up until June 2008 which is the anticipated contract let date.

TAC members expressed concern that that a bottleneck of traffic would occur because no turn lanes were included in the plan to promote vehicular access to the school. It was the consensus of the TAC to ask NCDOT officials to respond to Chair Crafton with an explanation as to why the roadway could not be three lanes in the cemetery area because that's the most crucial area in the whole stretch. Mr. White would request NCDOT to respond accordingly.

NEW BUSINESS

Keith Maddox asked the TAC to consider making a recommendation to the County Commissioners that they issue a letter of support for House Bill 1004, Highway Trust Fund Transfers Elimination. That bill repeals the transfer funds from the highway trust fund to the general fund and requires that the general fund repay the highway trust fund for any monies transferred to an excessive amount authorized by the statute since this Bill. A motion was made that "...we recommend to our Board of Commissioners that they take a step in letter writing or whatever form to show support for this bill in the State House". The motion was made contingent upon Mr. Maddox checking with the North Carolina League of Municipalities to make sure they support that bill also. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business. Chairman Crafton adjourned the meeting at 4:35 pm.

APPROVED BY:

ATTEST:

JIM CRAFTON, CHAIR

AVALINA B. MERRILL, SECRETARY