

MINUTES
Henderson County
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
March 23, 2006

The Henderson County Transportation Advisory Committee met for its monthly meeting on Thursday, March 23, 2006 at 3:00 pm in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the County Office Building.

TAC members in attendance were Bill Crisp, Jim Crafton, Chip Gould, Eddie Henderson, Terry Hicks, Lee King, Jon Laughter, Jack Lynch, Keith Maddox, John Manners, Matt Matteson, Virgle McClure, Gary Mintz, Tedd Pearce, Jack Summey and Terri Wallace. TAC members Renee Kumor and Flaughn Lamb were absent.

CALL TO ORDER and APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Jack Lynch called the meeting to order. A motion was made and carried to approve the minutes of 02-23-06 meeting as presented.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Chair Jack Lynch opened the floor for nominations and nominated Jim Crafton as Chair for the TAC. There were no other nominations. A motion was made to close the nominations and Jim Crafton was elected as Chair by a unanimous vote. Mr. Crafton will assume the role of Chair of the TAC effective April 2006.

Chair Lynch opened the floor for nominations of Vice-Chair for the TAC. Renee Kumor was nominated and a motion was made to close nominations. Ms. Kumor was elected as Vice-Chair by a unanimous vote. Ms. Kumor will assume role of Vice-Chair effective April 2006.

COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

Jim Crafton gave an update on the CTP. On behalf of the new TAC members, Mr. Crafton explained how the computer model for the Phase I Highway Map of the CTP was developed by the NCDOT consultant Don Bryson of Martin, Alexiou and Bryson. Data of all the existing and projected increases in housing and places of business in Henderson County was used to develop travel loads on the different roadways to determine which roadways and which intersections were insufficient to carry to the projected loads, which ones were OK and which ones were marginal. That same process will now occur for Phase II of the CTP but it's going to be a regional model instead of a Henderson County model. NCDOT hopes to have the model for 2005 by the end of March. At some point in the future, a model will be developed to represent the year 2030.

Dan Holt, NCDOT Transportation Planning Engineer for the Western Region Planning Group, had corresponded with Mr. Crafton via email regarding the status of the County's CTP. Because NCDOT is now developing a regional model, progress hinges on other counties. Haywood County is just moving into the visioning public process. Buncombe County is just now completing their comprehensive transportation plan task force. But Mr. Holt believes that all counties will meet the September 2006 deadline.

Mr. Holt is finalizing information about the County's bicycle and greenways map. Sometime in the past Mary Jo Padgett had recommended the idea of a regional greenway concept of greenways for the entire region. So NCDOT is now looking at a regional greenway concept.

T.I.P. UPDATE

Chip Gould gave an update to the TAC on the T.I.P. The draft for the 2007 to 2013 T.I.P is anticipated to be available in May or June. Since there are no more NCDOT funds available, the TAC will not be recommending any new projects or any changes to the projects already on the T.I.P.

PUBLIC TRANSIT UPDATE

Henderson County Planner Autumn Radcliff gave an update on public transit. She reminded the TAC that when Henderson County became part of the MPO, two of the County's three public transit routes are now considered urban routes which fall under Federal guidelines and a different pot of money for which they'll be eligible for funding. Public transit to serve those routes has to be bid out. The County hired a consultant to assist with this bid process. Requests for proposal for those two lines were released mid-March to Apple Country Transit, City of Asheville Public Transit as well as to other providers in North Carolina and other states. The proposals are due in April and hopefully a contract will be awarded by the 1st of May. The provider who accepts the bid and gets the contract has to be ready to provide public transit service by July 1st, the county's new fiscal year.

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US 225/25 CONNECTOR and UPWARD ROAD

Chair Lynch gave an update on the formal public hearing on US 25 (I-26/US25 Connector, NC 225) from US 25 near Zirconia to I-26 that was conducted by NCDOT on March 24 at the Flat Rock Middle School. The project proposes to widen US 25 to a four-lane roadway with a median from US 25 near Zirconia to I-26 in Henderson County. Right-of-way acquisition is proposed for 2010 with construction in 2013.

Mr. Lynch explained there was no discussion of the Upward Road project at that public hearing and nothing has changed on that project. During a WHKP radio interview with Conrad Burrell regarding the public hearing on the US 25/NC225 project, Mr. Burrell mistakenly referred to the project as Upward Road and the press put out that erroneous information which created some inquiries from citizens along the proposed Upward Road project.

ADJOURNMENT

Jack Lynch informed the TAC he was moving to Raleigh and announced his resignation from the TAC. The TAC applauded Jack for his years of service and dedication to the TAC.

Jim Crafton will be discussing with the TAC at its next meeting subcommittee assignments to address transportation issues that come up.

Chair Lynch adjourned the meeting at 4:15 pm. The next TAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 27 at 3:00 pm in the Commissioners meeting room.

APPROVED BY:

ATTEST:

JIM CRAFTON, VICE-CHAIR

AVALINA B. MERRILL