

Henderson County
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
March 6, 2013

The Transportation Advisory Committee met March 6, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. in the King Street Meeting Room at 100 North King Street, Hendersonville. Members present were Jim Crafton, Chairman at-large, Renee Kumor, Vice-Chairman at-large; David Jones, at-large; Keith Maddox, at-large; Steve Caraker, City of Hendersonville; Don Farr, Village of Flat Rock; and Board of Commissioner Vice-Chairman Tommy Thompson. Members not in attendance were Eddie Henderson, Town of Fletcher; Robert Vickery, Town of Laurel Park; Roger Snyder, Town of Mills River; and Commissioner Mike Edney. Henderson County Staff members included Matthew Cable, Transportation Planner; Autumn Radcliff, Interim Planning Director, and John Mitchell, Business and Community Development Director. Steve Cannon, NCDOT District Engineer and Bucky Galloway, NCDOT Safety Engineer, were present. Mr. Justin Hembree, Local Government Services Director with Land-of-Sky Regional Council and French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (FBRMPO or MPO), was also present.

Mr. Crafton called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.. Mr. Crafton opened the floor to public comment. Mr. Farr took the opportunity to introduce Ms. Judy Boleman, the new Administrator for the Village of Flat Rock, who will serve as a representative for Flat Rock to the MPO Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC).

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Jones made a motion to approve of the minutes of the November 7, 2012 meeting. Ms. Kumor seconded the motion and all members voted in favor.

New Business:

Chairman Comments. Mr. Crafton provided an update for the Committee regarding its November discussion of MPO requested Complete Streets Policy recommendations on existing SPOT road projects. Specifically, Mr. Crafton updated the committee that the SPOT projects within the Town of Mills River's jurisdiction had been reviewed by Mills River Town Council and recommendations had been forwarded to the MPO. Mr. Cable confirmed this was the case. Mr. Crafton then provided an update on a recent public information session hosted by NCDOT regarding the I-26 widening project which will impact both Henderson and Buncombe Counties.

Municipal Representative Updates. Mr. Caraker provided an update on the City of Hendersonville's Main Street project, which is nearing completion. There were no additional updates related to transportation from the other municipal representatives.

NCDOT Projects Update. Mr. Cannon provided an update regarding the completion date of the Upward Road construction project. Due to utility delays at the intersection of Upward Road and US Highway 176, the project will complete in November/December 2013 instead of the originally scheduled August 2013 completion date. He indicated that NCDOT has also resolved the guardrail issues for project R-505 (25 connector) and that this project should be completed within a few months. Additionally, Mr. Cannon reported that the bridge projects along Fruitland Road will be let in the summer months, when public schools are not in session.

Henderson County 2011 Crash Data Review/Times-News Report. Mr. Cable updated the Committee on 2011 crash data released by NCDOT. According to Mr. Cable, a recent Times-News article did report accurate statistics, but that because of the County's population size, the rate of crashes were actually

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relatively low. According to the NCDOT report regarding 2011 crashes, Henderson County was 74th in the state for crashes, but only 25th in the state for county population and 23rd in the state for number of registered vehicles. Mr. Cable further indicated that crash are most typically caused by: human error, traffic violation, impairment, equipment failure, weather, or natural phenomena (animal, tree, etc.). Futher, these causes are far more prevalent than road condition (construction, condition, design, etc.). Mr. Cannon introduced Mr. Galloway and explained that the role of he and other NCDOT staff is to review crash data to determine if safety improvements are needed to prevent future accidents. Mr. Galloway indicated that Henderson County fairs well in crash rates when compared to the other counties within NCDOT's Division 13 and 14 (which cover Western North Carolina). According to Mr. Galloway, projects that are being evaluated for potential improvement include: Crest Road (due to narrow shoulders), Pace Road (guardrail installation), and River Road (guardrail installation). Galloway pointed out that NCDOT safety look to guardrails, signage options and actuated flashers to improve safety.

French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization: Local Participation. Mr. Crafton encouraged all members of the TAC, who also serve as appointees to the MPO Board, to attend the MPO Board meetings so that Henderson County's votes can be heard. Mr. Caraker added that these meetings are important to attend, and that attending via phone is an option he has used when he has been unable to be there in person.

French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization: Memorandum of Understanding/Bylaws/Priority Needs List. Mr. Hembree provided an overview of the recent history of MPO TCC and MPO Board discussions of amendments to the MPO Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU is the document to which all participating members of the MPO agree in order to participate. The impetus for the changes to the MOU were to include portions of the Town of Marshall, Madison County, and Transylvania County as required from data collected in the 2010 Census. Mr. Hembree acknowledged that the MOU was also modified to remove the Priority Needs List (PNL) process language based on recent State legislation MPO staff felt impacted PNL processes. Mr. Cable indicated that he had spoken with MPO Staff and recommended that the PNL process language be added to the bylaws so that full MPO Board discussion regarding these process can occur. Mr. Hembree understood the County's concerns and recommended that the Board of Commissioners could make a condition of their approval of the amended MOU.

The Committee authorized the Chair to issue a letter providing advisory recommendations to the Board of Commissioners on the MPO MOU amendments the Board of Commissioners will be considering at its March 20, 2013 meeting. The Committee (TAC), through its Chair, recommended the Board adopt the amended MOU contingent upon the amendment of existing MPO bylaws to include the removed MOU PNL text to ensure that the MPO Board members can thoroughly review any changes to the PNL process.

French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization: Travel Survey. Mr. Hembree provided an overview of a proposed travel survey to descried what a travel behavior survey is, the benefits of a survey, the funding strategy for the survey, and the overarching benefits of new travel demand model (of which the travel survey will be part). The Committee authorized the Chair to issue a letter providing advisory recommendations to the Board of Commissioners regarding the request for funding for a Travel Behavior Survey. The TAC recommended the Board of Commissioners approve and authorize the funding of the Travel Behavior Survey, which will inform a new Travel Demand Model resulting in data which will be more accurate and useful for NCDOT and Henderson County's Travel and Tourism, Chamber of Commerce, Partnership for Economic Development, and local government.

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SPOT 3.0 Delay. Mr. Cable indicated that the SPOT process which was initially to be underway by the time of this Committee meeting, would be delayed until FY 2014 due to the modifications present in the new federal transportation legislation.

Important Dates. Mr. Cable explained that he, and Mr. Crafton, had spoken about the potential of moving the Committee meeting dates scheduled for this fiscal year to instead fall in between the MPO TCC and MPO Board meetings. Ms. Kumor made a motion to adopt the new meeting schedule for 2013 of April 17, May 15, September 18, and October 23. Mr. Farr seconded the motion and all members voted in favor.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Jim Crafton, Chairman
Henderson County Transportation Advisory Committee