

Henderson County
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
July 18, 2018

The Transportation Advisory Committee held a Regularly Called Meeting on July 18, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. in the King Street Meeting Room at 100 North King Street, Hendersonville. Meeting attendance was as follows:

Voting Member	Present	Not in Attendance
Renee Kumor, Chair at-large	√	
Beau Waddell, Vice-Chair at-large	√	
John Bryant, at-large	√	
Joe Sanders, at-large	√	
Mike Edney, Henderson County Commissioner		√
Bill Lapsley, Henderson County Commissioner	√	
Steve Caraker, City of Hendersonville	√	
John Dockendorf, Village of Flat Rock		√
Brian Caskey, Town of Mills River	√	
Eddie Henderson, Town of Fletcher		√
George Banta, Town of Laurel Park	√	
Autumn Radcliff, Planning Director (Commissioner's Alternate)	√	
Jeff Wells, Town Manager (Town of Mills River Alternate)		√
Pat Christie, Village of Flat Rock Administrator (Village of Flat Rock Alternate)	√	

Also present were: Ted Adams, Division Construction Engineer and Acting NCDOT District Engineer; Janna Peterson, Henderson County Planner III; John Mitchell, Business & Community Development Director; and Tristan Winkler, FBRMPO.

Ms. Kumor, Chair at-large, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Discussion/Adjustment of Agenda. The committee approved adding a discussion item to be presented by Mr. Brian Caskey.

Public Comment. Mr. Glenn Ingram, representing the "Fix 64-West Community," passed around a graphic which was shared at the May Board of Commissioners meeting and the Hendersonville City Council meeting. Mr. Ingram stated that his group was encouraged by the fact that the three governmental controlling agencies were coming together to solve the problem of traffic on the highway and stated that more community involvement was needed in the design phase of the project.

Ms. Sharon Brossard, also representing Fix 64-West, stated that there should be adequate public input when starting projects along Highway 64. She stated that NCDOT presents plans to the public without enough discussion or public input. She stated that the residents of unincorporated Hendersonville and Hendersonville ETJ do not have enough representation in these projects. Ms. Broussard provided a copy of her comments to committee members.

Mr. Bill Burchill shared comments on the Balfour Parkway process, including a handout with a summary of his comments on the back. He shared suggestions for the BOC and DOT along with data and information collected over the last four years.

Approval of Draft Minutes. Mr. Steve Caraker made a motion to approve the minutes. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Bill Lapsley. All member voted in favor.

Brian Caskey Federal Highway Administration Studies: Mr. Brian Caskey raised a concern regarding the amount of time it takes for a road project from conception to construction. He provided a handout of a summary of federal highway administration studies similar to the need which inspired the Balfour Parkway project. He highlighted various sections which could be taken on as productive suggestions to this project. He supported doing studies in advance, implementing the project early, gaining political support, and addressing the fears of residents and property owners.

Balfour Parkway Process/Preliminary Discussion: Ms. Renee Kumor stated that the purpose of today's preliminary discussion on Balfour Parkway was to start thinking about the citizen concerns and how to better address future projects. She stated that NCDOT representatives would be at next month's meeting to discuss the Balfour Parkway process. Mr. Caraker stated that the City of Hendersonville would be handling things differently in the future and the City would want to get an update on the design of a project before it goes to the public. The TAC agreed that yearly updates were needed, and the TAC needs to work with local governments to better get information out to the public. Mr. Waddell stated the County would have had the same issues with the Balfour project even if there had only been one proposed path. He agreed that the TAC needs to work on improving what information is being sent out to the public and how it is being shared. Ms. Kumor wants to know where NCDOT can be flexible in planning these projects and how the TAC can help in the process. The Board agreed that communication with the public needs to become more open and clear to address any unnecessary fear in citizens. Ms. Kumor asked to Board to continue thinking about the issues and be prepared to discuss at the TAC meeting in August.

Routine Updates:

NCDOT: Mr. Ted Adams with NCDOT stated the bridge at Hideaway Cove was completed last week and that work on the NC191 safety improvements at West Henderson and Rugby Middle schools is on schedule and should be completed by December of this year. Mr. Adams reported that Howard Gap Road in Fletcher has a completion date of September 14th which may be extended because of an additional left-turn lane at Jackson Road. He said Hooper Lane had minor changes to the design to consider lowering the grade of the road and therefore the contractor has not yet started. He also said that paving on I-26 was finished and construction on the interstate will start next year. Mr. Adams reported that the mudslide clean-up on Highway 9 has progressed well. He said the road will be opened as a single-lane until it is safe to open both lanes and there will be set times cars can go through during the day. He said that Landslide clean-up also continues on Middle Fork Road. Mr. Adams stated that the NCDOT did not receive any bids on the round-a-about installment at Shepard St. and Erkwood Dr., so the project will be re-let next week. He said that no delays in the project completion are expected.

Henderson County: Mr. Lapsley said that Henderson County has worked with Buncombe County on emergency response to assist the residents who were isolated from emergency response services. He also stated that the Division Engineer for Buncombe County is retiring and will be replaced by Marc Gibbs. Mr. Adams said that a new District Engineer for Henderson County should be selected in the coming weeks and he would be introducing that person to the TAC.

Town of Mills River: Mr. Brain Caskey stated that NCDOT has been considerate and worked with property owners on the NC191 widening. He stated that the public seems to not trust statistics and published data and there is a need to overcome that issue. He also said that Mills River is accepting name suggestions for the NC 280 Corridor Greenway.

City of Hendersonville: Mr. Steve Caraker, stated that he along with Mr. Lapsley and Mr. Dockendorf met with citizens from Kanuga Road and also with Brian Burch from NCDOT. He said that NCDOT was asked to provide updated plans based on feedback from constituents and this will be presented at the August 21st City Council meeting. He said that the same courtesy has been offered to the US64 corridor residents that are in the City's ETJ area.

Town of Laurel Park: Mr. George Banta commented that the public's emotions sometimes overrule the facts. He said that NCDOT made modifications to the US64 project in Laurel Park and have been easy to work with. He said that one issue he has seen was that some NCDOT engineers argue with citizens instead of hearing the concerns. He stated that the Town of Laurel Park has a desire to slow-down traffic on US64 and preserve the Town by supporting the proposed round-a-bouts.

Village of Flat Rock: Ms. Pat Christie stated the Council had voted to endorse the Highland Lake Road project.

Other Updates: Mr. Lapsley shared some additional comments on the Balfour Parkway project. He said that the TAC identified projects and those projects were made public. He stated that the information is available, but the public does not get involved unless they are directly impacted. He said that local government and committees depend on local media to get the word out. He asked staff to look at the possibility of a video recording of the TAC meetings.

Staff Updates: Ms. Autumn Radcliff introduced Ms. Janna Peterson to the TAC. She stated that Ms. Peterson is the new Planner III for the County and would be filling the responsibilities of the transportation planner.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Renee Kumor, Chair
Henderson County Transportation Advisory Committee