

Henderson County
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
July 17, 2019

The Transportation Advisory Committee held a Regularly Called Meeting on July 17, 2019 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		√
Bill Lapsley, Henderson County	√	
Steve Caraker, City of Hendersonville	√	
John Dockendorf, Village of Flat Rock		√
Brian Caskey, Town of Mills River		√
Bob Davy, Town of Fletcher	√	
George Banta, Town of Laurel Park	√	
Paige Posey, Village of Flat Rock Alternate	√	

Also present were: Autumn Radcliff, Planning Director; Janna Peterson, Planner III; Tristan Winkler, FBRMPO; Brian Burch, NCDOT; and Lonnie Watkins, NCDOT.

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

Adjustment of Agenda:

Mrs. Renee Kumor clarified the purpose of citizen presentations on the agenda. She reported that the TAC and staff have made a concerted effort to provide citizens with information and ensure transparency. Information is shared on the County's website and newsletter, as well as, with local media. In addition, video recordings of all meetings are available to the public on the County's website. Mrs. Kumor added a discussion item regarding public input to the agenda.

Discussion:

Citizen Presentations

Mr. John DeGelleke, HOA Secretary of Triple Creek subdivision, presented his opinion of the Hwy 191 widening project. Mr. DeGelleke suggested the elimination of the eastern .7 miles from scope of work (between Rugby Road and Mountain Road) maintaining a 2-lane road and saving nearby businesses that would otherwise be moved.

Mr. Tom Dickey presented on his wish to see further transportation improvements in and near Etowah. In reference to the SPOT 6.0 Project Submittals, Mr. Dickey suggested that projects C26, C27, and C28 be combined, project C13 should be redefined from White Pine Rd to Transylvania County, and that project C11 should merge with C13.

Mr. Marshall Lawson presented on behalf of "pro paving" stakeholders on Pace Mountain Road regarding the section from Hwy 176 to Greenville Hwy. After informing the TAC of the poor current conditions, Mr. Lawson suggested the NCDOT acquire easements from the 2-3 parcels on each end of this section of the road inhibiting widening of road.

SPOT 6.0 Project Submission and Survey

Ms. Janna Peterson presented findings of the TAC's SPOT submittal survey and reiterated the SPOT process and timeline. Mr. Bill Lapsley explained to the public that the lengthy timeframe is needed to allow NCDOT to review and rank all submitted projects from MPOs across the state.

Discussion of Public Input

Mrs. Renee Kumor asked for comment on the process for public input. Mr. Steve Caraker stated that the process used for this meeting worked well, limited to 3-4 presentations, however, his concern is when passions run high. Mr. Bob Davy expressed that a 5-minute period for questions after the presentations would be helpful. Mr. George Banta is concerned that only the negative opinions are presented, and that most of the public, who are likely not concerned, do not attend these meetings.

Routine Updates:

NCDOT

Mr. Lonnie Watkins updated the TAC on projects in the County in the project development phase. For current projects; I-26/US-64 interchange - ROW in July 2023 and let October 2026; I-26 in Henderson County - let September 2019; Hwy 191 - ROW in October 2019 and let June 2023; Kanuga Rd - ROW October 2020 and let October 2022; US 64 - ROW January 2020 and let May 2024; White St - ROW September 2020 and let October 2022; Highland Lake Rd - currently in ROW phase, let December 2020; NC 280 - ROW November 2023 and let Nov 2025; Main St - let May 2020. Projects currently under construction: Old Airport Rd - 15% complete, February 2021 completion date; Broadpointe Dr. - 50% complete, June 2020 completion date; Howard Gap Rd - 73% complete, January 2020 completion date; Mill St - 45% complete, December 2019 completion date; Erkwood/Shepherd St - 30 % complete, June 2020 completion date (requires 90 day closure). A full report of these projects' schedules is available on the NCDOT and FBRMPO websites.

Mr. Brain Burch discussed policy for projects over budget and explained two reasons for projects to be delayed: cost overruns from high bids and unexpected costs of hurricane and storm damage repair. As of now, there are no delays of ROW acquisitions. Mr. Bill Lapsley explained that the State's gas tax is dwindling in revenue and not able to cover road improvement costs.

Town of Fletcher

Mr. Bob Davy updated the TAC of the Town's ongoing sidewalk and street lighting project, as well as, Airport Rd and Howard Gap Rd.

City of Hendersonville

Mr. Steve Caraker reported that the Main St. project is complete, and that the City recently finished their annual repaving project of 2+ miles (part of a 20-year project to resurface all city roads). He also thanked NCDOT for the new markings on King St. and Church St.

Town of Laurel Park

Mr. George Banta introduced their new Town Manager, Christopher Todd.

Henderson County

Mr. Lapsley updated the TAC that he shared the list of projects with the Board and is currently working on their desired submittals. asking for feedback and trying to get the public involved. Mr. Lapsley asked if any County roads were repaved this year and Mr. Lonnie Watkins responded that none were due to a lack of funding.

Village of Flat Rock

Ms. Posey asked for clarification on the jurisdiction of Erkwood Dr. between Kanuga Rd. and Greenville Hwy and Mr. Lapsley informed the TAC that the area is unincorporated County jurisdiction.

Other Updates

Mr. Brian Burch informed the TAC that NCDOT is conducting an Express Design Feasibility Study of US-64 in Etowah. He explained that the study is a proactive, high-level planning document created to identify deficiencies, costs, and impacts in order to ease the SPOT submittal process.

Public Comment:

Mr. John DeGelleke inquired about project R2588A, brought up during May TAC, and whether the project carries over from SPOT 5.0 to SPOT 6.0. Mr. DeGelleke also asked a question of Brian Burch regarding the number of projects that can be funded in SPOT 6.0.

Next Meeting:

The next TAC meeting was scheduled for August 21st, 2019.

The meeting adjourned at 5:24 p.m.

Renee Kumor, Chair
Henderson County Transportation Advisory Committee