

**Henderson County
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
September 18, 2019**

The Transportation Advisory Committee held a Regularly Called Meeting on September 18, 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	√	
John Connet, City of Hendersonville Manager (Alternate)	√	
Pat Christie, Village of Flat Rock Manager (Alternate)	√	

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

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

Public Comment:

Mr. John DeGelleke of the Triple Creek subdivision gave comment regarding the programmed Hwy 191 widening project and provided a handout of his comments to the TAC.

Adjustment of Agenda:

No adjustments of the agenda were made.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. John Connet moved that the minutes be approved, and Mr. Beau Waddell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Discussion:

Overview of NCDOT's Secondary Road Construction Program

Mr. Lonnie Watkins, District Engineer for District 1 of NCDOT Division 14 presented on the process for paving state gravel or dirt roads and the process for road resurfacing. His key points included the limited funding allocated to each division and the costs of paving. Division 14 receives approximately \$400,000 annually and splits it amongst the three districts. The average cost to pave one mile of road is \$750,000. The paving funds are expended based on a data-driven prioritized list of roads. Commissioner Lapsley asked how many miles of roads in our division are state maintained but unpaved. Mr. Watkins estimated seventy miles of unpaved roadways. Chair Kumor asked member-at-large, John Bryant if any school buses use unpaved roads. Dr. Bryant informed the TAC that there are no Henderson County school buses using unpaved roads. Mr.

Watkins PowerPoint and a YouTube video of his presentation are available for view on the [County Planning Department's webpage](#).

Municipal Road Paving Processes

Mr. John Connet presented information on resurfacing projects on City of Hendersonville roads. The City receives state funding, Powell bill funding, to help support the large expense of road maintenance. Hendersonville receives approximately \$330,000 annually. The City's budget for resurfacing is over \$500,000. City engineering conducts a prioritization via a scaled rating, which is similar to the state's process. This allows the City to focus efforts on the most impaired roadways. Public Works may do resurfacing on a road with a score of "fair" if the City is already conducting infrastructure improvements (mainly utilities). This policy creates greater efficiency. [Hendersonville's website contains a map](#) that shows all the City streets and their respective rankings. The goal of City Council is to resurface every City street within the next 15 to 20 years.

Councilman George Banta explained that the Town of Laurel Park has a similar ranking system for their municipally maintained streets. The Town contracts an engineer to do the formal evaluation. Laurel Park is also a recipient of the Powell bill funds. In addition, the Town takes a portion of their tax revenue to help fund road maintenance, which comes to approximately \$220,000 to repave almost 35 miles of roads. Councilman Banta reiterated the expense of road paving especially in regard to the mountainous topography of the area.

The Village of Flat Rock, Town of Mills River, and the Town of Fletcher do not have any municipally maintained roadways.

NCDOT Project Suspensions

Mr. Troy Wilson passed out to the TAC a list of the projects that are suspended in Division 14 due to the department's unexpected costs from hurricanes and the Map Act lawsuit as well as their policy to expedite transportation projects. In the past, NCDOT averaged \$65 million annually in natural disaster costs. In 2018, the department spent approximately \$300,000,000 spent in response to Hurricane Michael alone. FEMA will pay back the state for those costs, but the process takes years. NCDOT is required by state law to maintain an established cash floor. In order to preserve that cash floor, the department is temporarily suspending over 900 transportation projects statewide. Commissioner Lapsley clarified two statements that were made earlier in the meeting. Mr. Wilson concurred – the delay in projects is not due to Hurricane Dorian (the order was made before the hurricane formed) and I-26 is not affected by these delays. Both sections of I-26 were successfully bid.

Updates & Other Business:

NCDOT

Mr. Lonnie Watkins updated the TAC that bids opened yesterday for the Henderson County portion of I-26. The lowest bid was for 271.2 million, which is below what was estimated. The bid will be officially accepted by the State Board of Transportation at their next meeting. Highland Lake Rd is not suspended – let date listed as December of 2020. White St. still has a let date of October 2022; Kanuga Rd – let in October 2022; Hwy 191 is suspended; US 64 is not suspended – let date of May 2024; NC 280 is suspended. Mr. Wilson added that work can be done on those suspended projects as long as there is no cash layout. Examples are coordination of utility relocation and right-of-way negotiations. Mr. Beau Waddell inquired about the Erkwood/Shepherd roundabout. Mr. Watkins said the road is scheduled to open on the 22nd of October and is currently 43% complete.

Village of Flat Rock

Ms. Pat Christie said many residents have inquired about the Greenville Hwy closure. Traffic has been heavy on Rutledge due to the closure.

City of Hendersonville

Mr. John Connet did not have any updates.

Town of Laurel Park

Councilman George Banta did not have any updates.

Henderson County

Commissioner Lapsley did not have any updates.

Town of Mills River

Councilman Brian Caskey did not have any updates.

Committee Chair/Vice Chair Elections

An updated meeting calendar was given to TAC members. The October and December meetings are canceled. Mrs. Kumor nominated Mr. Waddell for the position of Chair. The TAC voted unanimously to endorse him. Commissioner Lapsley nominated Mr. Joe Sanders for the now open position of Vice Chair. The TAC voted unanimously to endorse him. Mr. Waddell and Mr. Sanders will begin their new roles at the November TAC meeting.

Next Meeting:

The next TAC meeting was scheduled for November 20, 2019.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Beau Waddell, Chair
Henderson County Transportation Advisory Committee