

MINUTES
JOINT MEETING OF THE TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND
THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
September 27, 2011 – SPECIAL MEETING

The Board of Commissioners of Transylvania County met jointly with officials from the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) on Tuesday, September 27, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Services Building Conference Room. The purpose of the meeting was to consider the NCDOT's recommended program for secondary road improvements in Transylvania County for FY 2011-2012.

Commissioners present were Jason Chappell, Chairman Mike Hawkins, and Vice-Chairman Kelvin Phillips. Commissioners Larry Chapman and Daryle Hogsed were absent. Also present were County Manager Artie Wilson and Clerk to the Board Trisha Hogan.

NCDOT officials present were Division 14 Maintenance Engineer Mark Gibbs, District Engineer Steve Cannon, County Maintenance Engineer Ben Williams, and Road Maintenance Supervisor for Transylvania County David Capps.

There were 4 people in the audience. There was no media in attendance.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Mike Hawkins presiding called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. He introduced the members of the Board of Commissioners present and welcomed NCDOT officials and members of the audience.

PRESENTATION-SECONDARY ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

Transylvania County is included in Highway Division 14 which is made up of 10 counties. Division Engineer Joel Setzer and Division Board Member Conrad Burrell had prior commitments and were unable to attend this meeting.

Division 14 Maintenance Engineer Mark Gibbs stated the purpose of the meeting was to present the Secondary Road Improvement Program for Transylvania County for the next three fiscal years. Transylvania County has been allocated \$445,263 for FY 2011-2012 and each additional year. Funds have steadily decreased over the years and are allocated based upon the number of roads in the County. For example, if Transylvania County has 2% of the roads in the State, then it is allocated 2% of the funds. Funds for this program come from the Trust Fund and Highway Fund. Mr. Gibbs asked the Board of Commissioners to consider a resolution approving the Secondary Road Improvement Program for Transylvania County after the presentation and comments.

District Engineer Steve Cannon presented the Secondary Road Improvement Program for Transylvania County for the next three fiscal years. There is \$2,932,983 available for road improvements carried forward from prior year allocations. These funds were either carried forward from projects not yet being completed or because some projects may have come in under budget. Most of the allocation is dedicated to the Cashiers Valley Road project. The remaining funds will be spent on spot stabilization projects, safety improvements, surveys, and other road improvement projects. Prior fiscal year programmed projects are broken down as follows:

1. Countywide - Spot stabilization, safety improvements, road additions (from Trust: \$154,247)
2. Countywide - Spot stabilization, safety improvements, road additions (from Highway: \$192,128)
3. Countywide - Countywide surveys (\$82,012)
4. Countywide - Safety signage (\$5,947)

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5. SR 1301 Cold Mountain Road to end of pavement to end of system - 3.2 miles; construct retaining wall (\$363,600)
6. SR 1398 Morton Gap Road to SR 1304 to end of system - 0.54 miles; grade, drain, base and pave unpaved road (\$2,500)
7. SR 1307 Shelton Road to NC 281 to end of system - 0.81 miles; grade, drain, base and pave unpaved road (\$176,000)
8. SR 1344 Cashiers Valley Road to US 64 to WCL Brevard - 1.91 miles; paved road improvement (\$1,300,000)

These projects total \$2,276,434. The \$656,549 remaining from prior year projects will be carried forward to FY 2011-2012. Adding the carry forward to FY 2011-2012 allocations in the amount of \$445,263 allows \$1,101,812 for road programs in FY 2011-2012.

FY 2011-2012 Program:

1. Countywide - Spot stabilization, safety improvements, road additions (from Trust: \$85,000)
2. Countywide - Spot stabilization, safety improvements, road additions (from Highway: \$85,000)
3. Countywide - Countywide surveys (\$95,000)
4. Countywide - Safety signage (n/a)
5. SR 1542 Bert Lane to US 276 to SR 1543 - 0.7 miles; AST strengthening - Triple seal (\$24,000)
6. SR 1609 Cherrywood Lane to SR 1541 to pavement change - 2.2 miles; AST strengthening - Triple seal (\$76,000)
7. SR 1151 Cash Road to SR 1152 to end of system - 0.66 miles; grade, drain, base and pave unpaved road (\$200,000)
8. SR 1156 Main Street in Rosman to US 178 to SR 1388 - 0.42 miles; curb and cutter; drain and pave (\$410,000)
9. SR 1188 Whitewater Church Road to NC 281 to NC 281 - 0.54 miles; grade, drain, base and pave unpaved road (\$125,000)

These projects total \$1,100,000 leaving \$1,812 to carry forward to FY 2012-2013. Adding the carry forward to FY 2012-2013 allocations in the amount of \$445,263 allows \$447,075 for road programs in FY 2012-2013.

FY 2012-2013 Program:

1. Countywide - Spot stabilization, safety improvements, road additions (from Trust: \$50,000)
2. Countywide - Spot stabilization, safety improvements, road additions (from Highway: \$50,000)
3. Countywide - Countywide surveys (\$50,000)
4. Countywide - Safety signage (n/a)
5. Countywide - AST strengthening to secondary road system (\$70,000)
6. SR 1152 Upper Whitewater Road to SR 1188 to beginning of pavement - 3.28 miles; grade, drain, base and pave unpaved road (partial funding - \$227,000)

These projects total \$447,000 leaving \$75 to carry forward to FY 2013-2014. Adding the carry forward to FY 2013-2014 allocations in the amount of \$445,263 allows \$445,338 for road programs in FY 2013-2014.

FY 2013-2014 Program:

1. Countywide - Spot stabilization, safety improvements, road additions (from Trust: \$50,000)
2. Countywide - Spot stabilization, safety improvements, road additions (from Highway: \$50,000)
3. Countywide - Countywide surveys (\$50,000)
4. Countywide - Safety signage (n/a)
5. SR 1152 Upper Whitewater Road to SR 1188 to beginning of pavement - 3.28 miles; grade, drain, base and pave unpaved road (partial funding - \$295,000)

These projects total \$445,000 leaving a balance of \$338 to carry forward to FY 2014-2015.

DISCUSSION-SECONDARY ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

Commissioner Chappell inquired about the likelihood that the County will be allocated the same amount in funding for the next three years. Mr. Gibbs responded that he expects the funding to be at the anticipated level; but noted however that the level of funding available really depends upon the revenues.

The Manager inquired about the project in the Town of Rosman and asked if Powell Bill funds would cover the expenses. Mr. Gibbs said Powell Bill funds cover non-system roads but the project in Rosman happens to be on State-maintained roads.

Chairman Hawkins asked about the funding source for the Wilson Road resurfacing project. Mr. Gibbs said road projects are paid for through various funds. The Wilson Road project was funded by secondary road resurfacing funds. He compared this project with the Cashiers Valley Road project. The Cashiers Valley Road project was included in the presentation today because it is not a resurfacing project; but rather a secondary road improvement which is covered by another funding source.

The Manager asked for an explanation on the difference between the choice of paving methods (triple-seal and tar and graveling; hot mix). Mr. Gibbs explained that paving methods are chosen because of funding limitations and traffic count. Sometimes funds can be drawn from self preservation funds to help cover the costs; but this year those funds went to cover bridge projects only. It is the goal of NCDOT to pave all roads so they must determine how to maximize funds and be as efficient as possible. In response to comments by Commissioner Phillips, Mr. Gibbs said that sometimes the tar and gravel method may be used a few times to pave a road and may serve as a precursor to hot mix pavement. This process ensures the road is sealed thoroughly and requires less work when time for using the hot mix paving method.

Chairman Hawkins also inquired about the possibility of a traffic light going in on Davidson River Road. Mr. Gibbs said this project was deemed necessary by the Traffic Services Department. They intend to install an actuated flasher on Davidson River Road. The light flashes once when traffic enters the intersection which should clue other drivers to be more careful. The flasher is being installed for precautionary measures and results from a fatality occurring at the intersection. Mr. Gibbs said actuated flashers tend to work well. The project is to be let in November and should begin in December or January, weather permitting. There will be signage indicating a new traffic pattern. It was suggested that the NCDOT advertise upcoming changes in the local newspaper as well.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jean Plemmons: Ms. Plemmons showed pictures from a recent flood in the Little River community and thanked NCDOT Maintenance officials for their work during that time.

She inquired about the penalty for disobeying road closures and traveling past road barriers and expressed concern about people's actions when roads are flooded. She was informed that the Sheriff's Department handles these incidents. Discussion was had and suggestions included more public awareness of the dangers of crossing the barriers and traveling on flooded roads and announcements of road closures on local radio stations. It was noted that it is unlawful to install concrete barriers to signify road closures.

Landon Bracken: Mr. Bracken is a grading contractor. He asked if the NCDOT had changed their bidding/contracting procedures to include grading and paving together. He expressed concern about this possibility because as a grading contractor he would have to subcontract the other portion of the job. Mr. Cannon responded that the process has not changed. The scope of each project is listed together for each particular project but they are bid separately.

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Mr. Bracken also inquired about paving the shortcut road that leads from the Fish Hatchery to Balsam Grove. Mr. Gibbs explained that this road remains a Forest Service road and has not yet been added to the State system.

Lastly, Mr. Bracken also asked for an explanation of the Cashiers Valley Road project. Mr. Gibbs said this is a basic widening project with a few areas of curb and gutter. The NCDOT began looking at paved road improvements when it could no longer get rights-of-way to pave unpaved roads.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

There were no further comments from Commissioners.

APPROVAL OF SECONDARY ROAD IMPROVEMENTS FY 2011-2013

Commissioner Chappell moved to approve Resolution 41-11 Resolution Approving the Proposed Secondary Road Improvement Program for Transylvania County for Fiscal Year 2011-2012. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Phillips and unanimously approved. (3-0, Commissioners Chapman and Hogsed absent)

(Resolution 41-11 Resolution Approving the Proposed Secondary Road Improvement Program for Transylvania County for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Commissioner Phillips moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Chappell and unanimously carried.**

Mike Hawkins, Chair
Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Trisha M. Hogan
Clerk to the Board

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