
TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

August 9, 2016, 7:00 PM

I. Welcome & Introductions:

Chairman David Carter welcomed all members. Members attending were David Carter, Norah Davis, John Folger, Raymond Norris, Jimmy Whitmire, Scott McCall, Josh Freeman, and staff person Joy Fields. Members Mac Morrow (excused) and Craig Burghardt were absent. Guests attending included Renee Chambard, Assistant District Engineer with NCDOT Division 14, Vicki Eastland, Land of Sky RPO Coordinator and Mark Tooley.

II. Approval of Agenda and Minutes:

- Norah Davis made a motion to approve the agenda and meeting minutes, the motion was seconded by Scott McCall and unanimously approved.

III. Old Business:

- A. Watch-for-Me-NC 2016 – Law enforcement personnel from both the Brevard police force and the Sheriff's office received free training on bicycle and pedestrian laws and enforcement strategies.
- The Transylvania County Planning and Community Development department distributed material to the bike shops, local businesses, the Brevard Music Center, Rise and Shine and the Boys and Girls Club. Rise and Shine received reflective arm bands to increase the visibility of the children as they ride the free bicycles provided by Oscar Blues.
 - John Folger asked about laws regulating the visibility of bicyclists and pedestrians and Vicki Eastland shared that a new law that will go into effect in October requires bicyclists to wear reflective clothing or have a back light that is visible from 300 feet and have a front light, but does not have similar regulations for pedestrians.
 - Jimmy Whitmire stressed the importance of educating people about the pedestrian law that is part of the Highway Patrol Book.
- B. Transylvania County STIP and SPOT Prioritization – Vicki Eastland shared an update on the NCDOT Strategic Prioritization Office of Transportation (SPOT) prioritization process used to develop the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP). Transylvania County has no interstates and is one of only 10 counties statewide that are ineligible for 40% of the NC DOT funding due to the lack of statewide projects.
- On a regional level Transylvania County scored well. All five regional projects in Transylvania County received priority points from the Land of Sky RPO and three of the projects received priority points from the NC DOT Division Engineer. With that support, access management of US 64 between Allison Rd and N. Caldwell Street scored in the top 10 regionally, with a total score of 70.58. The intersection of US 64 and NC 280 in Pisgah Forest also scored in the top 10

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Re-Scheduled Meeting, August 9, 2016

regionally with a total score of 73.97. The DRAFT results for Regional Impact projects programed in the DRAFT STIP will be released around the end of August. These results will be shared with TAC members.

- The process for the programing of the Division needs projects will begin the first week of September.
- C. West Loop/Brevard Bypass – Josh Freeman shared the history and current work regarding the West Loop project:
 - US 64 almost reaches its capacity during the summer months. To address the traffic issues four projects were identified in the last Comprehensive Transportation Plan including: Access management on US 64, the US 64 Unbalanced Couplet (South Caldwell Street and South Broad Street), the West Loop and the Sylvan Bypass or improvements to Ecusta Road and Wilson Road.
 - The West Loop was included in the STIP last year but no funding was allocated to the project. Being proactive, the City of Brevard hired a consultant to study potential route options. Having information regarding the West Loop alternative routes and junctions with US 64 will give the City necessary data to provide NC DOT with informed local preferences.
 - Discussion included a review of the alternatives and potential junctions with US 64. Financial impacts of the different alternatives are planned for public review in October 2016.
 - Topography and existing neighborhoods keep the west loop for local traffic with a likely speed limit of 35mph.

IV. New Business:

A. Updates –

- Vicki Eastland and Renee Chambard provided an update on active NC DOT projects in Transylvania County.
- Discussion of the rumble strips on NC 276 included David Carter providing information about two accidents that occurred at the same place on NC 276 in the previous week. Review of the accident report will shed light on the cause of the accidents.
- Vicki Eastland also shared information regarding the Federal Lands Access Program which provides funding to enhance access to Federal Park Lands. Several projects are being considered in Transylvania County for the current application period, one of these will address paved shoulders and additional key left turn lanes on US276 from the Pisgah Forest Gateway to the Avery Creek area and a possible pedestrian bridge across the Davidson River in the area near the Pisgah Forest Arch. Other rounds of funding have been utilized by NC DOT Division 14 for bridge replacements and other access improvements in or near federal lands such as Pisgah National Forest.

B. Other -

Adjourn: With no further business, Josh Freeman made a motion to adjourn and Ray Norris seconded the motion which carried. The meeting adjourned around 8:55 PM. The next meeting is **Tuesday October 4, 2016 at 7:00 pm** in the County Commissioner’s Chambers.

MINUTES APPROVED


David Carter, Chairman 1/31/17
Date


Staff 1/31/17
Date