



SUMMARY OF STAKEHOLDER MEETING #3

SEPTEMBER 27, 2018, 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY ELECTIONS CENTER, 150 S. GASTON STREET, BREVARD, NC 28712

Participants

- Steve Bzomowski, Alta Planning + Design
- David Carter, Transylvania County TAC
- Dave Casey, Forest Service
- Bob Cole, Resident
- John Ditillo, Resident
- Wes Dickson, Sycamore Cycles
- Joy Fields, Transylvania County Planning and Community Development
- Matt Hayes, Alta Planning + Design
- Colin Izzard, CTS Train Right
- David Joyce, Brevard College
- Rick Lasater, Resident
- Robert Lawson, Resident
- Suzanne Lawson, Cedar Mountain Community Center
- Bryan Lopez, NCDOT Division of Bicycle & Pedestrian Transportation
- Jackie Moore, Active Routes to School Coordinator, Region 1
- Adam Perkins, Resident
- Patrick Scott, Forest Service
- Mark Tooley, Transylvania County TAC
- Bryan Townsend, Oskar Blues
- Davis Wax, Forest Service
- Jim Whitcomb, Resident
- Jimmy Whitmire, Transylvania County Agricultural Advisory Board/TAC
- Steve Williams, NCDOT Division 14

Overview Presentation

Joy Fields and project consultants led an overview presentation, focusing on public input and potential network recommendations and priorities. A copy of the presentation will be posted to the Transylvania County website, and topics covered in the presentation are listed below:

- Introductions
- Feedback from Public Open House Workshops
- Network Recommendations and Options
- Potential Priority Projects

Discussion Items

During the presentation, several items were discussed by the group, including the following:

- Bicycle Infrastructure discussion – results from surveys – Two types of bicyclists discussed:
 - » Strong/long distance – most likely to ride on road and avoid greenways/multi-use paths.
 - » Average adult/kids – need separation from automobile traffic.
 - Strategic combination of on-road (ie: bike lanes/paved shoulder) and off-road (ie: greenways/shared use paths) facilities needed.
 - Further information on types of bicyclists can be found here - <https://blog.altaplanning.com/understanding-the-four-types-of-cyclists-112e1d2e9a1b>
- SPOT 5.0 scores were discussed and can be found here - <https://www.transylvaniacounty.org/departments/planning-and-community-development/transportation-advisory-committee>.
- Railbanking discussed with respect to the Ecusta Trail – Railbanking, established in 1983 as an amendment to Section 8(d) of the National Trails System Act, is a voluntary agreement between a railroad company and a trail agency to use an out-of-service rail corridor as a trail until a railroad might need the corridor again for rail service. For further information - <https://www.railstotrails.org/build-trails/trail-building-toolbox/acquisition/railbanking/>.
 - » Ecusta Rail Trail Planning Study & Economic Impact Analysis (2012) - Chapter 4 of this report details legal ownership of the corridor, which was also discussed. Chapter 4 of the report can be accessed here - <https://www.hendersonvillenc.gov/Data/Sites/1/media/Departments/planning/Ecusta/Chapter-4.pdf>.
 - The full report can be accessed here - <https://www.hendersonvillenc.gov/ecusta-rail-trail-planning-study-economic-impact-analysis>
- Brevard College – Proposed greenway trail through campus is on college master plan and is a priority for Brevard College.
- Education and Communication discussed as key for improving bicycling conditions:
 - » Local tour/cycling/outdoor groups and businesses can to play a key role in this – many are well versed in rules of the road for both bicyclists and motorists.
- Neely/Old Greenville/Ecusta Rd:
 - » Key roadway links from Brevard Town Limits to the northeast into Transylvania County. Currently, these are roads that do not have space for bicycles and carry higher traffic volumes.

- Steep Hills – discussion included the need for space for bicyclists on certain steep roadways such as US 276, NC 215, US 178, Walnut Hollow Road, and Country Club Road. Motorists may have difficulty passing bicyclists going uphill. Several considerations were discussed:
 - » NCDOT cannot currently construct intermittent paved shoulders for bicyclists on long steep hills. There is no specific engineering guidance on this, further study is needed.
 - » Paved shoulder would need to be constructed for the entire length of the incline.
 - » Car passing lanes could be considered on certain roads such as US 276, NC 215, and US 178.
- Wilson Road – future roadway improvement will include 4' paved shoulder and 11' ft travel lanes.
- Speed limits:
 - » US 276 from the US 64/NC 280 intersection to Avery Creek Road is currently 50 mph. This is a popular section for bicyclists and multiple nearby destinations include businesses proximate to the US 64/NC 280/US 276 intersection, Davidson River Campground, Pisgah ranger office and visitor center, Schenk Job Corps and Civilian Conservation Center, and Avery Creek Road. The group discussed lowering the speed limit to 35 mph or even lower. A request needs to be submitted to NCDOT Division 14.
 - » Same could be considered for Dupont Road as well as US 276 through Cedar Mountain.
- Brevard to Rosman:
 - » Consider utilizing space within the US 64 ROW – opportunity for shared use path connection from Brevard to Rosman.
 - Connect into Rosman via sidepath along Old Rosman Highway
 - » Also consider improving Ride Transylvania County Bike Route between Brevard and Rosman over time with paved shoulders/bike lanes.
- Ride Transylvania County Bike Routes:
 - » County bike routes system updated in 2017, including map - <https://www.pisgahmapcompany.com/shop-trail-guides/9uv9bmf1areljvbbig7rsdn41aeoc>
 - These routes cover most of Transylvania County – most are rural, scenic roadways with lower traffic volumes – consider focusing improvements for these routes along the few higher traffic volume/high speed limit routes in the short-term (such as Greenville Hwy/US 276, Old Hendersonville Hwy, Everett Rd, Crab Creek Rd, Pisgah Hwy/US 276, Rosman Hwy/US 64, and Parkway Rd/NC 215; improve the entire route system in the long-term.

Next Steps

- Draft Plan Completion
- Draft Plan Review
- Draft Plan Public Open House Workshops

