

## **NORTH CAROLINA**

### **LENOIR COUNTY**

The Highway 70 Corridor Commission of North Carolina, Inc. met on Thursday, May 18, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. at City of Kinston Public Service Complex, 2360 Highway 258 South, Kinston, North Carolina.

#### **County members present:**

Carteret County – Jesse Vinson

Craven County – Tom Mark, Jack Veit, Bobby Darden, Danny Walsh and Donald Baumgardner

Johnston County – Donald Rains, Ted Godwin, Berry Gray and Frank Price

Jones County – None

Lenoir County – Linda Rouse Sutton and Russell Rhodes

Wayne County – Joe Gurley, Wayne Aycock and Jack Best

#### **Other persons present:**

North Carolina Board of Transportation – Hugh Overholt

Highway 70 Corridor Commission Director – M. Durwood Stephenson

North Carolina Department of Transportation – Jiles Harrell, Chris Pendergraph, Jeff Cabaniss, John Rouse and Haywood Daughtry

Down East RPO – Patrick Flanagan

Upper Coastal Plain RPO – James Salmons

New Bern MPO – Kim Maxey

Lenoir County – Brian Lucas

Wilson's Mills – Alicia Gregory

City of Goldsboro – Jennifer Collins

City of Havelock – Katrina Marshall

City of Kinston – Rhonda Barwick

#### **Call to Order and Welcome**

Highway 70 Corridor Commission Chairman Tom Mark called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Lenoir County member of the Highway 70 Corridor Commission Linda Rouse Sutton welcomed the members of the Highway 70 Corridor Commission to Lenoir County.

#### **Approval of the Agenda**

Upon motion of the Lenoir County Member Linda Rouse Sutton and seconded by Lenoir County Member Brian Lucas, the members of the Highway 70 Corridor Commission unanimously approved the agenda as presented.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Upon motion of Craven County Member Jack Veit and seconded by Johnson County Member Ted Godwin, the members of the Highway 70 Corridor Commission unanimously approved the minutes of the meeting on March 16, 2017.

### **Comments from Executive Director M. Durwood Stephenson**

Highway 70 Corridor Commission Director M. Durwood Stephenson informed the Commission NCDOT has updated the US 70 Corridor project map and he had several copies with him for distribution. The map would also be placed on the website for viewing.

Mr. Stephenson also reminded the Commission of a food processing study that was completed by NC State University and it was time to get the report "off the shelf". The Food Commercialization Center has the potential to become the initial phase of the 38,000-job study for the NC Food Processing and Manufacturing Initiative. Once established it would be a model we can duplicate throughout Eastern North Carolina. He indicated he was meeting with General Assembly members with hopes of gaining support to pursue the small initial investment of \$2.8 million to develop the model for the Food Commercialization Center in Ayden and explore funding opportunities.

### **North Carolina Board of Transportation Member Report**

North Carolina Board of Transportation Division 2 Member Hugh Overholt indicated the North Carolina Board of Transportation had their first committee meetings with the new board members. He indicated he remained on the Road Naming Committee and the Multi-Modal Committee. He also indicated the two special committees, Hwy 70 Committee and Hwy 17/64 Committee would continue. Hwy 70 Committee will be chaired by Gus Tulloss and the Hwy 17/64 Committee would be chaired by him. He concluded by thanking John Rouse and Division 2 Staff for all their hard work.

### **Crash Data Update**

Mr. Haywood Daughtry with North Carolina Department of Transportation Traffic Safety Unit, provided a brief summary regarding the most recent 2014-2016 crash statistics along the 70 Corridor. He informed the Commission that the data was gleaned from a high-level analysis and indicated Craven County had the highest number of fatalities with 10 crashes. He indicated the crash data would be available on the Hwy 70 Corridor Commission website after today's meeting if members would like to view in more detail.

### **Flooding Resolution**

Lenoir County member Russell Rhodes, in an effort to avoid flooding impacts within the lower Neuse basin, requested support from the Commission to recognize that greater efforts are needed for management of down-stream flooding. He stressed that implementation of flood control measures such as: construction of flood control reservoirs along the Neuse River; identification of alternative water supplies for the City of Raleigh that would allow lowering of Falls Lake during times of anticipated flooding; additional mitigation by NCDOT to address significant stormwater impacts from highway construction; and active "snag, drag and dredge" operations within the Neuse River and its tributaries to reduce obstructions to flow and removal of materials that would impact the flood level of the River should be given consideration. He strongly encouraged this resolution be provided to all members of the General Assembly and that all affected Towns and Counties representing and/or residing along the Neuse River Basin consider adopting a similar resolution to insist on better management to minimize flooding.

Lenoir County Member Linda Rouse Sutton made a motion to adopt the resolution requesting greater efforts to avoid flooding impacts within the lower Neuse basin. Lenoir County Member Brian Lucas seconded the motion and the members of the Highway 70 Corridor Commission unanimously approved the resolution.

### **Atlantic Coast Pipeline Briefing**

Ms. Rosemary Wyche presented the Commission with a briefing regarding the construction of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. She indicated the proposed 600-mile route of the pipeline will pass through the eastern part of North Carolina. The 600-mile natural gas transmission line will run from Harrison County, West Virginia to Robeson County in our state and will benefit our state's consumers, utilities, industries and continued economic growth and development. The construction of the pipeline will help alleviate a shortage of pipeline capacity in North Carolina and having better access will help promote North Carolina's continued economic development by providing better opportunities to recruit new manufacturing facilities that use the fuel.

Ms. Wyche provided information regarding tax benefits to each county within our state. 200 miles of pipeline will go through eight North Carolina counties with an estimated \$7.7 million in property tax payments by year 2022. She indicated construction of the pipeline is on schedule to begin in 2017 and will take up to two years. The pipeline is expected to be in-service by the second half of 2019. Mr. Durwood Stephenson, Highway 70 Corridor Commission Director, asked for a resolution to support the pipeline and Johnston County Member Donald Rains made the motion to adopt a resolution supporting the construction of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. Johnston County member Frank Price seconded the motion and the members of the Highway 70 Corridor Commission unanimously approved the resolution.

### **Kinston Bypass Update**

John Rouse, North Carolina Department of Transportation Division 2 Engineer introduced Christopher Werner, AECOM Project Consultant for the future Kinston Bypass project. Mr. Werner provided a briefing/update regarding the history and current status of the project. He indicated the project is a proposed four-lane, median divided freeway with full control of access from US 70 near LaGrange to US 70 near Dover. Project studies were underway until funding was lost and placed on hold in 2014. He indicated project restart efforts are now underway and reminded the Commission of the purpose and need of the project. The project has been designated as a Pilot GIS Project where GIS data was used to develop alternatives, evaluate alternatives and used as the basis for selecting the LEDPA/preferred alternative. Currently efforts are being made to resume the project by coordinating with resource agencies and NCDOT, incorporating FAST Act designation into the project documentation, reviewing technical studies for necessary updates, identifying other new/updated data or plans, identifying GIS data layer updates, preparation of capacity analysis, revision of functional designs, conduct a historic architectural survey, updating of the Wetland Predictive Model, coordination with NCEM and FEMA and development of the project schedule. Currently the project is funded in the 2017-2027 draft STIP with Right-of-Way slated for year 2022 and Construction in year 2025.

### **Division 2 Update**

North Carolina Department of Transportation Division 2 Division Engineer John Rouse updated the members of the Highway 70 Corridor Commission on the following projects:

- “Little Baltimore” – Grade separated interchange at US 70 and Willie Measley Road. Currently in process of assigning to a consultant to begin Environmental Document. Right-of-way is slated for 2022 with construction in 2024.
- Kinston Bypass – This is a funded project as part of the Draft 2018-2027 STIP. Right-of-way is slated for 2022 and this project will be managed by the Division.
- James City – Project will include two additional interchanges and currently working on environmental documents. Most likely the project will be a design-build project which will allow the Division to accelerate construction to late 2018 early 2019.
- Slocum Gate – Construction let date is scheduled for June 2017.
- Havelock Bypass – Right-of-way currently in progress and construction is slated for 2019.
- Newport River Port Bridge Replacement – Design-build project and looking to accelerate construction to 2020.
- Gallants Channel Bridge – Project is nearing completion and should be open to full traffic in September 2017.

#### **Division 4 Update**

North Carolina Department of Transportation District 3 Engineer Jiles Harrell updated the members of the Highway 70 Corridor Commission on the following projects:

- Clayton Bypass – Resurfacing is estimated to begin April 2018.
- Wilson’s Mills – Interchanges currently under design. Right of way acquisition scheduled for 2018. Construction let date scheduled for 2020.
- Buffalo Road/Interchange – at 70 – Improvements to the ramp on the North side with a 2019 construction let date.
- Pine Level – Interchanges are under construction and are 55% complete. Project is 15% behind schedule with a 2018 completion date.
- US 70 – Johnston/Wayne County line to Goldsboro Bypass – looking to accelerate project to improve existing US 70 to Freeway Standards with construction in 2024.
- Feasibility Study – US 70 Johnston/Wayne County line to Wilson Mills area – results of study will determine if breaking the project into smaller pieces would be beneficial for future prioritization.

#### **Update/Status – SPOT Scoring**

Patrick Flanagan, Planning Director for the Eastern Carolina Council, gave the Commission an update on Prioritization 5.0. Patrick indicated he is a member of the SPOT 5.0 Workgroup and they have been meeting since October of 2016. At their meeting last week, the workgroup finalized measures for Highway default scoring criteria. The criteria will be presented in draft form to the Board of Transportation at the end of this month and will seek final approval at their meeting in June. Mr. Flanagan presented the draft criteria and indicated one of the major changes for 5.0 was considering not only existing conditions for highway projects but considering future benefits (future conditions) the project may have. Eligible criteria for highway scoring is as follows: Congestion, Benefit/Cost, Safety Score, Economic Competitiveness, Accessibility/Connectivity, Freight, Multimodal, Land Width, Shoulder Width and Pavement Score. He indicated there was no change in Congestion, Benefit/Cost, Accessibility/Connectivity, Lane Width, Shoulder Width and Pavement Score from 4.0 however changes in 5.0 did occur for Safety, Freight and Multimodal. He specified Economic Competitiveness was a

criteria weight only for Statewide Mobility projects and Multimodal score was based on sum of benefits to other modes which is summarized in a multimodal benefits table. He presented the default highway scoring criteria and weights which is attached for review regarding each criteria weight. Regarding funding category projects are scored 100% quantitative for Statewide Mobility, 70% quantitative and 30% local input (15% Division, 15% MPO/RPO) for Regional Impact and 50% quantitative and 50% local input (25% Division, 25% Division) for Division Needs.

Mr. Flanagan did mention alternate weights are allowed for Regional Impact and Division Needs scoring. Requirements for alternate weights is all MPOs/RPOs/Division Engineers unanimously agree on alternate weights by funding category within respective paired funding Regions or Divisions. A memo to SPOT from each MPO/RPO/Division Engineer must be received by September 30, 2017. Mr. Flanagan concluded with some key dates regarding the P5.0 schedule. He indicated July 5, 2017 SPOT Online opens for testing, entering, and submitting projects and closed on September 29, 2017. August 25, 2017 existing project deletions due for receiving extra new submittals (one out, one in) and existing project modifications are due.

#### **Public Comments**

No member of public spoke.

#### **Financial Report**

Highway 70 Corridor Commission Director M. Durwood Stephenson reported as of April 30, 2017 there was an account balance of \$239,104.73.

#### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Highway 70 Corridor Commission will be held on July 20, 2017 at 1:30pm in Carteret County. The meeting location will be determined at a later date.

#### **Adjournment**

At 3:45 p.m., Highway 70 Corridor Commission Chairman Tom Mark adjourned the meeting.



Jennifer K. Collins