

NORTH CAROLINA

WAYNE COUNTY

The Highway 70 Corridor Commission of North Carolina, Inc. met on Thursday, January 21, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. at Lane Tree Conference Center, 2317 Salem Church Road, Goldsboro, North Carolina.

County members present:

Carteret County – Robin Comer, Mark Mansfield and Jesse Vinson
Craven County – Don Baumgardner, Bobby Darden, Tom Mark, Jack B. Veit and Danny Walsh
Johnston County – Zach Ollis, Frank Price and Donald B. Rains
Jones County – None
Lenoir County – John Craft and Linda Rouse Sutton
Wayne County – Chuck Allen, Chris Boyette, Joe Daughtery and Bill Pate

Other persons present:

North Carolina Board of Transportation – Gus Tulloss
Highway 70 Corridor Commission Director – M. Durwood Stephenson
Governor Pat McCrory's Eastern Office – Steve Keen
North Carolina Department of Transportation – Dominique Boyd, Jeff Cabaniss, Haywood Daughtry, Jimmy Eatmon, Rob Hanson, Jiles Harrell and John Rouse
Down East RPO – Patrick Flanagan
Eastern Carolina RPO – Lauren Tuttle
Capital Area MPO – Alex Rickard
Havelock – Karen Lewis and Katrina Marshall
Goldsboro MPO – Jennifer Collins
New Bern Area MPO – Maurizia Chapman and Kim Maxey
Wayne County – George Wayne Aycock, Jr.; Chip Crumpler and Marcia R. Wilson
Citizen – Phillip Wright

Call to Order and Welcome

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

Wayne County Board of Commissioners Chairman Joe Daughtery welcomed the members of the Highway 70 Corridor Commission to Wayne County.

Approval of the Agenda

Upon motion of Wayne County Member Bill Pate and seconded by Craven County Member Jack Veit, the members of the Highway 70 Corridor Commission unanimously approved the agenda as presented.

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion of Wayne County Member Joe Daughtery and seconded by Lenoir County Member Linda Rouse Sutton, the members of the Highway 70 Corridor Commission unanimously approved the minutes of the meeting on December 3, 2015.

North Carolina Board of Transportation Member Report

North Carolina Board of Transportation Member Gus Tulloss stated it was a great time to be involved in transportation in North Carolina and the United States. In a press release Congressman G. K. Butterfield stated passage of the federal transportation bill took both parties working together. The bill included interstate designations in eastern North Carolina. North Carolina Department of Transportation Division 4 has lots of projects. Money has been allocated for projects. The point system is working well and everyone is learning how best to present their projects so they will score. Governor Pat McCrory fully supports transportation.

Governor Pat McCrory's Office Report

Steve Keen, Director of Governor Pat McCrory's Eastern Region Office, stated the Connect NC Bond will be on the March 2016 ballot. Governor Pat McCrory will push for additional transportation funding in the upcoming session of the North Carolina General Assembly, which was not included in the Connect NC Bond Act of 2015. The unfunded bond projects in eastern North Carolina include NC Highway 158, US Highway 70 upgrades, US Highway 17, US Highway 421 and NC Highway 24. Governor Pat McCrory wants to connect all areas of the state and move the transportation projects forward.

Steve Keen, Director of Governor Pat McCrory's Eastern Region Office, stated Governor Pat McCrory declared a State of Emergency this morning. He urged the North Carolina Department of Transportation personnel to be safe and careful in their preparation for the upcoming winter storm.

Financial Report

Highway 70 Corridor Commission Director M. Durwood Stephenson reported as of January 21, 2016 there was an account balance of \$243,281.40.

General Remarks

Highway 70 Corridor Commission Director M. Durwood Stephenson stated the federal surface transportation bill is the first transportation bill since 2005. The bill also has some negatives, which will affect Interstate 95. North Carolina has federal permission to toll an interstate, but this bill capped the time frame to get tolling started at one year. After one year with no action, the federal permission goes away. He encouraged everyone to thank our congressional delegation who supported the transportation bill. It is a big deal to have the opportunity to have an interstate highway in eastern North Carolina. We started planning for our interstate designations five years ago to have US Highway 70 built to interstate and freeway

standards. The bypasses at Wilson's Mills and Pine Level will be corrected and the projects are funded. The only project, which is not funded, is the Kinston Bypass.

North Carolina Board of Transportation Member Gus Tulloss stated Congressman G. K. Butterfield said the interstate designations are a big deal in eastern North Carolina.

Highway 70 Corridor Commission Director M. Durwood Stephenson stated future interstate signs will be erected in each of the five counties along the corridor. All communities along the corridor are invited to participate in the erection of the future interstate signs.

Highway 70 Corridor Commission Director M. Durwood Stephenson stated Johnston County is working to keep the CSX cargo hub in Johnston County.

Resolution Welcoming CSX to Eastern North Carolina

Upon motion of Wayne County Member Chuck Allen and seconded by Carteret County Member Jesse Vinson, the members of the US Highway 70 Corridor Commission unanimously approved and authorized a resolution be sent to CSX welcoming CSX to eastern North Carolina and offering its support.

Division 2 Update

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

- The future interstate designation signs are being manufactured and should be delivered in February. The interstate corridor is running from Interstate 40 to the Port at Morehead City. There will be signs at each county line and at the beginning and ending terminus of the interstate corridor.
- The North Carolina Board of Transportation met earlier this month. Amendments were made to the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) at the meeting pertaining to the additional funding to the budget when the transfers to the general fund ended and the Department of Motor Vehicle fees were increased. US Highway 70 gained an additional large project upgrading James City to the Havelock Bypass to a freeway at interstate standards.
- Wyse Fork Battlefield Commission applied to have the battlefield placed on the National Historic Register. The Commission has applied to have a 4,200-acre battlefield site, which would create boundary issues with four of the five proposed sites for the Kinston Bypass. At a recent meeting, the majority of property owners affected by the expansion of the battlefield opposed the nomination. The Lenoir County Board of Commissioners is also opposed to the nomination.
- After the Goldsboro Bypass, the first stoplight in Lenoir County is located at Little Baltimore. A safety project will address vehicles travelling at a high rate of speed off the Goldsboro Bypass and encountering the stoplight at Little Baltimore. The North Carolina Department of Transportation is studying short-term interim safety improvements based on cost and traffic feasibilities.

- Gallants Channel Bridge – construction is ahead of schedule. Estimate traffic will be on the bridge in late 2016.
- Replace Newport River Bridge with four-lane bridge and improvements on Radio Island were funded in the State Transportation Improvement Plan.

Division 4 Update

North Carolina Department of Transportation Division 4 District Engineer Jiles Harrell updated the members of the Highway 70 Corridor Commission on the following projects:

- Goldsboro Bypass eastern section – 89% complete. The grade has been covered. The weather and temperatures will limit work until spring approaches. Incidental work, such as guardrails, sign installations, etc., is continuing now. Surface asphalt will be put down in March. Signs will be updated once the bypass is open. Completion scheduled for June 1, 2016.
- Goldsboro Bypass Intelligent Transportation System project is underway. The submittal phase, which is typically a six month window, is currently underway. The time between the award of the contract and beginning of construction allows for approval of materials and fabrication.
- Pine Level interchange project is 20% complete. The large culvert on US Highway 70A is nearing completion. Fill on US Highway 70A on the Pine Level side has started. The operation will be slow until the weather turns warmer. The culvert construction on Davis Mill Road will begin soon with excavation for diversion having been started. Construction of the second culvert will begin once the US Highway 70A culvert is complete.
- Martin Livestock Road safety project. Plans are in development. The target let date is 2016.
- Wilson’s Mills interchanges. The project is in development. A public hearing is scheduled for next month. Right of way acquisition in 2017 and construction scheduled for 2019.

Planning and Work Session

Highway 70 Corridor Commission Director M. Durwood Stephenson stated 2015 was an extremely successful year regarding transportation. The North Carolina General Assembly provided new revenue. The federal transportation bill allows the North Carolina Department of Transportation to plan projects.

Members of the Highway 70 Corridor Commission suggested the following priorities for 2016:

- Kinston Bypass – need local community buy-in and need to deal with the Wyse Fork Battlefield expansion. The most pressing issue is getting the Kinston Bypass back into the State Transportation Improvement Plan by getting one section of the bypass to score.
- Continuation of the Havelock Bypass
- James City
- Once the potential corridors have been identified, work with the local governments to protect the corridors. We need to get eliminate the driveways on the new corridors so we

do not have to retrofit the corridor later. The corridors must be protected. There must be zoning around the corridor planning for future development and growth.

- Realign near the Port at Morehead City to accommodate for growth. Commercial ingress and egress at the Port at Morehead City.
- Promotion of small safety projects along the corridor. Note: North Carolina Department of Transportation Eastern Region Field Operations Engineer Haywood Daughtry stated the state traffic engineer reinstated the cap on safety projects where nothing can be programmed more than \$1 million without his prior clearance. The preliminary engineering on the Wilson's Mills project is being funded from safety funds, while other funds are being sought for right of way and construction. This funding method may be used for other projects along the corridor. Currently, there is only \$60 million statewide for safety project funding.
- US Highway 70 connecting with Interstate 40 going into Wake County/Raleigh. The cost of the project is more than the programmed cost. The parameters of the project are being examined. Note: North Carolina Department of Transportation Eastern Region Project Development Section Head Rob Hanson stated a single environmental document will cover both the Interstate 40/NC Highway 42 and the Cornwallis Road interchanges, but only the Interstate 40/NC Highway 42 project was funded in the State Transportation Improvement Program.

Havelock Bypass Update

North Carolina Department of Transportation Eastern Region Project Development Section Head Rob Hanson updated the members of the Highway 70 Corridor Commission on the Havelock Bypass. The final Environmental Impact Statement has been approved by the Federal Highway Administration and the due date for comments is tomorrow. Extensions for comments have been requested. The EPA had some minor issues including fencing for wildlife passage at certain bridges and the impact on the Craven County waste transfer facility relocation. An aggressive schedule would be to have the Record of Decision signed in March by the Federal Highway Administration. Right of way plans would be next step.

Craven County Member Danny Walsh stated the City of Havelock recently completed a Brownfields project downstream to may be able to supply hydrology information.

Comments

North Carolina Department of Transportation Eastern Region Project Development Section Head Rob Hanson stated Charles Edwards with the North Carolina Center for Global Logistics will speak to the North Carolina Board of Transportation US Highway 70 Work Group on February 4, 2016. The North Carolina Center for Global Logistics is a collaborative effort between community colleges, universities and industry partners focused on developing a highly trained workforce for the logistics and supply chain industry. Mr. Edwards will tailor his presentation to eastern North Carolina and specifically to the US Highway 70 corridor.

Capital Area MPO (CAMPO) Deputy Director Alex Rickard stated CAMPO is working on the southeast study, which includes a 30-year long-range land use transportation plan for

Johnston County west of Interstate 95 and southeastern Wake County. The public comment period for the Environmental Impact Statement for Interstate 540 has closed with the Record of Decision scheduled for later this fall. The North Carolina Department of Transportation is expected to give its opinion on the preferred Interstate 540 corridor later this spring.

New Bern Area MPO Administrator Maurizia Chapman stated the members are working on the long-range transportation plan. The plan is on the website for review.

City of Havelock Planning and Inspections Director Katrina Marshall stated right of way acquisition is taking place for the Slocum flyover.

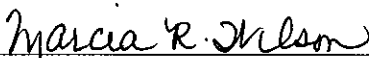
In response to a question from Craven County Member Danny Walsh, the members responded several towns in North Carolina have used Powell Bill monies to pay for street improvements.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Highway 70 Corridor Commission will be held in Lenoir County. The date and location will be announced later.

Adjournment

At 2:45 p.m., Highway 70 Corridor Commission Vice-Chairman Tom Mark adjourned the meeting.



Marcia R. Wilson