

North Carolina

Johnston County

The I-42/US 70 Corridor Commission of North Carolina, Inc. met on Thursday, January 31, 2019 at 1:30pm at the Johnston County Agricultural Center, 2736 NC 210 Highway, Smithfield, North Carolina.

County members present:

Carteret County – Jesse Vinson and Robin Comer

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

Johnston County – Donald Rains, Frank Price and Ted Godwin

Lenoir County – Linda Rouse Sutton and Mark Pope

Wayne County – Jack Best, Chris Boyette, Joe Gurley, Chuck Allen and Wayne Aycock

Other persons present:

North Carolina Board of Transportation – Gus Tulloss

Highway 70 Corridor Commission Director – M. Durwood Stephenson

North Carolina Department of Transportation – Tim Little, John Rouse, Ronnie Keeter, Preston Hunter, Chris Pendergraph, Jiles Harrell, Sam Lawhorn, Jimmy Eatmon, Justin Delancey and Raymond Honbarrier

Down East RPO – Patrick Flanagan and Eric Howell

City of Goldsboro/Goldsboro MPO – Jennifer Collins

Town of Wilson Mill's – Jim Uzzle

Town of Morehead City – Ryan Eggleston

Johnston County Planning – Braston Newton

New Bern MPO – Kim Maxey

City of Havelock – Katrina Marshall

Town of Smithfield – Michael Scott

Wilson's Mills – Johnny Eason

NC Rural Center – Jason Gray

Lenoir County Economic Development – Keely Koonce

Wayne County Economic Development – Mark Pope

Johnston County Economic Development – Chris Johnson

General Public – Lacey Barnes, Bruce Beasley, Steve Hicks, Ben Parrish and Larry Barnes

Call to Order and Welcome

I-42/US 70 Corridor Commission Chairman Tom Mark called the meeting to order and Johnston County Member Ted Godwin welcomed everyone to the meeting and offered remarks.

Approval of the Agenda

Upon motion of the Johnston County Member Ted Godwin and seconded by Lenoir County Member Linda Rouse Sutton, the members of the I-42/US 70 Corridor Commission unanimously approved the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion of Carteret County Member Jesse Vinson and seconded by Johnson County Member Ted Godwin, the members of the I-42/US 70 Corridor Commission unanimously approve the minutes of the meeting on November 15, 2018.

Remarks

NCDOT Secretary, James H. Trogon, III, addressed the Commission and discussed how NCDOT plans to provide the tools to accommodate transportation needs as North Carolina continues to grow in population. He discussed his assessment (first 30-60 days on the job when the Governor brought him back to lead transportation) in 2017 that led to evaluate where NCDOT was, where they needed to go, where they are today and how to execute a plan to move forward as growth continues. He touched on project funding, project delivery, acceleration of projects and future technologies.

NC Secretary of Commerce, Tony Copeland, addressed the Commission and discussed his duties and mission to bringing stability back to jobs in North Carolina. He discussed challenges facing North Carolina, logistics and preparation to improve the economic well-being and quality of life for North Carolina. He stressed workforce development is key for communities in North Carolina to succeed.

Economic Development Discussion

Economic Development Directors Chris Johnson, Mark Pope, Keely Koonce and Jesse Vinson discussed Economic Development within their respective areas with the Commission.

Chief Engineers Report

North Carolina Department of Transportation Chief Engineer, Tim Little, highlighted several points regarding accelerating projects and challenging MPOs/RPOs to think ahead and plan for how Interstates/Bypasses affect roads that connect to them. He indicated John Rouse would provide the Commission with an update on the Broadband Project.

John Rouse indicated the construction of 140 miles of broadband along US 70 from I-40 to the Port of Morehead would begin in July of 2020 with a completion date of September 1, 2022.

BOT Members Report

Board of Transportation Member Gus Tulloss informed the Commission of a program development effort with Carolina Gateway Partnership. Eight Community Colleges within Division 4 are partnering with Carolina Gateway Partnership to target 9th grade high school students to prepare them to be job ready upon graduation of college. Through this program students would be guaranteed acceptance within the Community College and guaranteed job placement after college.

Division 2 Update

North Carolina Department of Transportation Division 2 Engineer, Preston Hunter, updated the members of the I-42/US 70 Corridor Commission on the following projects:

- Kinston US 70 Resurfacing - Bear Creek Bridge to SR 1690 (Willie Measley Road) – Widening/Strengthening/Resurfacing Roadway to Interstate Standards with a Division Let date of March 2019.
- “Little Baltimore” – Grade separated interchange at US 70 and Willie Measley Road. Public Meeting held November 29, 2018. Preferred alternate has been selected with a Division Let date of FY 2024.
- Kinston Bypass – Project is on schedule and draft EIS submitted and waiting on comments. Right-of-way is slated for 2022. Construction let day for FY 2025
- US 70 Resurfacing Project – US 70 at 258 east to Dover Exit. Resurfacing contract awarded to Barnhill Construction. Dover to New Bern is scheduled for resurfacing and contract was also awarded to Barnhill Contracting Company. Completion is scheduled for spring 2019.

- US 70 Widening and Resurfacing – Widening/strengthening/resurfacing roadway to Interstate Standards from Dover to New Bern. Contract awarded to Barnhill Contracting Company. Work started in January 2019 with a completion date of November 15, 2019.
- U-6102 Upgrade US 70 Interchange at Glenburnie Ave – Consultant development of Feasibility Study is complete and Kisinger Campo & Associates has begun preliminary engineering & design work.
- James City – Project is on schedule and will include two additional interchanges at Taberna Way and Thurman Road as part of the overall project. Selection of Design Build Firm is scheduled for June 2019.
- Slocum Road Interchange – Project is on schedule and under construction. ST Wooten has completed 44% of the project with a completion date of March 2020.
- Havelock Bypass – Currently working on Right-of-Way. Project is scheduled to let February 2019.
- Newport River Port Bridge Replacement – Currently working on Environmental Document and Preliminary Designs with a Construction let FY 2022.
- Gallants Channel Bridge – Currently in progress of removing Old Bridge with 95% of the project complete.

Division 4 Update

North Carolina Department of Transportation Division 4 Engineer, Ronnie Keeter, updated the members of the I-42/US 70 Corridor Commission on the following projects:

- Wilson’s Mills – Upgrade US 70 to Interstate standards from US 70 Business to Neuse River. Currently acquiring Right-of-Way, Utility design in progress and 90% plan preparation in progress. Construction let date of September 2019.
- R-5829 A/B (US 70 – Johnston/Wayne County line to Goldsboro Bypass) – Preliminary Design completed in January 2019 with a public meeting scheduled for April 2019.

STIP 2020/2029 – Patrick Flanagan

Eastern Carolina Council Planning Director, Patrick Flanagan, indicated projects with particular interest to the I-42/US 70 Corridor Commission that were draft funded in the 2020-2029 STIP. Several US 70 Upgrade to I-42 Projects were draft programmed in the statewide tier with several sections of the US 117 Upgrade to I-795 projects draft programmed in the regional tier. Mr. Flanagan reminded the Commission the 2020-2029 Draft STIP was released earlier this month and will be presented to the Board of Transportation at their June 2019 meeting for adoption.

Comments from Executive Director M. Durwood Stephenson

I-42/US 70 Corridor Commission Executive Director, M. Durwood Stephenson, briefly touched on the Global Transpark and referred to it as Eastern North Carolina’s “Sleeping Gaint”. He indicated there are on-going conversations that could be huge for the Transpark and would be very exciting for Eastern North Carolina. He reminded the Commission that this Commission started out with a focus on infrastructure however today he believed a priority of this Commission is Economic Development for Eastern North Carolina. He believes it is key to continue to educate our younger generation to prepare

people for a different economy in 2025. Technology is a driving factor on how we should plan for the future.

Mr. Stephenson introduced Sam Lawhorn to the Commission and indicated he is the new District Engineer for Johnston and Wayne Counties. He also introduced Raymond Honbarrier and indicated he is the new County Maintenance Engineer for Johnston County.

Financial Report

I-42/US 70 Corridor Commission Director M. Durwood Stephenson reported, as of December 31, 2018, there was an account balance of \$308,920.05.

Special Presentation

I-42/US 70 Corridor Commission Director M. Durwood Stephenson presented Chairman Tom Mark with a gift of appreciation for serving as the Chairman of the Commission for the year 2018.

Election of Officers

Highway 70 Corridor Commission Director M. Durwood Stephenson indicated the first meeting of each year the Commission elects new officers. Upon motion of Wayne County Member Jack Best and seconded by Craven County Member Tom Mark, the members of the I-42/US 70 Corridor Commission unanimously approved Lenoir County Member Linda Rouse Sutton as Chair of the I-42/US 70 Corridor Commission for the year 2019.

Upon motion of Carteret County Member Robin Comer and seconded by Craven County Member Danny Walsh, the members of the I-42/US 70 Corridor Commission unanimously approved Carteret County Member Jesse Vinson as Vice-Chairman of the I-42/US 70 Corridor Commission for the year 2019.

Upon motion of Johnston County Member Ted Godwin and seconded by Craven County Member Danny Walsh, the members of the I-42/US 70 Corridor Commission unanimously approved Johnston County Member Frank Price as Secretary of the I-42/US 70 Corridor Commission for the year 2019.

Public Comments

Mr. Don Black addressed the Commission with concerns of US 70 Bypass Designation as an Interstate and cited reasons it should be changed from a Future Designated Interstate to an Active Interstate. Mr. Durwood Stephenson requested Mr. Black send him a "white paper" regarding his concerns and he would address his concerns/comments with NCDOT. The "white paper" was sent to Mr. Stephenson and is attached to these minutes for record.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the I-42/US 70 Corridor Commission will be held on April 18, 2019 in Lenoir County.

Adjournment

At 3:30 p.m., I-42/US 70 Corridor Commission Chairman Tom Mark adjourned the meeting.

Jennifer K. Collins