

North Carolina

Carteret County

The Highway 70 Corridor Commission of North Carolina, Inc. met on Thursday, July 19, 2018 at 1:30pm at the Carteret County Civic Center, 3505 Arendell Street, Morehead City, North Carolina.

County members present:

Carteret County – Jesse Vinson and Mark Mansfield,
Craven County – Danny Walsh, Jack Veit, Bobby Darden and Tom Mark
Johnston County – Donald Rains, Frank Price and Ted Godwin
Lenoir County – Linda Rouse Sutton
Wayne County – Jack Best

Other persons present:

North Carolina Board of Transportation – Gus Tulloss and Hugh Overholt
Highway 70 Corridor Commission Director – M. Durwood Stephenson
North Carolina Department of Transportation – Tim Little, John Rouse, Ronnie Keeter, Preston Hunter, Jimmy Eatmon, Haywood Daughtry, Diane Hampton and Heather Hildebrandt
Down East RPO – Patrick Flanagan
Upper Coastal Plains RPO – James Salmons
City of Goldsboro/Goldsboro MPO – Jennifer Collins
City of Havelock – Katrina Marshall
Carteret County Economic Development – Kristi Mroch
Lenoir County Economic Development – Keely Koonce
Wilson’s Mills – Johnny Eason
News Times – Elise Clouser
General Public – Ophelia Davis, Bruce Beasley and Michelle Haynes

Call to Order and Welcome

Highway 70 Corridor Commission Chairman Tom Mark called the meeting to order and Carteret County Member Jesse Vinson welcomed and introduced special guest Lockwood Phillips. Lockwood Phillips hosts a talk radio program called “Viewpoints” on station WTKF 107.1 FM located in Morehead City and broadcasting throughout Eastern North Carolina. Mr. Phillips is also co-owner and General Manager of The Carteret County News-Times, a community newspaper based in Morehead City. Mr. Phillips welcomed everyone to the meeting and offered remarks.

Approval of the Agenda

Upon motion of the Carteret County Member Jesse Vinson and seconded by Johnston County Member Ted Godwin, the members of the Highway 70 Corridor Commission unanimously approved the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion of Lenoir County Member Linda Rouse Sutton and seconded by Carteret County Member Jesse Vinson, the members of the Highway 70 Corridor Commission unanimously approve the minutes of the meeting on May 17, 2018.

Ayden Food Processing Status

John Chaffee, President of the NC East Alliance, provided the Commission with an update on the Ayden Food Processing Center. He indicated he met with the Dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences to gain his support of the Center and he is very interested in the project. The Dean recommended revising the Business Plan for the Center, which they are now in the process of doing to include nutrition research. There is an upcoming dinner meeting scheduled in August geared to farmers that would find value in using the 20,000 – 30,000 square foot proposed facility. Efforts continue to meet with Department of Agriculture and State Senators that are interested in the project. He concluded indicating the proposed concept also includes an idea of a “Food Hub” for fresh produce where it would be processed (cleaned/prepared) and shipped out of Eastern North Carolina.

Infrastructure Grant – Janet Bradbury, Senator Burr Office

Janet Bradbury with Senator Burr’s Office briefed the Commission on the response of Senator Burr regarding the Infrastructure Grant award. Ms. Bradbury indicated Senator Burr was very pleased with the news of NCDOT receiving the \$147 Million Infrastructure Grant to improve the I-95/I-42 Corridors and Broadband. This grant will allow for Economic Development along the I-42 Corridor and it was great news for Senator Burr’s office.

I-95/U.S. 70 Infrastructure Grant, Broadband Eastern NC, Build NC and CSX Hub Status – Tim Little, Chief Engineer

Tim Little, NCDOT Chief Engineer, provided an update on several projects on behalf of NCDOT COO, Bobby Lewis. Mr. Little indicated John Rouse, Deputy Chief Engineer, would provide details regarding the Infrastructure Grant and he thanked the Commission for their support of Build NC. Concerning the CSX Hub status, he indicated the original model called for a “hub-and-spoke” intermodal facility and in its new incarnation, the rail hub will be a “traditional intermodal site” referred to as an “on-time delivery” model. Mr. Little concluded with requesting continued support from the Commission regarding upcoming projects within the next two years along the corridor. He indicated as those projects progress, there would be gaps and in order to fill those gaps and continue the vision of the corridor your support is vital to the success of the corridor.

BOT Members Report

Board of Transportation Member Hugh Overholt indicated he was no longer the Division 2 Representative to the Board. The new representative is Thomas Taft located out of Greenville. Mr. Taft joined the NCDOT Board of Transportation in June 2018. Gen. Overholt indicated he would still have a presence on the NCDOT Board of Transportation as an At-Large Member and would continue to help in any way possible to support projects in Eastern North Carolina.

Board of Transportation Member Gus Tulloss thanked Hugh Overholt for his dedication to NCDOT and Eastern North Carolina. He also thanked Mr. Lockwood Phillips for his comments regarding interstates and for highlighting I-42.

Comments from Executive Director M. Durwood Stephenson

Highway 70 Corridor Commission Director M. Durwood Stephenson followed up on Build NC and indicated it had “died” in House Committee and thanks to Bobby Lewis, Tim Little, and NCDOT Staff, it was resurrected and passed in Senate with a 47-0 vote. The support for Build NC will allow \$3 Billion dollars to accelerate projects over the next 5 years. Finally, Mr. Stephenson indicated Hurricane Season has arrived and stressed there are still people suffering from Hurricane Matthew and needing assistance. As a serving member of the Emergency Management Flood Mitigation Study Team, he indicated the final report was released on May 1, 2018 and is available for review online. He stated he is not very optimistic of the results/recommendations as most of the study is a repeat of the Corps of Engineers Study completed in 1965. The reality of getting projects accomplished are not strong. NCDOT and NC State University have a study ongoing and he has requested three or four recommendations from those efforts that can be accomplished to minimize down-stream flooding by Fall 2018.

Remarks – John Rouse, Deputy Chief Engineer

NCDOT Deputy Chief Engineer, John Rouse, addressed the Commission on the 1-95/I-42 Infrastructure Grant awarded to NCDOT. He summarized the three components of the grant and indicated NCDOT was awarded \$147 Million dollars to widen 25 miles of I-95, allow NCDOT to accelerate projects along the US 70 Corridor and install 300 miles of fiber optic cable networks to expand broadband areas along the corridors.

Division 2 Update

North Carolina Department of Transportation Division 2 Engineer, Preston Hunter, updated the members of the Highway 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. Currently working through functional design alternatives and conducting historic/archaeology surveys. Environmental Document expected in October 2018 with a Division Let date of FY 2024.
- Kinston Bypass – Project is on schedule and draft EIS is scheduled to be completed Summer 2018. 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 and completed this fall (October 1, 2018). Dover to New Bern is scheduled for resurfacing and contract was also awarded to Barnhill Construction. Completion is scheduled for fall 2019 (November 15, 2019).
- U-6102 Upgrade US 70 Interchange at Glenburnie Ave – Consultant developing feasibility study and selection of Engineering Firm for Project Design.
- James City – Project is on schedule and will include two additional interchanges at Taberna Way and Thurman Road as part of the overall project. Environmental Documents were completed in May 2018 with right-of-way acquisition scheduled for January 2019. Award project in FY 2019.
- Slocum Road Interchange – Project is on schedule and under construction. ST Wooten has completed 27% 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 with a Construction let of December 2019.
- Gallants Channel Bridge – Currently working on Eastern Tie-in at Olga Road and final surface layer underway. Roadway work is scheduled for completion late August 2018.

Division 4 Update

North Carolina Department of Transportation Division 4 Engineer, Ronnie Keeter, updated the members of the Highway 70 Corridor Commission on the following projects:

- Clayton Bypass – 90% Complete with a completion date of October 19, 2018.
- Wilson's Mills – Upgrade US 70 to Interstate standards from US 70 Business to Neuse River. Currently acquiring Right-of-Way with a Construction let date of September 2019.
- R-5829 A/B (US 70 – Johnston/Wayne County line to Goldsboro Bypass) – Been instructed by Chief Engineer to accelerate project for Design Build Let in December 2019.

Financial Report

Highway 70 Corridor Commission Director M. Durwood Stephenson reported, as of July 18, 2018, there was an account balance of \$307,632.56.

Public Comments

Johnston County Member Ted Godwin indicated the Corridor Commission should consider including I-42 as part of the official name of the Corridor Commission. After brief discussion, Johnston County Member Ted Godwin made a motion to include I-42 to the US 70 Corridor Commission Name and Lenoir County Member Linda Rouse Sutton seconded the motion. The members of the Highway Corridor Commission unanimously approved for the official name of the Corridor Commission to read I-42/US 70 Corridor Commission.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Highway 70 Corridor Commission will be held on September 20, 2018 at 1:30pm in Craven County.

Highway 70 Corridor Commission Director M. Durwood Stephenson indicated he was trying to arrange for the November Commission Meeting to be held at the Global Transpark in Lenoir County.

Adjournment

At 3:00 p.m., Highway 70 Corridor Commission Chairman Tom Mark adjourned the meeting.

Jennifer K. Collins