

## **NORTH CAROLINA**

### **WAYNE COUNTY**

The Highway 70 Corridor Commission of North Carolina, Inc. met on Thursday, November 15, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. at the Goldsboro Event Center, 1501 South Slocumb Street, Goldsboro, North Carolina.

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

Carteret County – Jesse Vinson

Craven County – Tom Mark and Donald Baumgardner

Johnston County – Donald Rains, Berry Gray and Frank Price

Jones County – None

Lenoir County – Mark Pope and Linda Rouse Sutton

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

#### **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, Jeff Cabaniss, Preston Hunter, Ronnie Keeter, Jiles Harrell, Dominique Boyd, and James Dunlop

Greenville MPO – Ryan Purtle

Wilson's Mills – Johnny Eason

City of Goldsboro – Jennifer Collins

City of Havelock – Katrina Marshall

Kisinger Campo & Associates – Debbie Barbour

NC Railroad Company – Megen Hoenk and Anna Lea Moore

NC East Alliance – John Chaffee

Pitt ENCFCC – Keith Puruis

Deacon Jones – Ken Jones

Atkins (Consultants) – Rob Hanson

Ormond Gas – Eddie Ormond

Steve Hicks

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

Highway 70 Corridor Commission Chairman Tom Mark called the meeting to order and Wayne County Commissioner Chairman Bill Pate welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

Highway 70 Corridor Commission Chairman Tom Mark indicated a revision to the agenda was necessary. NCDOT Chief Engineer, Tim Little, needed to be advanced on the agenda and provide comments prior to Highway 70 Corridor Commission Executive Director, Mr. Durwood Stephenson, and after Public Comments voting of Highway 70 Corridor Commission Officers for 2018 needed to be added to the agenda.

Upon motion of the Wayne County Member Chris Boyette and seconded by NCDOT Board of Transportation Member Gus Tulloss, the members of the Highway 70 Corridor Commission unanimously approved the revised agenda.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Upon motion of North Carolina Board of Transportation Member Gus Tulloss and seconded by Johnson County Member Donald Rains, the members of the Highway 70 Corridor Commission unanimously approved the minutes of the meeting on September 21, 2017.

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

North Carolina Board of Transportation Division 4 Member Gus Tullos offered comments and indicated it is an exciting time for NCDOT statewide and within divisions. He recognized the new Chief Engineer for the State of North Carolina, Tim Little, and introduced the new Division 4 Engineer, Ronnie Keeter. He stated Ronnie Keeter will be a great asset to Division 4 and as indicated at a Wayne County Transportation Committee meeting earlier this morning, Division 4 has many road projects going on and many have be accelerated for construction.

### **U.S. 70 Project Overview**

Mr. Tim Little, Chief Engineer, thanked the Commission for revising the agenda to allow him to offer comments about the 70 Corridor earlier as he had a meeting in Raleigh he needed to attend. He reminded the Commission lots of work has occurred over the years however, there is still a lot of work left to do concerning the 70 Corridor and obtaining Interstate Designation. He stated the projects left are existing facilities such as, Town of Princeton and Wilson Mill's, and encouraged the Commission to stay the course and educate people of why NCDOT is doing this. He emphasized the importance of communication with elected officials and citizens, which in return, would result in less evasive impacts to affected towns.

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

Highway 70 Corridor Commission Director M. Durwood Stephenson stressed the importance of supporting the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. He indicated the Piedmont Region is our biggest opposition and it was decided that supporters in the Eastern Region would conduct an all-out media blitz to cover the importance of the Pipeline and the opportunity it would provide to Eastern North Carolina. He encouraged the Commission to express support to elected leaders and industry partners by sending a letter of support for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. This pipeline is an opportunity of a lifetime to provide the energy needed to boost our economy and generate new opportunities for our people. It could mean more jobs, better economic stability and more affordable, reliable energy to power our homes and businesses. He also indicated he is still working to secure funding for Ayden regarding the Food Processing Model project efforts. He concluded with let's all join together to support all means of infrastructure just as we have for roads.

### **Roundabouts Presentation**

Highway 70 Corridor Commission Executive Director, Mr. Durwood Stephenson, indicated he invited NCDOT Congestion Management Engineer, James Dunlop, to provide the Commission with information

regarding roundabouts as he knew of two or three project improvements being made that could possibly incorporate roundabouts and/or all way stops to relieve congestion. Mr. Dunlop provided information about the design concepts of both roundabouts and all way stops as well as how affective the design improvements are in improving congestion and safety.

### **N.C. Railroad Report**

North Carolina Railroad Vice President of Economic Development, Anna Lea Moore, updated the members of the Highway 70 Corridor Commission on who the railroad company is, why they are becoming more engaged in economic development and the big initiative launched across the state of North Carolina. Ms. Moore stated the Railroad is a private company with one share holder, that being the state of North Carolina. The North Carolina Railroad Company owns a rail corridor covering more than 300 miles in our state, which they lease to Norfolk Southern Corp., a Class 1 freight railroad. She indicated their main goal was to reinvest revenue back into the railroad and across the state to ensure that critical lifeline for freight rail service is ready to meet the current and future needs of businesses looking to grow or locate in North Carolina. Three main initiatives; NCR Invests, Industrial Rail Site Identification Study, and Partnerships with North Carolina's four mega sites, were created to help expand economic opportunities and achieve the main goal of the Railroad. She covered details about each initiative and their approach to moving our economy forward. She concluded with the Railroad is committed to helping expand economic opportunities, attracting new industry and creating good jobs today, and in the future.

### **Rural Forward**

Mr. Bob Etheridge, Chairman of Rural Forward and former Congressman addressed the Commission about the creation of the Rural Forward Committee and their efforts in protecting Rural Eastern North Carolina. He provided an overview of Rural Forward and stated it is an effort in building a place for rural activists to congregate, communicate and organize for change at both the local and national levels. Rural Forward was launched to provide a place for rural citizens to share ideas, discuss issues and solutions to improve rural communities, and help organize and prepare the next elected leaders for rural America. He stressed the three areas in which rural America is struggling; Healthcare, Education and Jobs and stated Rural Forward will be a place for many to connect and navigate a path forward to address those areas of concerns.

### **Project (R-5829) – US 70 at Princeton**

Consultant Project Manager, Debbie Barbour with Kisinger Campo & Associates (KCA), introduced the project team for project R-5829. She indicated Matt Clark, NCDOT Division 4, is Project Manager and Consultants are KCA teamed with Atkins, Three Oaks, Ramey Kemp & Associates, KCI, Froehling & Robertson, and Professional Property Services. Ms. Barbour introduced Rob Hanson, Deputy PM with Atkins to discuss the project limits, design scope and schedule. Mr. Hanson indicated this project is a Division 4 managed project and will involve upgrading existing freeway/arterials to Interstate standards. The project limits are tying into the Goldsboro Bypass to the east and extending westerly 6.7 miles. The project is broken up into two segments, Part A and Part B. As indicated in the STIP, Part A both right-of-way and construction are scheduled for year 2023 and Part B is post year (unfunded). Mr. Hanson continued with items that must be completed (planning/environmental document, public involvement, right-of-way plans and funding authorization) for right-of-way delivery to stay on schedule for 2023. Ms. Barbour discussed the design of the project in more detail and indicated there would be no at-grade

connections, wider paved shoulders, a design speed of 70 mph, three interchange locations and the project would include service roads. Mr. Hanson discussed the environmental documents in more detail and indicated wetland evaluations and mussel surveys have been completed for this project. State EA is scheduled for early 2019 and State FONSI is scheduled for late 2019. First public meeting is set for December 7, 2017 to include a local officials meeting on that date as well. A design public meeting will be later in the Spring of 2019. Ms. Barbour indicated project planning and design are being completed so that if funds are available, project can advance of the currently scheduled STIP date of FY 2023.

### **Division 2 Update**

North Carolina Department of Transportation Division 2 Division Engineer Preston Hunter 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. Consultant working on Environmental Documents. Construction let date of FY 2023.
- Kinston Bypass – Project is on schedule with a public meeting scheduled for January 2018. Right-of-way is slated for 2020.
- US 70 Resurfacing Project – US 70 at 258 east to Dover Exit. Resurfacing contract awarded to Barnhill Construction.
- James City – Project is on schedule and will include two additional interchanges at Taberna Way and Thurman Road as part of the overall project. Additional public meetings are scheduled for January 2018 to include information related to the additional interchanges. Categorical Exclusion is scheduled for completion in May 2018 with a project let day of June 2018.
- Slocum Road Interchange – Project is on schedule and under construction.
- Havelock Bypass – Plans are being finalized and right-of-way is currently in progress.
- Newport River Port Bridge Replacement – Environmental Study is underway and currently in the process of meeting with stakeholders. Project to be advertised as a Design/Build project in FY 2020.
- Gallants Channel Bridge – Construction is coming to an end and it is anticipated two lanes of traffic will be open to traffic beginning January 2018 with all lanes being open on bridge mid-summer 2018.

### **Division 4 Update**

Before Jiles Harrell provided a project update, Division 4 Engineer, Ronnie Keeter updated the members of the Highway 70 Corridor Commission of staff changes within the Division. He stated Matt Clarke is the new Project Development Engineer and Corey Mclamb is the new Construction Engineer for Division 4.

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 currently in progress with a construction let date scheduled for 2019.
- Buffalo Road Interchange Improvements – Currently underway and will include roundabout.

- 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.
- US 70 – Johnston/Wayne County line to Goldsboro Bypass – looking to accelerate project to improve existing US 70 to Freeway Standards with construction in 2022 as previously discussed by KCA Consultants.

### **Financial Report**

Highway 70 Corridor Commission Director M. Durwood Stephenson reported, as of October 30, 2017, there was an account balance of \$306,763.26.

### **Other Business**

Wayne County Member Jack Best made a motion to re-elect existing officers to hold the same position as they currently serve for FY 2018. Johnston County Member Berry Gray seconded the motion and the members of the Highway 70 Corridor Commission unanimously approved Tom Mark as Chairman, Linda Rouse Sutton as Vice-Chairman and Frank Price as Secretary of the Highway 70 Corridor Commission for FY 2018.

### **Public Comments**

No member of public spoke.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Highway 70 Corridor Commission will be held on January 18, 2017 at 1:30pm in Johnston County. The meeting location will be determined later.

### **Adjournment**

At 3:30 p.m., Highway 70 Corridor Commission Chairman Tom Mark adjourned the meeting.

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Jennifer K. Collins