

North Carolina

Wayne County

The Highway 70 Corridor Commission of North Carolina, Inc. met on Thursday, November 15, 2018 at 1:30pm at the Maxwell Regional Agricultural Convention Center, Farm Bureau Room H, 3114 Wayne Memorial Drive, Goldsboro, North Carolina.

County members present:

Carteret County – Jesse Vinson and Don Kirkman

Craven County – Jack Veit, Donald Baumgardner and Tom Mark

Johnston County – Donald Rains, Frank Price, Ted Godwin and Leighanna Worley

Wayne County – Jack Best, Chris Boyette 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, Jimmy Eatmon, Haywood Daughtry, Eddie McFalls, Sam Lawhorn and Leilani Paugh

Down East RPO – Patrick Flanagan and Eric Howell

City of Goldsboro/Goldsboro MPO – Jennifer Collins

Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) – Paxton Ramsdell

NC State University – Dan Line

NC East Alliance – John Chaffee

City of Morehead – Bill Taylor

Sanford Holshouser – Crystal Gettys

Wilson's Mills – Johnny Eason

General Public – Ophelia Davis, Bruce Beasley, Steve Hicks and Fred Bartholomew

Call to Order and Welcome

Highway 70 Corridor Commission Chairman Tom Mark called the meeting to order and Wayne County Member Wayne Aycock welcomed everyone to the meeting and offered remarks.

Approval of the Agenda

Upon motion of the Wayne County Member Jack Best and seconded by Johnston County Member Donald Rains, the members of the Highway 70 Corridor Commission unanimously approved the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion of Craven County Member Jack Veit and seconded by Johnson County Member Donald Rains, the members of the Highway 70 Corridor Commission unanimously approve the minutes of the meeting on July 19, 2018.

BOT Members Report

Board of Transportation Member Gus Tulloss indicated he was delighted to attend and NCDOT continues to move projects forward to spend down funds.

Comments from Executive Director M. Durwood Stephenson

Highway 70 Corridor Commission Director M. Durwood Stephenson indicated several of our members couldn't attend today's meeting due to previous meeting obligations with FEMA. He pointed out Leilani Paugh with NCDOT would be presenting today an update on the Neuse River Flood Mitigation Study and stressed the importance of how serious the need for minimizing down-stream flooding is.

Neuse River Flood Mitigation Study – LeiLani Paugh

NCDOT Mitigation & Modeling Group Leader, LeiLani Paugh, indicated Dan Line, NCSU, who is one of the partners in the study, as well as, North Carolina Emergency Management joined her and Mr. Line would be providing a presentation regarding the Neuse River Flood Mitigation Project. She indicated the Study is a three-part study with focusing on the Neuse initially (Smithfield, Goldsboro & Kinston area). Mr. Dan Line provided an overview of the study objectives, project team and detailed scope of work. Stakeholder workshops were held in Smithfield, Goldsboro and Kinston, which developed a detailed scope of work to help prepare for future flooding. The detailed scope of work suggested DOT look into developing early-warnings for road closures, identify locations for new stream gages, model river crossings suspected of exacerbating flooding, prioritize upgrade of downtown crossings subject to flash flooding, model future upstream development and extreme weather and review local floodplain ordinances. Details regarding how each task is being addressed is attached and detailed within the presentation provided by NC State University and the project team. Mr. Line indicated this is a 2 year study with the final report due mid-2019.

Ms. Paugh indicated a calibration with the Netherlands Team/Dutch Water Ambassador, who has experience with dealing with bigger flooding issues, to address bigger flooding issues in North Carolina and plan to meet with them during the Transportation Summit in January and TRB in DC to get their input on recommendations and how to move forward.

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. Public Meeting schedule in two weeks (November 29, 2018) to show functional design alternatives. 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 Construction. Completion is scheduled for fall 2019 (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 40% 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. Started this week removing the old bridge.

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:

- 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.

Priorization 5.0 Update – Patrick Flanagan

Eastern Carolina Council Planning Director, Patrick Flanagan, who serves on the statewide SPOT Workgroup for the NCDOT provided a Priorization 5.0 update. He indicated projects with particular interest to the Hwy 70 Corridor Commission that were draft funded in the next STIP (2020-2029). 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 Division needs scores are due November 30, 2018 with the 2020-2029 Draft STIP being released in January 2019.

CCX Intermodal Hub Update – Jason Orthner

NCDOT Rail Division Director, Jason Orthner, provided an update on the Carolina Connector (CCX) Intermodal Terminal. NCDOT strategic transportation plans recognized the need for intermodal service in Eastern NC and the project was successfully selected within STI Priorization 4.0. NCDOT worked closely with Carolinas Gateway Partnership to secure property while CSX collaborated with NCDOT to construct and operate the intermodal facility. When the project was originally received, it was modeled as a “hub and spoke operation which the operational model has now shifted to a “scheduled railroading” operation. The proposed facility retains the regional terminal component and still accommodates North Carolina’s objectives. The project remains in the same location (Rocky Mount) and maintains regional service. The footprint has been modified to meet current and projected regional demand. Mr. Orthner indicated the terminal cost to NCDOT is \$118.1M which includes engineering, terminal and railroad construction while the cost to CSX is \$40M which includes land acquisition, a portion of terminal equipment, environmental work, administrative and development costs.

Operational Cost for CSX is estimated at \$54M (\$6M per year for operating term of 9 years). Construction is anticipated to begin in the Spring of 2019 with a construction timeline of 18-20 months with construction administered by CSX. CSX will operate the terminal for an initial 9-year term and provide railroad service to the terminal, including switching to CCX. NCDOT will maintain highway access to the facility, including direct access to Interstate 95.

Financial Report

Highway 70 Corridor Commission Director M. Durwood Stephenson reported, as of October 31, 2018, there was an account balance of \$324,653.08.

Public Comments

NCDOT Chief Engineer, Tim Little, thanked LeiLani Paugh for her and the project team efforts in the Neuse River Flood Mitigation Study. It is a very important issue and now is the time to address ways to mitigate flooding.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Highway 70 Corridor Commission will be held early 2019 at a location to be determined.

Adjournment

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

Jennifer K. Collins