

## **NORTH CAROLINA**

### **WAYNE COUNTY**

The Highway 70 Corridor Commission of North Carolina, Inc. met on Thursday, October 17, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. at the MDS Center, 206 Skyland Drive, Smithfield, North Carolina.

#### County members present:

Carteret County – Tom Steepy and David Whitlow  
Craven County – Bobby Darden and Jack B. Veit, III  
Johnston County – Ted G. Godwin, Richard N. Hicks, Frank Price and Donald B. Rains  
Jones County – None  
Lenoir County – J. Mac Daughety, Brian Lucas and Mark Pope  
Wayne County – Chris Boyette, Joe Daughtery and Bill Pate

#### Other persons present:

North Carolina Board of Transportation – Hugh Overholt (Division 2)  
North Carolina Department of Transportation – Jeff Cabaniss, Haywood Daughtry, Rob Hanson,  
Rudy Lupton and John Rouse  
Highway 70 Corridor Commission Director – M. Durwood Stephenson  
Craven County – Don Baumgardner  
Down East RPO – Patrick Flanagan  
Eastern Carolina RPO – Rob Will  
Havelock – Katrina Marshall  
North Carolina's Eastern Region – John D. Chaffee  
North Carolina Ports Authority – Stephanie Ayers  
Sanford Holshouser Economic Development Consulting – Rocky Lane  
Upper Coastal Plain RPO – James Salmons  
Wayne County – E. Ray Mayo and Marcia R. Wilson  
Wilson's Mills – Johnny Eason  
Citizens – Jack Best, L. Coley-Greene, Ophelia Davis, Lee Hodges, Ben Loftin and Jamie  
Norment

### **Call to Order**

Highway 70 Corridor Commission Vice-Chairman J. Mac Daughety called the meeting to order.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Veterans J. Mac Daughety, Ted G. Godwin and Hugh Overholt led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Upon motion of Carteret County Member David Whitlow and seconded by Johnston County Member Frank Price, the members of the Highway 70 Corridor Commission unanimously approved the agenda as presented.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Upon motion of Wayne County Member Chris Boyette and seconded by Lenoir County Member Brian Lucas, the members of the Highway 70 Corridor Commission unanimously approved the minutes of the meeting on August 15, 2013.

### **Financial Report**

Wayne County Clerk to the Board Marcia R. Wilson reported as of October 10, 2013 there was a total cash balance of \$216,768.77.

### **US Highway 70/Interstate 795 Economic Impact Study**

Sanford Holshouser Economic Development Group Managing Partner Rocky Lane stated Sanford Holshouser Economic Development Group is partnering with Cambridge Systematics on the US Highway 70 Economic Impact Study and Interstate 795 Economic Impact Study. Data is being gathered on industrial parks, sites and buildings; tourism attractions; occupancy tax revenues; occupancy rates; visitor counts and tourism related sales receipts. The firms have experienced difficulty in getting comments from the military. There will be six focus group meetings along the Highway 70 Corridor. Invitees to the meetings included shipper and trucking related industries. The focus groups have provided beneficial input. The last economic focus group meeting will be held tomorrow. A partnering company will perform site selection screenings on the existing industrial parks and potential sites and make recommendations.

The focus group interviews on Interstate 795 and US Highway 117 will be starting soon. Some of the shipping interviews have been conducted. Sanford Holshouser Economic Development Group Managing Partner Rocky Lane stated he would submit the focus groups and interview locations to Wayne County for approval.

### **Highway 70 Corridor Commission Reorganization Status**

Highway 70 Corridor Commission Director M. Durwood Stephenson stated the proper documents for the Highway 70 Corridor Commission reorganization have been filed with the North Carolina Secretary of State. The Highway 70 Corridor Commission organizational chart is attached hereto as Attachment A.

Each county member will have a fifth appointment to make.

Highway 70 Corridor Commission Chairman Robin Comer will send a letter to Wayne County requesting the Highway 70 Corridor Commission funds from Wayne County. The Highway 70 Corridor Commission will reimburse Wayne County for an annual website fee and the monthly salary for Marcia R. Wilson.

Currently, counties pay an annual \$25,000 fee to belong to the Highway 70 Corridor Commission. The members of the Highway 70 Corridor Commission discussed the fee for municipality members. Municipality fees may be based on the population. After further discussion, it was decided to allow the Executive Committee to meet prior to the next meeting to make a recommendation on the municipality membership fee.

### **General Remarks**

Highway 70 Corridor Commission Director M. Durwood Stephenson requested everyone remember Carteret County member Joan Pulley and her family in their thoughts and prayers.

Highway 70 Corridor Commission Director M. Durwood Stephenson stated North Carolina Department of Transportation Chief Executive Operating Officer Jim Trogdon was retiring from the North Carolina Department of Transportation. John Rouse has been named Division 2 Engineer. Tim Little has been named Division 4 Engineer.

Highway 70 Corridor Commission Director M. Durwood Stephenson stated the North Carolina Department of Transportation is trying to implement the Strategic Mobility Formula. At a recent meeting of the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee, the legislators had two objections on the Strategic Mobility Formula implementation plan recommended by the North Carolina Department of Transportation. The local priorities are 50% of the funding scores. The North Carolina Department of Transportation plan delegates half of the local score to be provided by the Division Engineer with the remaining 50% to local offices, MPOs/RPOs. Legislators also expressed concern about the share of dollars to be set aside for non-highway projects. The project scoring allotment between the Division Engineers and local MPOs/RPOs, elected officials and local transportation planning leaders is not an issue in our divisions. The legislators also expressed concern about the share of the dollars to be set aside for non-highway projects.

Patrick Flanagan with the Down East RPO stated the regional spending will be 70% data-driven with 30% of the decision based on local input (15% from MPOs/RPOs and 15% from Division Engineer). Division spending will be 50% data-driven and 50% based on local input (20% from Division Engineer and 30% from MPOs/RPOs).

North Carolina Department of Transportation Division 2 Engineer John Rouse stated the North Carolina Department of Transportation is waiting on the permit for the 65 foot fixed span Gallants Channel Bridge from the United States Coast Guard Admiral's Office. The feedback has been positive. Since there is an eight week advertisement period, the North Carolina Department of Transportation will need to decide if the project needs to be delayed until the permit is in-hand or advertise without the permit in-hand. If the bids are to be opened in January, project would need to be advertised in early November.

Highway 70 Corridor Commission Director M. Durwood Stephenson stated the Eastern North Carolina Coalition priorities will need to be determined after the Strategic Mobility Formula strategies have been finalized. The scoring for each project will need to be determined.

Patrick Flanagan with the Down East RPO stated the next Eastern North Carolina Coalition meeting is scheduled for early December.

### **Senate Bill 402 Update**

North Carolina Department of Transportation Logistics Director Rudy Lupton updated the members on the Senate Bill 402 study. The bill tasked the North Carolina Department of Transportation, North Carolina Department of Commerce and North Carolina Department of Agriculture with a study on the feasibility of infrastructure and access at the Global TransPark and state ports. One part of the study calls for evaluating the infrastructure improvements and access around the Global TransPark. The second part calls for evaluating the infrastructure improvements and access between the Global TransPark and the Port of Morehead City. The third part calls for the study of the restoration of the Wallace/Castle Hayne rail line. Each part of the study will have a financial feasibility analysis, scoping projects, development of timelines, construction/reconstruction, maintenance, operational costs associated with each project, market scenarios, target industries and commodities benefiting from these infrastructure improvements made around these state assets and return on investment. The preliminary report is due to the legislature in March 2014. The final report is due in January 2015.

North Carolina Department of Transportation Logistics Director Rudy Lupton stated he would like to see courses of action to develop infrastructure to grow the Global TransPark and the Port of Morehead City assets, allow the area between them to grow and allow other parts of the state to grow. The infrastructure would create jobs in the region and create an environment people would want to visit and live. This is an opportunity to move in a positive direction.

Highway 70 Corridor Commission Director M. Durwood Stephenson stated this is an important study for the region.

### **North Carolina Board of Transportation Committee Restructure**

North Carolina Department of Transportation Eastern Region Project Development Section Head Rob Hanson stated the North Carolina Board of Transportation had a Highway 70 Committee, which met quarterly for approximately four years. There was a new North Carolina Board of Transportation structure. The current plan is to have four super committees: (1) Highways, (2) Multimodal, (3) Economic Development and Intergovernmental Relations and (4) Funding and Appropriations Strategies. Highway 70 would fall under the Highway Committee. Jake Alexander is Chairman of the Highway Committee. There was discussion about having subcommittees of the super committees. The October 2013 North Carolina Board of Transportation meeting was the initial meeting with the new board structure. It is anticipated there will be more discussion at the November 2013 meeting concerning the committee structure.

North Carolina Board of Transportation Division 2 Member Hugh Overholt stated the US Highway 17 Committee was designated as an ad hoc committee. He anticipated US Highway 70 Committee would be designated as an ad hoc committee in December 2013. The larger Highway Committee has members who are not specifically interested in US Highway 17 and/or US Highway 70. He is requesting the Board of Transportation members impacted by US Highway 17 and/or US Highway 70 be at the ad hoc committee meetings, even if they are not members of the Highway Committee. He believed the US Highway 17 and US Highway 70 committees would remain and wanted separate meetings for these ad hoc committees. He supported the US Highway 17 and US Highway 70 ad hoc committees.

North Carolina Department of Transportation Eastern Region Project Development Section Head Rob Hanson stated he would propose the US Highway 70 Committee meeting in December 2013 and would send out invitations.

Highway 70 Corridor Commission Director M. Durwood Stephenson stated there has been discussion to combine the US Highway 17 and US Highway 70 ad hoc committees on the North Carolina Board of Transportation.

### **Division 2 Review and Project Updates**

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

- Kinston Bypass – Last week he met with staff members from the North Carolina Department of Transportation Eastern Region Project Development Section and the Army Corps of Engineers, the lead agency on the merger team. A new option for consideration was proposed for the bypass – a shallow bypass option. The option upgrades the existing US Highway 70 on the existing alignment for approximately 2/3 of the project with the center 1/3 being a shallow bypass to the south from the Lowe's shopping center to Lenoir Community College. Several benefits of the proposal would be helping with the historic property issues, which the other options created. The cost for the proposal should be in line with the other options. The total environmental impact should be lessened. There are some FEMA issues with the proposed shallow bypass. The FEMA lots are small and scattered. This presentation was given to the Lenoir County Transportation Committee and Lenoir County elected officials and has been well received. The Environmental Impact Study is scheduled to be completed late 2014. The project will need to go through the new prioritization process.
- Havelock Bypass – The final Environmental Impact Statement is due in early 2014. The right-of-way acquisition is scheduled for next fiscal year. Construction is slated for 2016. The Havelock Bypass will have to go through the new prioritization process. The final analysis of the red-cockaded woodpecker will be completed soon.
- Slocum Gate improvements at Cherry Point – The environmental documents are scheduled for completion fall 2013. Right-of-way acquisition will be in 2014 with construction anticipated in 2015. The project will not have to go through the new prioritization process.
- Gallants Channel Bridge – Pending approval from the United States Coast Guard, the project is in the January 2014 let schedule.

North Carolina Board of Transportation Division 2 Member Hugh Overholt stated he was concerned about a permit delay from the United States Coast Guard for the Gallants Channel Bridge project.

#### **Division 4 Review and Project Updates**

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

- Cable median barrier on US Highway 70 from just west of Sadisco Road to Turnage Road is scheduled to be completed in November 2013. The low bid was from Bullington Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$290,000.
- Wilson's Mills – This project on US Highway 70 is west of Sadisco Road to west of Turnage Road near Wilson's Mills. The project is only funded for planning study by Arcadis. The study will include natural resources technical report, development alternatives, hydraulic technical memorandum, traffic capacity analysis, traffic noise analysis and air quality analysis. There are no funds for construction and right-of-way. Local input has been solicited throughout the project.
- Pine Level – Existing US Highway 70 will be upgraded from Firetower Road to Davis Mill Road/Stevens Chapel Road. Right-of-way is currently being acquired. The right-of-way is proving to be a challenge with 65 acquisitions; business, residential and billboard relocates and two graveyards (one of which the North Carolina Department of Transportation discovered). The contract is scheduled to be let in February 2015. Utility coordination is underway. The project appears to be on schedule. The latest estimate is \$17 million. The project is a federal high hazard elimination project and is fully funded. There have been additional significant right-of-way costs.
- Bridge #97 over Southern Railway on US Highway 70 at Princeton – The project is on schedule for completion late fall 2013.
- Goldsboro Bypass – Western end section (US Highway 70 from west of NC Highway 581 to Salem Church Road) has grading, drainage and structure work being done. The western section is slightly ahead of schedule. The eastern end section (US Highway 70 from Wayne Memorial Drive to east of Promise Land Road in Lenoir County) has grading, drainage and structure work being done. The eastern section is slightly behind schedule. Both sections are scheduled to be completed late 2015.

#### **Other Business**

Upon motion of Highway 70 Corridor Commission Secretary/Treasurer Frank Price and seconded by Lenoir County Member Brian Lucas, the members of the Highway 70 Corridor Commission unanimously approved and authorized Highway 70 Corridor Commission Chairman Robin Comer to send a letter to the Wayne County Board of Commissioners requesting Wayne County submit the current balance of the US 70 Corridor Commission funds to Highway 70 Corridor Commission Director M. Durwood Stephenson; contracting with Wayne County for the services of Marcia R. Wilson for a monthly fee of \$657.98 beginning November 1, 2013 as long as such services are provided; and pay Wayne County an annual fee of \$1,909.44 for website generation unless said fee is renegotiated and agreed by both parties with the fee for 2013 having been paid.

Craven County Member Jack B. Veit, III stated the second scoping meeting on the New Bern bypass was held. There are two alternatives now. There concerns about the cost estimate of \$225-300 million.

Johnston County Member Ted Godwin stated North Carolina is a very diverse state with varying road conditions and considerations.

Wayne County Member Joe Daughtery stated the Highway 70 Corridor Commission needs to address the municipality member and the fee prior to the next meeting.

### **Public Comments**

Ben Loftin stated his family farm would be affected by the proposed Kinston Bypass and he wanted to be on a notification list for the project.

### **Next Meeting**

Upon motion of Wayne County Member Joe Daughtery and seconded by Johnston County Member Don Rains, the members of the Highway 70 Corridor Commission unanimously approved hold the next meeting on Thursday, December 12, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. in Carteret County. The location will be announced at a later date.

### **Adjournment**

At 3:00 p.m., Highway 70 Corridor Commission Vice-Chairman J. Mac Daughety adjourned the meeting.

---

Marcia R. Wilson

# U.S. 70 CORRIDOR COMMISSION ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

September 16, 2013

