
**TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
April 11, 2023, 6:00 PM**

I. Welcome: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM. Mr. David Carter, Mr. Scott McCall, Mr. Howie Granat, Mr. Rick Lasater, and Mr. Harold Paxton were present. Mr. Mark Tooley (excused), Aaron Bland (excused), Mr. Keith Wilmont (excused), and Mr. Jimmy Whitmire (excused) were absent. Mr. Troy Wilson, Mr. Steve Williams, and Mr. Rusty Darnell from North Carolina DOT also attended. There were five members of the public present.

II. Public Comment:

Kevin Howell: Discussed his concern on the proposed Pisgah Forest Intersection Roundabout that is scheduled to begin construction. Specifically, on how it will affect the businesses around that intersection, with the changing of the traffic flow. He also provided a document that included questions and studies that disprove the effectiveness of Roundabouts for vehicles and pedestrians. He was also concerned that NCDOT didn't seem to work with the businesses during the planning process or during the right of way acquisition.

Jerry Brown: Mr. Brown owns the plaza and Hog-Wild restaurant near the intersection and is concerned about losing an entrance to the plaza as well as parking spaces for the restaurant. He said NCDOT didn't come to discuss anything with the businesses, and when the Right of Way agent came to discuss acquisition of his property there were no plans provided to him.

Robin: She is concerned with a loss of business for the eye practice that depends on the Messino Cancer Center across the intersection. She is also concerned because of clients stating they do not want to drive through the Roundabouts. She also stated that no NCDOT representative had come to her business to explain what was happening.

III. Agenda Modifications: Mr. Harold Paxton suggested adding an update or discussion on the Green Rd Bridge, Hannah Ford Road, and what was discussed in the public comment. Staff suggested that those items could be brought up during one of NCDOT's agenda items, Mr. Steve Williams from NCDOT agreed.

IV. Consent Agenda:

A. Minutes (January 10, 2023)

There was no discussion of the consent agenda. Chair Carter suggested some changes to the January 10, 2023, minutes. The Committee will review and seek to approve the minutes at the next meeting.

V. Old Business:

A. NCDOT State STIP Program Update:

Ms. Terrell gave an update on behalf of Ms. Vicki Eastland of Land of Sky RPO. She informed the Committee of the Draft 2024-2033 STIP that has been developed, which will be going to the State’s Board of Transportation for adoption in May. This was created during NCDOT’s financial challenges to help further along needed road projects.

B. NCDOT Current Projects Update

Mr. Steve Williams of NCDOT gave an update to the Committee on current construction and upcoming construction projects. Mr. Williams also introduced Troy Wilson, who will be the new District Engineer. Mr. Williams also passed around a new contact sheet for NCDOT Division 14. Please see below the tables discussed for the updates.

LOS RPO, Division 14, Transylvania County April 2023, Construction Updates

County	TIP#	Route	Location Description	Completion Date	Revised Completion Date	Completion Percent
Transylvania	R-5605	US-64	DAVIDSON RIVER VILLAGE CONNECTOR FROM US-64 TO US-276/US-64 IN PISGAH FOREST.	4/30/2018	12/1/2022	92%
Transylvania	17BP.14.R.182	SR 1131	Bridge No. 108 on SR 1131 (Middlefork Rd.) over Middle Fork French Broad River.	4/19/2023		90%
Transylvania	R-5794I, U-5104	US-64	US 64 BUS S. CALDWELL ST APPROXIMATELY 70 FEET SOUTH OF INT WITH BRACKEN LN, US 64 FROM JUST WEST OF BREVARD ACADEMY	6/25/2023	7/16/2023	73%
Transylvania		US-64	RESURFACING ON US 64 (ROSMAN HWY) AND VARIOUS SECONDARY ROUTES THROUGHOUT TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY	10/15/2023		3%

LOS RPO, Transylvania County, Division 14, April 2023, Project Development Update

Project ID	County	Description	R/W Acq Begins	DRAFT 2024-2033 STIP R/W	Let Date	DRAFT 2024-2033 STIP Let	Project Manager
EB-5858	TRANSYLVANIA	BREVARD - CONSTRUCT BIKE /PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE FROM CITY OF BREVARD EXISTING SHARED USE PATH ACROSS DAVIDSON RIVER	8/18/2023	2022	9/26/2024	2024	Barry Mosteller
EB-6037B	TRANSYLVANIA	ECUSTA RAIL TRAIL	9/30/2021	2021			Lonnie Watkins
R-5865	TRANSYLVANIA	US 276 FROM US 64 TO AVERY CREEK TRAIL HEAD. WIDEN TO 3-LANES WITH BICYCLE LANES.	5/15/2022	----	9/12/2023	2023	Barry Mosteller
R-5800	TRANSYLVANIA	US 64 FROM US 276, FORTUNE COVE RD TO US 64 BUSINESS (N. CALDWELL ST). CONSTRUCT MEDIAN AND ACCESS CONTROL MEASURES.	12/16/2022	2023	9/17/2024	2025	Barry Mosteller
R-5799	TRANSYLVANIA	INTERSECTIONS OF US 64, US 276 and NC 280 CONSTRUCT INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS.	7/16/2021	2022	8/15/2023	2024	Barry Mosteller
R-5763	TRANSYLVANIA	SR 1540 (WILSON ROAD)FROM SR 1504 (OLD US 64) TO US 276.UPGRADE ROADWAY	2/14/2022	2022	9/19/2023	2024	Garrett Higdon
R-5919	TRANSYLVANIA	US 178 (EAST MAIN STREET) AT SR 1156 (MAIN STREET) IN ROSMAN TO SR 1133 (MIDDLEFORK ROAD) MODERNIZE ROADWAY.	10/12/2028	PE	1/1/2040	PE	Barry Mosteller
R-5882	TRANSYLVANIA	US 64 (S. BROAD ST.), US 64 BUSINESS (S. CALDWELL ST.), SR 1116 (N. COUNTRY CLUB ROAD), IMPORVE INTERSECTION ALIGNMENT	7/21/2028	NF	1/1/2040	NF	Kenneth McDowell
B-5550	TRANSYLVANIA	REPLACE BRIDGE 870102 ON RAILROAD AVENUE OVER KINGS CREEK			5/9/2023	2023	Garrett Higdon
BP14-R022	TRANSYLVANIA	Replace Bridge #11 on SR1559 (Solomon Jones Rd) over Walker Creek	2/11/2024		2/8/2025		Adam Dockery
BP14-R012	TRANSYLVANIA	This replaces B-5972 for bridge 142 over trib to Tucker Creek on SR 1324 (Tanasee Gap Rd)	1/9/2023		1/9/2024		Adam Dockery
17BP.14.R.181	TRANSYLVANIA	Bridge NO. 61 on SR 1309 (Silversteen Rd.) over Parker Creek.	7/11/2022		1/9/2024		Adam Dockery
HB-0026	TRANSYLVANIA	REPLACE BRIDGE 870030 OVER FRENCH BROAD RIVER ON SR 1533 (EVERETT ROAD)	5/15/2024	2024	2/16/2025	2025	Zach Shuler
HF-0004	TRANSYLVANIA	US276. INSTALL GUARDRAIL AND CONSTRUCT SIDEWALK AND INSTALL GUARDRAIL FROM SLIDING ROCK TO PROPOSED OFF-SITE PARKING				2024	Garrett Higdon

During the updates Mr. Williams addressed the concerns of the Committee members and the public that was present at the meeting. Mr. Williams stated there have been plenty of studies done in the past 10 years that prove Roundabouts are the safer option for both traffic and pedestrians than a standard stoplight intersection. He also stated it was directed by the County Commissioners that they do not wish to see more stoplight intersections in the County when the Ecusta Road intersection was being built. Mr. Williams also stated all projects are presented to the public and the public has been allowed to comment on them. The public meeting for the Pisgah Forest Intersection was held in 2018, most comments during the meeting were positive on roundabouts being put in. Mr. Williams also addresses the Green Rd Bridge with the Committee.

The Committee discussed the projects listed in the current construction, construction project list, and the concerns the public brought to the meeting. During discussion two motions were brought up to address the concerns of roundabouts and their effect on businesses and pedestrians.

Mr. Paxton motioned to recommend to the County Commissioners to put a moratorium on all roundabouts in the County till further study is done into the effects of roundabouts on businesses, the motion was seconded by Mr. Rick Lasater. The motion was voted down 3 (David Carter, Scott McCall, and Howard Granat) to 2 (Harold Paxton and Rick Lasater).

More discussion occurred during the vote when it was clear it wasn't going to pass, and the Committee decided to amend the motion.

Mr. Howard Granat amended the motion to recommend having more study on effects of roundabouts on pedestrian and bicyclists, traffic, and the impact to businesses. Motion was seconded by Mr. Scott McCall. The motion was approved unanimously.

C. Transylvania County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) Update:

Ms. Terrell spoke on behalf of Ms. Vicki Eastland since she was unable to attend. The update stated that NCDOT Planning Division was compiling the public comments from the January 10th public meeting, survey results, and drafting the CTP document. After which they would compile the information and data in the template for review and final edits before sending to the CTP workgroup. The Committee would then review and comment on the plan at their next meeting in July.

VI. New Business:

A. Annual Report Discussion:

Ms. Terrell presented the Committee with a staff-created update on the Committee's main highlights this fiscal year. The Committee discussed the documents suggested a correction or two and then put it to a vote.

Mr. McCall motioned to approve of the discussed changes, seconded by Mr. Lasater. The motion was approved unanimously.

B. Director's Report:

Ms. Terrell updated the Committee on the monthly count of riders for the Fixed Route, see below. Mr. Jeff Adams, Director of Planning and Community Development introduced himself to the Committee. Ms. Terrell informed the Committee that the next meeting for the Committee would be on July 12, 2023.

<u>Transportation's Fixed Route Totals:</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> October-225 riders	<input type="checkbox"/> January-162 riders
<input type="checkbox"/> November-153 riders	<input type="checkbox"/> February- 236 riders
<input type="checkbox"/> December-118 Riders	<input type="checkbox"/> March- 226 riders

VII. Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

VIII. Committee Members' Comments:

Harold Paxton: Mr. Paxton commented on his years of driving trucks and stated that Transylvania County is one of the most speeding communities he had seen. He did note that he has recently seen more showing of enforcement by the State Highway patrol and the City of Brevard Police Department. He wants to recommend to County Commissioners to make the County Public Transportation and County vehicles obey the speed limits. He mentioned seeing multiple County vehicles breaking the speed limit on Rosman Highway. Mr. Carter mentioned that it mostly is an enforcement issue with speeding.

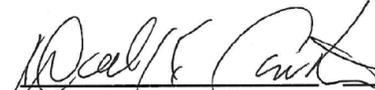
Howard Granat: Mr. Granat asked for an update from NCDOT on the speed limit reduction on US 276 going into Pisgah Forest. Mr. Williams answered that the speed has been reduced by 10 mph, but not to the requested 35 mph. Mr. Williams also stated that it is an enforcement issue as previously stated in the discussion before. Mr. Granat mentioned the City of Brevard is trying to implement ways to slow down traffic especially being a tourist destination.

David Carter: Mr. Carter welcomed Mr. Adams to the area. He also mentioned he is not looking forward to the construction of the new Pisgah Forest Roundabout but understands it must be done.

Mr. Paxton moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. McCall seconded the motion. All present members voted in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 PM.


Darby Terrell, Planner

7/11/2023
Date


Chair