

**Lenoir CTP Steering Committee
Meeting #7
Wednesday, April 5, 2017, 10:00 AM
Lenoir County Tax Administration Building
101 North Queen Street, Kinston, NC 28501**

Members Present

Angie Greene (Lenoir County Transit), Amanda Conner (Lenoir County Economic Development), Janice Leonard (Lenoir Community College), Wayland Humphrey (Lenoir County Planning), Mark Pope (Lenoir County Economic Development), Nathan Rhue (Town of La Grange), Adam Short (City of Kinston), Bill Whaley (Lenoir County Transportation Committee), Eric Rouse (Lenoir County Commissioner)

Staff Present

Patrick Flanagan, (Eastern Carolina RPO), Jeff Cabaniss (NCDOT Division 2), Andy Bailey (NCDOT – Transportation Planning Branch), Amar Pillai (NCDOT – Transportation Planning Branch), Roger Castillo (NCDOT – Transportation Planning Branch)

The meeting began with introductions of those present.

Mr. Flanagan introduced the public survey results. 240 people completed these surveys, both in the month of October (before the hurricane) and in the month of March. Mr. Flanagan noted that there may still be a few surveys coming in. Several patterns were seen in the survey results including the following:

- Transportation Goals: Improved access (better connections to employment, schools, and services) and faster travel times (high speed roads, more lanes, less intersections).
- Top 3 types of projects: Road maintenance, traffic flow, lighting on roadways
- 32.6% of respondents were concerned with bicycle/pedestrian safety at specific locations (Downtown Kinston as a top concern)
- 47.1% of respondents were concerned with vehicle accident problems at specific locations (Smithfield Way and Hill Farm Road were top concerns)
- 21.0% of respondents stated that commercial truck traffic negatively affected their area (Banks School road was a top concern)
- 8.0% of respondents stated that farm equipment truck traffic negatively affected their area (NC 58 South was a top concern)
- 32.9% of respondents said that they would use on-road bicycle facilities such as bicycle lanes and wider road shoulders if provided (Downtown Kinston was the top location).
- 41.2% of respondents said that they would like to see sidewalks constructed or improved (Vernon Avenue and East Kinston were top locations)

- 31.7% of respondents said that they would like to see multi-use paths constructed or improved (Downtown Kinston and the River area were top locations).
- 12.3% of respondents use local boat ramps (NC 11/King Street and US 70/King Street were top locations).
- 26.8% of respondents stated that they would use designated bus routes (Downtown Kinston was identified as a top destination).
- Greenville was identified as the top location to improved access to.
- NC 11, US 70, and US 258 were the top routes to improve access to.

The Railroad Crossings Map was presented by Roger Castillo. This map showed all the at grade and grade separated crossings in Lenoir County. Mr. Flanagan noted that the RPO will use this map when submitting projects to NCDOT for consideration in the Prioritization Process as these improvements (grade separated or road closures).

The Crash Severity Map was presented by Roger Castillo. This map showed fatal or “A” type injuries (injuries that required a trip to the hospital) from 2011-15. Mr. Flanagan noted that this map, along with the high frequency crash locations map presented at the February meeting, could be used in identifying potential safety improvement projects within the county. A few locations were asked to be verified on NC 11 by the committee. There was also a request to possibly filter out the drunk driving/drug related fatal and “A” type injuries. Mr. Bailey would investigate if that was possible.

The base year (2015) population and employment maps by Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ) were presented by Amar Pillai. He stated that the population was determined from the 2010 Census as well as the 2011-15 residential building permit data provided by Lenoir County, Kinston, and La Grange. Mr. Pillai stated that the employment data was determined from a private vendor (Info USA) and was cross-checked and verified by Mr. Bailey. Discussion ensued that the Smithfield Farms Packaging Plant may not have been shown and that there are 800 jobs at that location. Further discussion ensued about the Caswell Development Center and the actual number of jobs at that location. Ms. Conner would make contact with the center to find out what the total employment number is there.

It was also noted that the future projections for the county should be flat between 2015-2020 instead of a trend line and that the 2045 population projection should remain the same. After these changes were made, Mr. Bailey would present to the Lenoir County Commissioners at their May 1, 2017 meeting for their endorsement of the future year population and employment numbers.

Mr. Bailey then spoke about the public transportation options in Lenoir County. Ms. Greene with the Lenoir County Transit system stated that there was at once time a fixed route system within Kinston, but that it stopped several years ago due to lack of ridership. Mr. Humphrey provided a map of this previous transit service. Further discussion on this topic will take place at the next CTP Steering Committee meeting.

Mr. Bailey presented a map detailing the designated bicycle routes within Lenoir County, including State Bicycle Route 7 and all the numbered county routes. Discussion ensued about what types of improvements could be proposed and if any improvements could be possible in downtown areas. Also discussed was the mountains to sea multi-use path. The shapefile presented primarily followed the Neuse River, but it was indicated by Mr. Flanagan and others that there may be a new route that uses more roads than paths along the river available. Mr. Bailey would check for an updated shapefile of the mountains to sea trail.

Mr. Bailey presented a map detailing the existing sidewalks in the three municipalities as well as the proposed sidewalks (and multi-use paths) within the City of Kinston. These proposed sidewalks/multi-use paths are from an earlier Pedestrian plan completed for the city. Mr. Flanagan and Mr. Bailey plan to meet with the leaders and staff of La Grange and Pink Hill sometime before the next CTP Steering Committee to solicit input on possible pedestrian improvements that they would like to see in the CTP.

Mr. Flanagan suggested that Mr. Bailey reach out to Jamille Robbins, the Public Involvement Leader of the Human Environment Section at NCDOT for assistance in planning for public involvement activities in Lenoir County, including assistance from his section

With no further business, the meeting concluded. The next CTP Steering Committee meeting will be in June 14, 2017. The final public survey results, Future Year SE data for each TAZ, and improvements for non-highway modes of transportation will be among the items discussed.