

**Yancey County
Comprehensive Transportation Plan Update Steering Committee
Meeting #1 Summary**

March 4, 2020

Attendees:

- Pam Cook, NCDOT TPD
- David Graham, High Country RPO
- Stephen Sparks, NCDOT Division 13 CDE
- Ginger Johnson, Burnsville-Yancey Chamber of Commerce
- Jake Blood, NC High Peaks
- Becca Smith, Tractor
- Loren Deyton, Yancey Parks and Recreation
- Michael Harris, Yancey Transportation
- Schell McCall, PATH
- Jamie McMahan, Yancey EDC

Introductions

High Country RPO staff and NCDOT staff as well as the Steering Committee members noted above introduced themselves. The Steering Committee was provided a Roles and Responsibilities handout and stakeholder matrix handout.

Overview of the Comprehensive Transportation Planning (CTP) Process

Pam Cook provided the Steering Committee with a CTP presentation that covered the following:

- An overview of a CTP process
- How a CTP fits into the funding of projects
- Why a CTP is needed
- Elements of a CTP
- Role of the Steering Committee
- Transportation network visioning
- Needs assessments
- Analyzing alternatives
- Developing the final plan
- Public input
- Plan adoption

Understanding of Yancey County and the Town of Burnsville

Pam Cook reviewed the Yancey County Community Understanding Report (CUR) with the Steering Committee which covers the following information:

- Population trends and projections
- Population diversity
- Community character
- Schools, parks, and community centers
- Public safety and emergency response
- Economic conditions
- Development goals
- Farming operations
- Natural resources
- Transportation choices

It was noted that most of the CUR information and data has been collected but input from the Steering Committee is needed on some of the questions contained in the CUR. David Graham informed the Steering Committee that he will send the CUR to the Steering Committee for additional input.

Identification of Roads for Study

The Steering Committee were provided a Yancey County road map for an initial mark up of roads to be considered for study through the CTP process. It was noted to remove Arbuckle Road from study. Some of the roads initially identified for study by the Steering Committee are as follows:

- Hunt Dale Road
- Bolens Creek Road
- NC 80 North
- NC 80 South
- Cane River School Road
- Micaville Loop
- White Oak Road
- South Toe River Road
- Prices Creek Road
- Blue Rock Road (US 19E to NC 80S)
- Pensacola Road

The Steering Committee focused most of their attention and discussion on the need to connect specific areas and communities in Yancey County as well as between schools. The Steering Committee also discussed connecting existing State Park lands with new State Park lands as well as connections to proposed mountain bike trails. Lastly, the Steering Committee provided the following input when discussing the future vision of the transportation network in Yancey County:

- High speed connection to Asheville
- No transportation barriers to keep people from where they want to get to (all modes)
- Complete sidewalk system
- Connecting communities and schools, parks, state parks, etc.

- Multi-modal
- Alternate forms given priority (cultural shift)
- More enhanced public transit and established routes
- Ride-sharing
- Accessible transportation network for all modes and all people
- Town connected to forest service lands/public lands
- Road improvements to new park lands in Pensacola region (Cane River area/NC 197)
- Automated vehicles work on some roads and not all – needs to work on all roads
- Based on residential growth (west end growth high so how will access roads work on US 19?) Want to have new growth connected to existing system
- Families being able to bike to school
- Families able to use alternative modes safely (to get to various locations)

Future Meeting Schedule

David Graham informed the Steering of the future meeting schedule as follows:

- April 1st
- May 6th
- June 10th
- July 1st
- August 12

Adjourn