

Yancey County
Comprehensive Transportation Plan Update Steering Committee
Zoom Meeting #3 Summary

June 10, 2020

Attendees:

- Pam Cook, NCDOT TPD
- David Graham, High Country RPO
- Stephen Sparks, NCDOT Division 13 CDE
- Becca Smith, TRACTOR
- Jeff Howell, Yancey County EMS

The Yancey County CTP Update Steering Committee met remotely through the Zoom online meeting platform. The following is a summary for each agenda item:

1. Survey Approval and Distribution Period

David Graham reviewed the final version of the Yancey CTP Update survey and asked for approval from the Steering Committee to proceed with ordering the survey for public distribution. The Steering Committee approved the survey for public distribution. Regarding the distribution period of the survey, David Graham informed the Steering Committee that it will take approximately 1 month to order the survey and have it ready to distribute in online, Spanish, and paper copy versions.

The Steering Committee noted that the best time to distribute the survey would be before schools start back. It was decided to order the survey as soon as possible so that it would be ready to distribute prior to school starting back. David Graham informed the Steering Committee that he would keep everyone informed on the key dates for opening and closing dates of the survey as more information becomes available.

It was noted that paper copies of the survey should be distributed at the following locations:

- Post Office
- Meals on Wheels Program
- Chamber of Commerce
- Blue Ridge Elementary School (in lieu of school bus meal delivery program)
- East Yancey Middle School (in lieu of school bus meal delivery program)
- TRACTOR Food and Farms (in lieu of school bus meal delivery program)

The locations noted above were identified due to the school bus meal delivery program ceasing operations in the summer.

2. Population and Employment Data

Pam Cook reviewed the socio-economic data for Yancey County with the Steering Committee. After in depth discussion about growth in Yancey County, the Steering Committee decided on .9% for future population and employment growth. Pam Cook advised the Steering Committee that population and employment growth can be amended in the future if necessary.

3. Projected Growth Rates

Pam Cook discussed projected growth rates of facilities in high and low growth areas in Yancey County as referenced the Yancey County Economic Development Plan with the Steering Committee. Based on the discussion, the Steering Committee decided on a 1.2% growth rate for high growth areas (primarily along US 19E) will be used if the trendline AADT growth rate is less than 1.2% and a 0.1% growth rate along facilities with negative or zero growth trends.

4. Key Destinations

Pam Cook reviewed maps of key destinations in Yancey County and the region with the Steering Committee. Key destinations discussed include but not limited to medical facilities, schools, library, parks, EMS, government offices, and senior center. Steering Committee member Jeff Howell shared a map of destinations in Yancey County with David Graham and Pam Cook that was developed for the Chamber of Commerce and noted to include trail heads as destination points. Steering Committee member Becca Smith suggested that major employers (Altec, Glen Raven and Little Leaf Farms) be identified on the map. It was also noted to include the Mt. Mitchell Golf Course and Homeplace Brewery.

5. Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities

Pam Cook reviewed maps of existing and proposed bicycle and pedestrian facilities from previously adopted plans with the Steering Committee. It was noted that CTPs do not show crosswalks but that concerns could be documented in the CTP documentation. In particular it was noted that no crosswalk exists on 19E from the eastern city limit to CVS/Roses stop light. Pam Cook suggested including language about a crosswalk in the CTP for the area. Discussion ensued regarding various existing and proposed trail connections in Yancey County and the Town of Burnsville.

6. Deficient Bridge Locations

Pam Cook reviewed a map of deficient bridges in Yancey County with the Steering Committee and explained the definition of a deficient bridge. Pam Cook noted that deficient bridges are identified in the CTP for future planning and design purposes. Discussion ensued about bridges in Yancey County.

7. High Crash Locations

Pam Cook reviewed a map of high crash locations in Yancey County with the Steering Committee and explained that the information is used to develop roadway improvement recommendations from a safety perspective. It was noted that Yancey County has a relatively low crash history and the US 19E improvements have also alleviated crashes along the corridor.

8. Truck Traffic Data

Pam Cook reviewed the Yancey County truck traffic data maps with the Steering Committee. It was noted the NC 197 accounted for 9% truck traffic and that the truck traffic is a result of a quarry in the area and the Unimin plant in Mitchell County. In addition it was noted the some trucks carry hydrochloric acid which is a safety concern. Truck traffic on NC 80 N. is landfill related.

9. Adjourn