

**Yancey County
Comprehensive Transportation Plan Update Steering Committee
Zoom Meeting #4 Summary**

July 1, 2020

Attendees:

- Pam Cook, NCDOT TPD
- David Graham, High Country RPO
- Stephen Sparks, NCDOT Division 13 CDE
- Jake Blood, NC High Peaks
- Jeff Howell, Yancey County EMS
- Theresa Coletta, Burnsville Mayor
- Jamie McMahan, Yancey EDC
- Michael Harris, Yancey Transportation

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. Yancey County Public Transportation Input

Michael Harris provided the Steering Committee with a comprehensive overview of Yancey County Transportation. Michael noted impacts to current day to day operations due to COVID-19. Transportation to and from jobs was specifically noted as a trouble area for Yancey Transportation due to trip schedules.

Specific areas and roads of concern for Yancey Transportation due to narrow and curvy roads include:

- Bald Mountain area
- NC 80 North
- Cox's Creek Road
- Seven Mile Ridge
- Boone Branch Road

Transit stops on the east side (Micaville area) and west side (west Burnsville Fire Department area) of the county were mentioned to help with employment trips in the future and coordinate trips with Avery and Mitchell counties to Asheville. It was also noted that the senior center could be used as a central drop off location. Discussion ensued about the benefits of the new transit facility and the need for more vans in the future due to social distancing guidelines related to COVID-19.

Some key destinations for Yancey Transportation include:

- Mount Mitchell
- Local grocery stores
- Spruce Pine Hospital
- Celo Community Health Center
- Bolens Creek
- Black Mountain Crest trail head

It was noted to consider a future route from Mt. Mitchell to the Black Mountain Campground due to proposed extensions to the Mt. Mitchell trail. Discussion ensued regarding NC House Bill 77 and NCDOT budget constraints.

2. Yancey County EMS Input

Chris Robinson was unable to attend the meeting to provide input. David Graham informed the Steering Committee the he will try to schedule Chris Robinson for another meeting.

3. Volume to Capacity Analysis

Pam Cook reviewed the volume to capacity maps with the Steering Committee. It was noted that there were not any substantial capacity issues on roads in Yancey County. East Main Street was identified as nearing capacity by 2045 primarily because it provides access to downtown Burnsville. Modernization of roads (bringing roads up to current NCDOT standards) in the county would likely be the future improvements to the network because there are not capacity issues. NC 197 near Bolens Creek was identified as an area where Mt. Mitchell will be acquiring land and a campground is being proposed so a higher growth rate will be used in this area.

4. CTP Survey Update and Paper Copy Distribution

David Graham informed the Steering Committee that the public survey window will be July 13, 2020 to August 14, 2020. David is planning to send out the survey press release materials with link to the survey to media outlets and local governments (English and Spanish versions). In addition, he will be distributing paper copies of the survey to identified locations including the Yancey County Library the week of July 6 to give time for posting the materials. David also informed the Steering Committee that drop boxes for completed paper surveys will be available at the Yancey County Courthouse building and Burnsville Town Hall.

5. Future Meeting Dates

David Graham asked the Steering Committee how everyone felt about meeting via Zoom or if they would rather meet in person at the Burnsville Town Center. The Steering Committee agreed to continue to meet via Zoom for safety reasons. Future meeting dates are as follows:

- August 12, 2020
- September 2, 2020
- October 7, 2020

6. Adjourn