

**Yancey County  
Comprehensive Transportation Plan Update Steering Committee  
Zoom Meeting #5 Summary**

August 12, 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
- Jacob Gardner, Mt. Mitchell State Park
- Jamie McMahan, Yancey EDC
- Michael Harris, Yancey Transportation
- Chris Robinson, 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 Update**

David Graham provided the Steering Committee with the following survey updates:

- Survey materials were distributed to all online and paper copy locations the week of July 6, 2020 in preparation for the July 13, 2020 launch date.
- Approximately 300 people have taken the survey online and 13 paper copies have been received.
- People are continuing to take the survey but at a lower rate than when the survey was first launched.
- The deadline to take the survey is August 14, 2020
- All paper copy surveys will be collected on August 17, 2020.
- Pam Cook and David Graham will compile all survey responses and share the results with the Steering Committee at the September 2, 2020 meeting.

Pam Cook and David Graham encouraged Steering Committee members to continue to get the word out in the community to take the survey before the August 14, 2020 deadline.

**2. Yancey County EMS Input**

Chris Robinson provided the Steering Committee with the following information:

- Yancey County EMS is currently dealing with operations safety precautions associated with COVID-19.

- The recent completion of the US 19E project has helped Yancey County EMS operations and response times.
- EMS calls at Mt. Mitchell are coordinated with Mt. Mitchell staff for strategic pick up locations.
- The highest number of crashes occur along the Blue Ridge Parkway/McDowell County line (1 mile in either direction) and typically involve motorcycles.

### **3. Mt. Mitchell State Park Input**

Jacob Gardner and Jake Blood provided the Steering Committee with following information:

- Most visitors are accessing the park from Interstate 40 and NC 80 and come from all over (Florida, South Carolina, Georgia, New York).
- Due to COVID-19, Mt. Mitchell is experiencing high visitation and the park is having to limit visitation to 50% capacity.
- The most common destinations at Mt. Mitchell are the Summit Trail, Mountains to Sea Trail, Black Mountain Crest Trail, Colbert Ridge Trail, Deep Gap, and Commissary Hill camping area.
- Mt. Mitchell would like to see RV/camping and fishing improvements for the new land acquisition areas.
- There is potential for access to the park at NC 197 in the Pensacola community near the county convenience center.
- New trail head is being considered for the Moody Ridge development area.
- Improvements to NC 197 will be needed to accommodate the recent land acquisitions and future plans for the park.
- There are safety concerns on Bolens Creek Road near the Black Mountain Crest Trail head due to sight distance issues associated with road geometry and quarry truck traffic in the area.
- The driveway from Bolens Creek Road to Mt. Mitchell lands should be improved.
- Future parking areas should be located in the Laurel Branch and Moody Ridge areas.

Discussion ensued regarding Yancey County Transportation shuttle services to Mt. Mitchell trail heads.

### **4. Adjourn**