

**Yancey County  
Comprehensive Transportation Plan Update Steering Committee  
Zoom Meeting #6 Summary**

September 2, 2020

Attendees:

- Pam Cook, NCDOT TPD
- David Graham, High Country RPO
- Jake Blood, NC High Peaks
- Jeff Howell, Yancey County EMS
- Schell McCall, PATH
- Jamie McMahan, Yancey EDC

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 Results Review**

Pam Cook and David Graham provided the Steering Committee with an overview of survey results as follows:

- There were 367 people that took the survey.
- Priorities by both responses and average rank are: 1) Safety 2) Culture and Environment 3) Walking/Biking 4) Public Transit 5) Modern Roads 6) Growth/Development 7) Emerging Technologies 8) Shorter Travel Times.
- Adding sidewalks and pedestrian infrastructure was most important and ease of travel was least important.
- NC 80, US 19W, and NC 197 were identified as roads in need of improvements.
- Widening of road shoulders was mentioned often.
- Speeding concerns were mentioned often.
- There are concerns about narrow roads.
- Roads need to accommodate other modes of transportation (bicycle and pedestrian)
- Roads in Yancey County are not considered congested.
- It is not easy to travel without a car
- More bicycle and pedestrian accommodations (greenways) are needed.
- There is support for improving existing roadways instead of adding more lanes.
- Safe pedestrian crossings along US 19E are needed.
- There is support for the funding of sidewalks.
- Roads are unsafe for bicycles in most areas (prefer separate paths from roadways).
- There is support for and expansion of public transportation services.

Pam Cook shared with the Steering Committee the survey respondent zip codes and that no Spanish versions of the survey were submitted even with Spanish outreach efforts. Pam Cook informed the Steering Committee that the survey response was excellent despite COVID-19 limitations. The Steering Committee was also pleased with the response rate.

## **2. Commuter Patterns Map Review**

Pam Cook provided the Steering Committee with a map and supporting census data of commuter patterns for Yancey County that identifies the number of commuters that travel into and out of Yancey County for work. The county with the highest commuter traffic out of Yancey County is McDowell. It was noted that Baxters Pharmaceuticals draws workers to McDowell County. The county with the highest commuter traffic into Yancey County is Mitchell. Tennessee commuter numbers were not as significant compared to surrounding counties. Therefore, the numbers were not provided on the map. The commuter patterns information will be used to help inform future CTP recommendations.

David Graham informed the Steering Committee that the next CTP meetings are scheduled for October 7 and November 4, 2020 at 1 PM via Zoom.

## **3. Adjourn**