

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA )  
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COUNTY OF STOKES )  
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OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS  
STOKES COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA  
APRIL 1, 2008

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, State of North Carolina, met for regular session (Planning) in the Commissioners' Chambers of the Ronald Wilson Reagan Memorial Building (Administrative Building) located in Danbury, North Carolina on Tuesday, April 1, 2008 at 7:00 pm with the following members present:

Chairman J. Leon Inman  
Vice-Chairman Jimmy Walker  
Commissioner Ron Carroll  
Commissioner Ernest Lankford  
Commissioner Stanley Smith

County Personnel in Attendance:  
County Manager K. Bryan Steen  
Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins  
Planning Director David Sudderth

Chairman J. Leon Inman called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Smith delivered the invocation.

**GENERAL GOVERNMENT-GOVERNING BODY-PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman Inman opened the meeting by inviting the citizens in attendance to join the Board with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chairman Inman entertained a motion to approve or amend the April 1<sup>st</sup> agenda.

County Manager Bryan Steen requested to add a closed session for personnel to the agenda. The Board agreed to add a closed session for personnel to the agenda.

Commissioner Lankford moved to approve the April 1<sup>st</sup> agenda as amended.

Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARING – Proposed Stokes County Comprehensive Transportation Plan**

Chairman Inman called the public hearing regarding the proposed Stokes County Comprehensive Transportation Plan to order.

The following spoke during public comments:

**Martha Hartley**

1100 Buck Meadows Lane  
King, NC 27021

**Re: Stokes County Comprehensive Transportation Plan**

Ms. Hartley expressed the following concerns:

- Proposed Transportation Plan doesn't address the transportation needs of Stokes County
- Large population of Stokes County works outside of the County and that is a transportation need that must be addressed
- Large number of Stokes County residents shop outside of Stokes County
- Must prepare for the present and the future
- Increasing fuel costs
- Rising cost of transportation
- Rising cost of imported food
- Population growth
- Climate growth
- Backlog of maintenance of roads/bridges
- Southern Connector which was proposed several years ago may not be the best thing for Stokes County now
- Lack of transportation funding
- Invest in projects needed for Stokes County such as rail connections, bike routes, bus service, commuter services, sidewalks, etc.

Ms. Hartley reiterated the need to get the County's transportation priorities in order.

**Mo Hartley**

1100 Buck Meadows Lane  
King, NC 27021

**Re: Stokes County Comprehensive Transportation Plan**

Mr. Hartley noted the need for Stokes County to plan for the future. Mr. Hartley noted that part of Stokes County (City of King) falls under the Winston Salem Urban Area Thoroughfare Plan,

and is not included in this proposed Transportation Plan. Mr. Hartley noted the need for a Comprehensive Land Use Plan for Stokes County. Mr. Hartley stated that the Southern Connector should not be approved on the Transportation Improvement Plan and should not be included on the proposed Comprehensive Transportation Plan. Mr. Hartley noted that no decision should occur regarding the proposed Transportation Plan until a Comprehensive Land Use Plan has been developed with citizen input for Stokes County.

Chairman Inman closed the public hearing.

### **PROPOSED STOKES COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

Planning Director David Sudderth noted the following regarding the proposed Stokes County Comprehensive Transportation Plan:

- Proposed Comprehensive Transportation Plan is being provided by NCDOT with assistance from the NWPCOG along with citizen input
- Presented to the Planning Board on Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup>
- Planning Board by vote of 7 to 0 recommended approval of the plan and maps
- The Town of Danbury held a public hearing on February 27<sup>th</sup> at which time they approved a resolution of support for the proposed plan and maps
- The Town of Walnut Cove held their public hearing on March 4<sup>th</sup> and later approved a resolution for support of the plan and maps
- Proposed plan is necessary because the County does not currently have an active approved plan on file
- Active approved plan is needed in order for the State to allow the County to participate equally for NCDOT Funding in District 9

Dr. Wayne Davis and Andy Bailey (NCDOT) along with Marc Allred –NWPCOG were present for tonight’s presentation.

Mr. Andy Bailey presented the following power point presentation:

- Purpose of a Long Range Transportation Planning
  - To identify existing and future deficiencies in the transportation system
  - To identify multi-modal elements
  - To develop feasible solutions to address problems
  - To provide information and data to help guide future transportation decisions
- Product of a Long Range Transportation Planning
  - Comprehensive Transportation Plan
- Benefits of a Long Range Transportation Planning
  - Integration with land use planning and the development process
  - Minimum disruption for citizens

- Transportation Planning Process
  - Initial meetings
  - Establish a plan schedule, public involvement plan, and community vision
  - Conduct goals, objectives, survey
  - Assign roles and responsibilities (local, regional, state)
  - Collect, project and endorse data
  - Analyze deficiencies and develop alternatives
  - Recommend and adopt a plan
  - Technical Report
  - Corridor Protection
  - Programming
- Comprehensive Transportation Plan is a 20-25 year plan
- Transportation Improvement Plan is a 7 year plan
- Thoroughfare Plan 1984 was adopted and the most recent 1997 Thoroughfare Plan that was not adopted by Stokes County
- Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) is for highways, transit/rail, bicycle, and pedestrian
- Thoroughfare Plan is for highway element only

Mr. Bailey requested the Board of Commissioners consider approval for the Highway Map, Rail/Public Transportation Map, Bicycle Map and submitted Transportation Plan.

Planning Director Sudderth noted that the rail map needed to be amended to show that the rail near Brook Cove Road has been abandoned and does not exist.

The Board reviewed the maps submitted by NCDOT.

The Board discussed the need for a Comprehensive Land Use Plan, City of King being placed in the Winston Salem Urban Area Thoroughfare Plan instead of being included with Stokes County, and whether a Comprehensive Land Use Plan would be beneficial to an already adopted Transportation Plan.

Mr. Marc Allred stated that the federal government takes data from the Census Bureau which allows the MPO to take the City of King into the MPO. The County has no control over the City of King being placed in the MPO.

Mr. Marc Allred noted that if the County did develop and adopt a Comprehensive

Land Use Plan, the County could request to the RPO to have their Transportation Plan redone. Dr. Davis noted funding would play a big part in whether the County could get their Transportation Plan redone before it was due.

Planning Director Sudderth noted that a Comprehensive Land Use Plan would take time and funding, it could not be done in house. Director Sudderth also noted the need to receive input from all the towns, cities, communities, and as many citizens as possible in the County in the development of a Comprehensive Land Use Plan in order to make it work for Stokes County.

Commissioner Carroll noted that a lot of the proposed Transportation Plan is improvements to existing roads in Stokes County. Commissioner Carroll questioned what would be the cost for the improvements, what does the state's revenue picture look like, and how realistic is the proposed plan.

Dr. Davis replied that the proposed Transportation Plan would give Stokes County an opportunity to compete for funding if funding is available.

Commissioner Carroll also noted that some of the project proposals on the proposed plan were on the first Transportation Plan approved in 1984 and expressed concerns that the proposed plan could be misleading to the citizens.

Director Sudderth reiterated that the proposed plan would at least give the County an opportunity to compete evenly with other counties and the state for available transportation dollars.

Commissioner Lankford noted the some of Highway 8 has been widened, but there is an urgent need for Highway 8 to be widened all the way to the Virginia Line.

Chairman Inman entertained a motion.

Commissioner Lankford moved to approve the submitted Comprehensive Transportation Plan, all three maps with the correction on the rail map that the rail near Brook Cove Road has been abandoned and does not exist and to place a Resolution on the April 14<sup>th</sup> agenda for the Board's consideration. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion.

Vice Chairman Walker requested information about the pedestrian part and when would it be presented to the County.

Dr. Davis noted the pedestrian part should be finished by the end of this year.

The motion carried (4-1) with Commissioner Carroll voting against the motion.

Vice Chairman Walker noted that his vote was based on the flexibility that provisions would allow the County if there was a need in the future to reconsider if for example the County adopted a Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

### **Economic Development Commission (EDC) Joint Meeting**

County Manager Bryan Steen informed the Board that EDC Chairman Worth Hampton would not be able to attend the scheduled joint meeting on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

The Board unanimously agreed to reschedule the joint meeting with EDC for Wednesday, May 21, 2008 at 1:30pm.

### **Sauratown Mountain –Fire**

Manager Steen updated the Board on the recent fire on Sauratown Mountain. Manager Steen informed the Board that Sauratown Vol. Fire Department had a fuel bill of approximately \$9763 and would request to be able to use available lapsed salaries from the fire district fund to take care of the fuel cost. There would be no county funding and that EMS Director Monty

Stevens had indicated that there was no state funding to assist in the fuel cost.

The Board discussed the request from Fire Chief Wayne Barneycastle-Sauratown Vol. Fire Department.

Commissioner Carroll noted that the eight-page document requires any emergency request for fire district funding first must be approved by the Fire and Rescue Association, then by the Fire Commission and submitted to the Board of Commissioners for consideration.

Commissioner Smith noted that after speaking with the Forestry Service today, the county could have been charged approximately \$200,000 for their services if the county did not participate in the forestry cooperative.

The Board agreed that the request should follow the eight page document guidelines.

Chairman Inman directed the County Manager to contact the Fire/Rescue Association and Fire Commission, then return to the Board.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Chairman Inman entertained a motion to enter into closed session for the following:

- To consider the initial employment or appointment of an individual to any office or position, other than a vacancy in the Board of County Commissioners or any other public body, or to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, and fitness of any public officer or employee, other than a member of the Board of Commissioners or of some other public body pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(6).

Commissioner Smith moved to enter into closed session for the following:

- To consider the initial employment or appointment of an individual to any office or position, other than a vacancy in the Board of County Commissioners or any other public body, or to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, and fitness of any public officer or employee, other than a member of the Board of Commissioners or of some other public body pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(6).

Vice Chairman Walker seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The Board returned to open session of the April 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Inman entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Lankford moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

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**Darlene M. Bullins**  
Clerk to the Board

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**J. Leon Inman**  
Chairman