

**MINUTES**  
**JOINT MEETING OF THE TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF**  
**COMMISSIONERS AND THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF**  
**TRANSPORTATION**  
**April 14, 2008 – SPECIAL MEETING**

The Board of Commissioners met in special session jointly with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (DOT) at 3:00 p.m. in the Rogow Room of the Transylvania County Library. The purpose of the meeting was to consider the North Carolina Department of Transportation's recommended program for secondary road improvements in Transylvania County for 2008 and 2009.

Commissioners present were Lynn Bullock, Chairman Jason Chappell, David Guice, Daryle Hogsed and Vice-Chairman Kelvin Phillips. Also present were County Manager Artie Wilson and Clerk to the Board Trisha McLeod.

Representatives from the Department of Transportation were Division 14 Board Member Conrad Burrell, Division 14 Engineer Joel Setzer, District Engineer Mark Gibbs, Division 14 Maintenance Engineer Brian Burch, County Maintenance Engineer Jeff Moore, Transylvania County Transportation Supervisor Dave Capps, and Transportation Tech III Mark Thomas.

Chairman Chappell called the special meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

Division 14 Board Member Conrad Burrell stated the purpose of the meeting. He informed Commissioners that available funding for calendar years 2008 and 2009 is \$618,782.00 for each year. Mr. Burrell said he will ask Commissioners to approve resolutions for both programs in 2008 and 2009 once discussions are over. He turned the meeting over to Division 14 Engineer Joel Setzer.

Mr. Setzer thanked Commissioners for their patience with the DOT as they continue to face a shortage of funding. He said, as Mr. Burrell indicated, they are projecting to spend approximately \$619,000 in calendar years in 2008 and 2009 on secondary roads. They also plan to carry forward approximately \$4 million from previously planned projects where at the time there were no funds to complete those projects. Mr. Setzer again thanked Commissioners for their patience as they seek to restore funds to those projects. They plan to begin work on the backlogged projects over the next couple of years. Mr. Setzer turned the meeting over to District Engineer Mark Gibbs to discuss the secondary roads program and the backlogged projects they plan to complete.

Mr. Gibbs stated that \$3,982,486 has been carried forward from projects that were slated to be completed in previous years. They plan to spend \$2.1 million on those projects in 2008. Funds have been allocated for spot stabilization to maintain gravel roads, surveying costs, and safety signage. Funds have also been allocated to complete paving and erosion work on Cold Mountain Road, Tannasee Gap Road, and Allen McCall Road, to complete the construction of Ivy Lane, and to pave McKee Road. They also plan to

make road improvements to Osborne Road and Probart Street. Mr. Gibbs further stated that if rights-of-way are obtained, they plan to make road improvements to Cashiers Valley Road, Frozen Creek Road, and Everett Farm Road.

\$618,782 has been allocated for secondary roads in 2008. Funds will be used for surveying and for road improvements on Hannah Ford Road and Wilson Road. \$618,782 has also been allocated for secondary roads in 2009. Funds will be used for surveying and for partial improvements to Reasonover Road. Future funds will be used for the remaining portion of Reasonover Road, Cascade Lake Road, and Whitmire Road. Mr. Gibbs noted that once the rights-of-way have been secured, they will proceed with these projects as proposed.

There were no questions from Commissioners at this time. Chairman Chappell called for questions from the audience.

Mr. Jerry Kline: Mr. Kline is a citizen from the Lake Toxaway area. Mr. Kline stated that the condition of US 64 west of Rosman is extremely hazardous. The shoulders are unsafe and the road is littered with large pot holes. Mr. Kline noted that the road conditions are causing damage to people's vehicles and the conditions are worsening. Mr. Setzer responded that they will look into the road conditions on US 64.

Mr. Ray Miller: Mr. Miller thanked DOT representatives for the time they have spent meeting with citizens regarding the possible take over of private roads in Glen Cannon. He said this has been a difficult task and he plans to continue to work with the State on this issue. Mr. Setzer responded that the DOT will continue to work with those citizens to seek some resolution.

The Manager asked if the prior fiscal year projects are going to begin this year. Mr. Gibbs responded that rights-of-way must be obtained for Cashiers Valley Road, Frozen Creek Road and Everett Farm Road, and because of time constraints and the limited construction season, these projects will be difficult to complete in calendar year 2008 and will therefore be carried over to the following year.

The Manager also asked the same for the projects programmed for Fiscal Year 2008. Mr. Gibbs responded that if the rights-of-way are secured for Hannah Ford Road and Wilson Road, then those projects will begin this year.

The Manager also discussed the improvements for Wilson Road. Mr. Gibbs responded that they plan to widen the shoulders and improve drainage on Wilson Road and make overall safety improvements. He noted that they do not have a recorded right-of-way, only a maintained right-of-way. In order to make any improvements outside the maintenance limits, they would require donation of rights-of-way from the property owners. Mr. Setzer added that the Right-of-Way Department continues to work to gain right-of-way access on Wilson Road. If right-of-way is obtained, they want to take the opportunity to make improvements to the road before it is paved.

Ms. Sara Champion: Ms. Champion asked how the DOT begins a system of bicycle lanes in the County. She also asked at what point Wilson Road becomes a primary road. Mr. Setzer responded that any time they plan to make road improvements, they take into consideration whether or not the road is registered as a bike path. If the road is not listed as a bike route, they attempt to accommodate bike traffic by making the shoulders wider. He noted that the County's Comprehensive Transportation Plan includes the development of bicycle transportation. Mr. Setzer also responded that in order for Wilson Road to move up in classification from a secondary road to a primary road, it must carry traffic from one county center to another county center. Wilson Road does not meet those qualifications.

Mr. Ray Miller: Mr. Miller asked Mr. Setzer to comment on the difference between the secondary and primary roads programs. He also asked Mr. Setzer to comment about US 64 improvements funded under the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Setzer stated that road improvements are paid for from different funding sources. Primary roads are not eligible for secondary roads funding. For improvements to US 64, funding can come from two sources: TIP and Maintenance funds. TIP funds will be used to address a one mile section of US 64 to straighten out some curves and create additional climbing and passing lanes. This will be a several million dollar project and Mr. Setzer said he hopes they can deliver this project within two to three years. He said the conditions that Mr. Kline referred to earlier would be funded by Maintenance funds. He noted that the DOT has a policy to address safety hazards immediately. They would like to resurface roads quicker than they do, but funding is limited; however they are committed to keeping roads safe.

Commissioner Phillips provided everyone with copies of correspondence between Representative Trudi Walend and Secretary Lyndo Tippet from 2006 concerning proposed improvements to US 64 from Cashiers to Rosman. He asked Mr. Setzer to report on the status of the project. Mr. Setzer stated that the cost figures were poorly estimated for the project segment near Cashiers. The second part of the project near Lake Toxaway was scheduled to begin in March 2008, but a rare plant was found in the area thus increasing the planning time.

There were no further questions from Commissioners or the public. Mr. Burrell thanked Commissioners for allowing them to share this information with them. He turned the meeting back over to Chairman Chappell. Chairman Chappell asked Commissioners to approve the secondary road programs for 2008 and 2009.

**Commissioner Phillips moved to approve a resolution recommending a program of total needs for Secondary Road Improvements in Transylvania County detailing the proposed expenditures for Secondary Funds for the period Fiscal Year 2008, seconded by Commissioner Hogsed and unanimously approved.**

**Commissioner Guice moved to approve a resolution recommending a program of total needs for Secondary Road Improvements in Transylvania County detailing the proposed expenditures for Secondary Funds for the period Fiscal Year 2009, seconded by Commissioner Bullock and unanimously approved.**

Commissioner Hogsed thanked DOT members for being extremely responsive to the County's concerns. Commissioner Phillips echoed his comments.

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Commissioner Guice moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Phillips and unanimously approved.**

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Jason R. Chappell, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

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Trisha D. McLeod  
Clerk to the Board