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**TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**January 10, 2023, 6:00 PM**

- I. **Welcome:** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM. Mr. David Carter, Mr. Aaron Bland, Mr. Howie Granat, Mr. Mark Tooley, Mr. Jimmy Whitmire, Mr. Keith Wilmont, and Mr. Harold Paxton were present. Mr. Scott McCall (excused) and Mr. Rick Lasater (excused) were absent. Mr. Troy Wilson, Mr. Steve Williams, and Rusty Darnell from North Carolina DOT also attended. Ms. Vicki Eastland from Land of Sky Rural Planning Organization (RPO) was also in attendance. There were six members of the public present.
  
- II. **Public Comment:** There was no public comments.
  
- III. **Agenda Modifications:** There were no proposed agenda modifications.
  
- IV. **Consent Agenda:**
  - A. Minutes (July 12, 2022)

There was no discussion of the consent agenda. Mr. Tooley moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Granat seconded the motion. All present members voted in favor, and the motion carried.
  
- V. **Old Business:**
  - A. NCDOT Current Projects Update

Mr. Williams introduced the Assistant District Engineer, Mr. Rusty Darnell. Mr. Darnell gave updates on the two current construction projects in Transylvania County. Mr. Darnell informed the Committee that the Davidson River Village project was nearing completion by finishing up the roundabout. They will be meeting with the city on how to continue the multi-use path. Attached to that project is the Buchanan section. There was no update from him at this time. Mr. Darnell informed the Committee that the High School project for bike and pedestrian paths had completed the bulk of construction. They are working with the City of Brevard to ensure the correct colors. Mr. Darnell stated he would check with both of those projects and update the Committee on any changes in the future.
  
  - B. Land of Sky RPO Update:

Ms. Vicki Eastland presented the Committee with an overview of what the following public meeting would center around: the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP). Ms. Eastland discussed the role of public interaction, how Land of Sky RPO was involved, and the overall process after receiving the public input during the later public meeting.

## **VI. New Business:**

### **A. Director's Report:**

Ms. Terrell gave an update on the letter requesting NCDOT to work with the Forest Service to take down dangerous trees was sent to the County Commissioners for their consideration and approval. The Commissioners did approve the letter, and it was sent to NCDOT. Ms. Terrell informed the Committee that NCDOT had responded that the requested roads would need substantial money from the budget. Mr. Darnell told the board that the maintenance departments of NCDOT were seeing a decrease in budgets this year. Ms. Terrell informed the Committee that the next meeting for the Committee would be on April 11, 2023.

## **VII. Public Comment:**

There was no public comments.

## **VIII. Committee Members' Comments:**

Harold Paxton: Mr. Paxton stated he would also like Hannah Ford Road to be looked at by NCDOT for removing dangerous trees. Chair Carter also mentioned he had received a request from someone on US 276 South. Mr. Darnell stated that the Maintenance department is running on a skeleton budget, and they need more in the budget to be proactive regarding removing trees. Mr. Paxton stated he wants Hannah Ford Road to look at a speed reduction. Mr. Williams stated that Mr. Paxton could contact NCDOT to discuss speed reduction.

Mr. Paxton moved to request the County Commissioners to propose a reduction in speed on Hannah Ford West from 40 mph to 30 mph.

Mr. Williams stated that this request could come directly from this Committee or a citizen. Mr. Paxton stated that citizens had requested this from NCDOT, which has stayed the same. Mr. Darnell stated he would pursue this for Mr. Paxton.

Chair Carter moved to have a letter sent to the State Highway Patrol about more enforcement on Hannah Ford Road from the Committee, seconded by Mr. Granat. All present members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Howard Granat: Mr. Granat stated he and Mr. Tooley requested NCDOT to investigate reducing the speed on US 276 in Pisgah Forest. Mr. Williams stated the request had been reviewed and they should have received a response. Mr. Tooley stated that he received an email from NCDOT stating the speed would be reduced to 45 mph. Mr. Granat asked NCDOT if there was a timeline for putting shoulders on that section of the road. Mr. Williams stated it depends on the Forest Service telling NCDOT what they want for this project. It is currently on hold due to cost increases and design changes. Ms. Eastland stated that NCDOT is now trying to use the designated funding to pay for the final design and look for additional funding for the construction piece. Mr. Granat also asked if adding a pedestrian crossing near the end of

Caldwell Street was possible. Mr. Williams stated that Mr. Granat needs to reach out to NCDOT. It will be easier to get to a crosswalk if the location is at an intersection.

Mark Tooley: Mr. Tooley wanted to thank Mr. Williams and the NCDOT for getting back so fast to Mr. Granat and him about the speed reduction inquiry.

Jimmy Whitmire: Mr. Whitmire discussed the Green Road Bridge construction, in how he and all the citizens who gave their feedback to NCDOT are disappointed their ideas were not included in the bridge's construction.

Mr. Tooley moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Wilmont seconded the motion. All present members voted in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:32 PM.

  
Darby Terrell, Planner

7/11/2023  
Date

  
Chair