



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

PATRICK L. MCCRORY
GOVERNOR

ANTHONY J. TATA
SECRETARY

DATE: March 13, 2014

SUBJECT: Minutes for February 25, 2014 Local Officials' Meeting,
STIP No. R-2594, Transylvania County

PARTICIPANTS: Artie Wilson Transylvania County Manager
Mike Hawkins Transylvania County Board of Commissioners
Mark Burrows Transylvania County Planning & Econ. Dev.
Derek Ibarguen US Forest Service
Edward Green, P.E. NCDOT Highway Division 14
Brian Burch, P.E. NCDOT Highway Division 14
Richard Hancock, P.E. NCDOT PD&EA Unit
Theresa Ellerby NCDOT PD&EA Unit
Nathan Adima, P.E. NCDOT Roadway Design Unit
Mike Young, P.E. ICA Engineering
Ken Gilland, P.G. Michael Baker Engineering

The subject meeting was held at the Transylvania County Community Service Building in Brevard, NC on February 25, 2014 at 1:00 P.M. The purpose of the meeting was to update Transylvania County officials on potential design revisions to the "Improve Existing Alternative" and other recently completed work.

Artie Wilson began the meeting and Theresa Ellerby introduced the project. Ken Gilland gave a PowerPoint presentation that included a summary of the design revision and the results of a safety analysis of the new design.

Below is a summary of the discussion:

Revised "Improve Existing Alternative":

- based on NCDOT's Resurfacing, Restoration, and Rehabilitation (3R) Guideline
- would maintain the current posted speed of 35 mph but have a lower design speed
- would include 10-foot lanes with 3-foot shoulders, the first two feet of which would be paved; maximum grade would be 7 percent
- reduces waste from approximately 7.6 million cubic yards (in the current design) to 3.0 million cubic yards, a reduction of almost 39 percent
- reduces stream impacts and residential and business relocations
- cost estimates will be developed
- anticipated lower waste disposal costs and cheaper than the current "Improve Existing Alternative"
- 3R cannot be used of new location facilities
- would require blasting and off-site detours

Safety Analysis:

- conducted to determine if revised existing alternative would meet the need for the project to address safety and current roadway efficiencies and improve the safety of NC 215 by providing a roadway facility with improved geometric design conditions

Predicted Crashes Based on Safety Analysis of Proposed Alternatives*

Alternate	Description	Predicted Crashes in 2035	Crash Frequency Compared with No-Build
No-Build	Crashes on NC 215 at projected 2035 traffic volumes, no significant improvements	16	--
R-R-R-Based Improve Existing	Crashes on NC 215 at projected 2035 volumes – R-R-R-based improvements	10	-35%
Improve Existing	Crashes on NC 215 at projected 2035 volumes – Current Improve Existing	7	-54%
New Location 3a	Crashes on Existing NC 215 with no significant improvements and New Location Alternative 3a at projected 2035 volumes	6	-63%
New Location 3b	Crashes on Existing NC 215 with no significant improvements and New Location Alternative 3b at projected 2035 volumes	6	-63%

*Crash rates based on a review of crashes from 7/1/2008-6/30/2013 using the Highway Safety Manual

- revised existing alternative does reduce the number of crashes in 2035 compared to No-Build alternative
- NCDOT supports design as “context sensitive solution” since reduces impacts to Pisgah National Forest.

General Discussion:

- NCDOT asked local officials if they could support this potential project alternative
- Derek Ibarguen, USFS, believed resource agencies would be supportive of the alternative as it reduced potential impacts
- Artie Wilson asked if there was anything USFS could do to expedite movement of the project through the Merger Team
- Brian Burch noted that Division 14 had yet to have a project make it through the Merger process
- Mr. Wilson stated that he believed the county could support the revised design
- Mike Hawkins noted that there would be an election for two members of the County Commission in November, and one of the two seats would be open
- Mr. Wilson said that he would be retiring as County Manager in September
- if the opinion of the Board changed after the upcoming elections, the new Board would have the opportunity to comment on the DEIS, scheduled for completion in late 2014

Project Schedule:

- DEIS completed in late 2014
- Right of way acquisition in Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 and construction in FY 2021
- prioritization may impact project schedule
- all dates are draft and subject to change
- Mr. Wilson believed the project had advanced over the past two years and appreciated NCDOT's work

Action Items:

- NCDOT will develop cost estimates and will contact Merger Co-Team Leaders to provide information on the proposed changes to the "Improve Existing Alternative"
- After the project alternatives have been shared with the Merger Team, County Commissioners could consider a measure offering support for an "Improve Existing Alternative" that minimized requirements for road closures and detours
- NCDOT will meet with the Merger Team in May 2014 to review the updated project alternative and discuss major stream crossings for project alternatives.

If you have any questions, please contact Stacy Oberhausen at 919-707-6033 or Ken Gilland at 919-481-5735.

cc: Meeting Participants