



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
TURNPIKE AUTHORITY

MICHAEL F. EASLEY  
GOVERNOR

1501 MAIL SERVICE CENTER, RALEIGH, N.C. 27699-1501

DAVID W. JOYNER  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
MINUTES**

Wednesday, September 14, 2005  
Room 150, Transportation Building

Members present: Lyndo Tippet, Chairman  
Lanny Wilson, Vice Chair  
Perry Safran, Secretary/Treasurer  
John Culbertson  
Sang Hamilton, Sr.  
Bob Spencer

Members absent: Allan Dameron  
Anthony Fox  
Robb Teer

Also attending: David Joyner, Executive Director

Chairman Tippet called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. in the Board Room of the Transportation Building. Members of the General Assembly present, including Representatives Crawford, Church, Dickson, and Cole and Senator Hunt, were recognized. Chairman Tippet noted that the members of the Joint Transportation Legislative Oversight Committee had been invited to the meeting. Chairman Tippet read the Governor's ethics statement.

Secretary-Treasurer Perry Safran presented the August minutes for approval. The August minutes were approved as presented.

*Public Opinion and Toll Roads:* Mr. Joyner introduced Ed Regan, Senior Vice President of Wilbur Smith Associates, who provided a presentation on *Public Opinion and Toll Roads*. The presentation examined public opinion on tolls versus gas tax increases. Mr. Regan stated that most elected officials are opposed to a tax increase but are also hesitant to establish tolls because of concerns that tolls would be equated to a tax increase by the public. The presentation provided the results of polls taken in several states that have existing toll facilities. In general, the polls asked participants their preference for financing freeways to accommodate additional traffic by tax increases or tolls. In all cases, the majority preferred tolls to tax increases. Mr. Regan made the point that if the public were asked the question of a free road versus a toll road, then the response is opposition to the toll road. However, if the public were asked the question of a toll road versus no road, then the response is favorable to the toll road.

Chairman Tippet noted that last year the Board of Transportation identified many funding shortages when developing the Statewide Long Range Plan. As a result, at the request of Governor Easley, the *N.C. Thinking Ahead!* working group was formed in an effort to identify

additional funding sources. Chairman Tippett reported that the group had met five times, most recently September 13, and one of the items that the group addressed was a means for making the public aware of these shortfalls and obtaining public opinion. The group created an internet survey to assist in this effort. Chairman Tippett called on Lisa Crawley with the NCDOT Public Information Office to provide information on the survey. Ms. Crawley stated that the five-question survey was currently on the NCDOT website. She said that a press release was sent out September 13 concerning the survey and more than 500 responses were received in one day. She added that those who do not have internet access may call 1-877-DOT-4YOU to respond. Ms. Crawley said the survey would be open until the end of October. Chairman Tippett stated that he believed the survey would be informative to the NCDOT and the NCTA. He encouraged all to participate and ask others to participate.

Chairman Tippett noted that former Senator Fern Shubert was in attendance at the meeting and welcomed her.

*Committee Reports:*

- 1) Executive Committee: Chairman Tippett stated that the committee discussed several ideas including public relations. The committee suggested that they ask NCTA Board members to serve on their local Rural/Metropolitan Planning Organizations (RPOs/MPOs). Chairman Tippett called on Board member Lanny Wilson to elaborate. Mr. Wilson stated that the Executive Committee would like for a Board member in each of the four areas where projects are underway become a non-voting member of their RPO or MPO to provide the NCTA with connections to local concerns. Mr. Wilson made a motion that a Board member in each of the four areas where projects are located join the local RPO or MPO as a non-voting member. The motion was unanimously approved. The Executive Committee also suggested that the Board have at least one meeting outside of Raleigh each year as a matter of policy. Board member Perry Safran moved that the NCTA adopt a policy to hold at least one meeting per year outside of Raleigh. The motion was approved unanimously. Chairman Tippett noted that the policy would be put into effect immediately and asked the Board members to spread the word to their communities. He asked that NCTA staff provide talking points for Board members to use when speaking to civic clubs or other interested groups.
- 2) Finance Committee: Chairman Bob Spencer reported that Jack Finn with HNTB and Ed Regan with Wilbur Smith Associates presented information on the traffic and revenue study process. The NCTA is pursuing a traffic and revenue consultant and a financial advisor. The Finance Committee had no action items.
- 3) Personnel Committee: Board member Sang Hamilton reported that the committee discussed the search for office space for the NCTA. Costs for space and retrofit are being developed.
- 4) Plans and Programs Committee: Chairman John Culbertson reported that the Committee discussed schedules for each of the four projects. The staff and consultants are looking at ways to condense the preconstruction NEPA process. He indicated he was very pleased with the schedules. Mr. Culbertson stated that the committee understood the steps involved and the timeframes for the projects going to construction. He thanked consultants HNTB and PBS&J for preparing the schedules and Mr. Spencer for initiating the process. The committee had no action items.

*Executive Director Report:* Mr. Joyner said that language was inserted in the Technical Corrections Bill by the Senate requiring the NCTA to obtain legislative approval for all projects beyond the original four plus the Mid-Currituck Bridge. He said the bill was sent to the House where the House refused to concur and removed the language regarding the NCTA requirement. The bill was sent back to the Senate which adjourned without further action. Mr. Joyner met with Senators Hoyle and Basnight and feels that when the Senate reconvenes in May, the Senate, or the Senate leadership, would insist on reinstating the language in a bill that would move back to the House. He pointed out to the Board members and other interested parties that this is a matter of concern to the NCTA. Mr. Joyner noted that Mr. Regan had discussed in his presentation that small local groups of opponents often do not represent the majority of public opinion. He further stated that if the Turnpike Authority has a project that might be viable to a certain group of locals, community MPOs, or others, and that fulfills the mission of the Authority and is deemed worthwhile through studies, it still must pass legislative review if this language were adopted. Mr. Joyner said he would encourage the Board make their opinions known that this type of oversight legislation could kill future projects.

Mr. Joyner announced that a continuation of the Plans and Programs Committee would follow the Board meeting to discuss specific details of the project schedules. He reported that the board retreat would begin Sunday, October 16, at the Carolina Inn in Chapel Hill with an informal dinner. The working sessions will begin after breakfast on the 17<sup>th</sup>. He said the retreat will end the morning of October 18, and will be followed by committee meetings. The Board meeting will end by 3:00pm.

Mr. Joyner noted that the “redline” edition of the Professional Contract Policy was in each Board member’s notebook. This policy will be discussed with the entire Board in November and then brought back to the Board in December for a vote. He added that the date for the November Board meeting was changed from November 16 to November 15 due to a conflict. He noted that a calendar listing the proposed meeting dates for 2006 is in the Board notebooks. He asked the Board to review the dates and let him know of any conflicts.

*Public Input Session:* Chairman Tippet initiated the public input portion of the meeting, noting that no one had signed up to speak. He asked if anyone wanted to speak.

Nick Polyzos from Monroe, Chairman of the Young Republicans, addressed the Board. He stated that he and Sam Evans, also from Monroe, came to present the Board with petitions opposing the Monroe Connector. Mr. Polyzus said that although the bypass/connector was well on the way to being an 80 percent federally funded highway, some say the road will not be built unless it is a toll road. He said the citizens of Union County organized a non-partisan group, which included himself; April Baird, Vice-Chairman of the Wingate College Republicans; and Sam Evans, Vice-Chairman of the Union County Young Democrats, opposing the toll road. Mr. Polyzus noted that each of the groups he named opposed the toll road.

Chairman Tippet thanked Mr. Polyzus for his time and noted that the NCTA held a public meeting in Monroe in August 2004 where several people spoke with no opposition at that time. He added that Mr. Polyzus was the second person who had spoken publicly to the Board opposing toll roads.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Jane Strickland.