

**NC 73 Council of Planning
Regular Meeting Notes
January 25, 2007
Lincoln County EMS Center**

COP Members Present: Andrew Bryant (Lincoln County), Stacy Yates (Lincoln County), Lindsey Hobbs (Kannapolis), Margaret Pearson (Concord), Jonathan Marshall (Cabarrus County), Kris Krider (Davidson), Steve Osborne (Concord).

Others Present: Linda Dosse (NCDOT-TPB), Ryan McDaniels (Cabarrus EDC), Laura Foor (Lincoln EDA), Cole Gurley (NCDOT), Jackie McSwain (NCDOT- District Engineer), Bill Coxe (Huntersville), Bjorn Hansen (Centralina).

Welcome and Introductions: Mr. Krider opened the meeting at 1:40 PM with a quorum present. All present introduced themselves.

Administrative Items

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved as presented on a motion by Mr. Hobbs, and seconded by Mr. Marshall.

Approval of minutes from September 28, 2006: Mr. Krider noted his nomination of Mr. Coxe as vice-chairman at the previous meeting was out of order as Mr. Coxe is not a formal member of the COP. Mr. Hansen stated he would note this in the minutes. Mr. Bryant made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, and was seconded by Mr. Hobbs.

Nomination of Vice-Chairman: Mr. Marshall nominated Mr. Hobbs as vice-chairman. Mr. Osborne seconded the motion. There were no counter nominations and Mr. Hobbs was approved as vice-chairman.

Old Issues

Corridor Branding: Mr. Hansen presented several draft logos for the COP and corridor. The group had an extended discussion on logos, with those present directing Mr. Hansen to develop a logo that includes the lake, NC 73 and major roads, political boundaries, and a border with either the Council of Planning or the eight member governments listed.

Mr. Hansen then presented the results of common landscaping research, with the members wanting maintained landscaping at major activity centers. Those present stated color and shape are most important in a landscape planting. A “kick-off” enhancement project along the corridor to focus attention on the issue could be beneficial, with member governments following through on the enhancement project in their respective regulations. The COP directed Mr. Hansen to present more specific information on options at their next meeting.

Small Area Plan and NC 73 Plan Alignment: Mr. Hansen updated the group on a series of discussions with the NCDOT and Huntersville staff regarding updating the original

NC 73 plan to reflect subsequent small area plans recommended by the NC 73 plan. Those present confirmed the need to keep the NC 73 plan relevant, and to incorporate the recommendations from the small area plans into the overall plan. Mr. Hansen, Mr. Coxe, and Ms. Dosse will meet separately to discuss how to best incorporate the changes without unnecessarily requiring a Long Range Transportation Plan update where the road improvement recommendations are changed.

New Issues

Huntersville Transportation Update: Mr. Coxe provided an update on the status of the widening of NC 73 between NC 115 and US-21. This project is being accelerated by Huntersville through the use of local funds, with later repayment by the NCDOT. The project will hopefully go to construction in 2008.

I-85 and NC 73 Update: Ms. Dosse provided an update on the I-85 widening project (I-3803B), which includes improvements to the NC 73 interchange. She stated the NCDOT has had several internal meetings on scoping the improvements. The current question is the number of lanes that can be accommodated within the current right-of-way without jeopardizing the eligibility to use GARVEE bonds on the project. The design of the interchange with NC 73 is uncertain, and will be either a single-point urban interchange (SPUI) or a traditional diamond interchange. A public meeting later in the spring is planned for this project. No action was taken.

Corridor Mobility Research: Mr. Hansen provided a brief overview of data collected to date with the average peak hour speeds along various sections of the corridor. He then apprised the group of a Centralina proposal to develop commuting time reports to Uptown Charlotte for various locations throughout the region. The strategy would be the same, with reliance on volunteers to provide travel data. Those present agreed that monitoring the corridor is vital to advocating for improvements, and should be fully developed for the NC 73 corridor.

FY 07-08 Work Program: Mr. Hansen presented a draft work plan for the upcoming year, and asked the COP to provide feedback and whether a special work meeting to finalize the work plan would be necessary. No action was taken.

Round Table Discussion

Those present provided updates of projects and plans occurring within their respective jurisdictions.

- Kannapolis is making a 263 acre mixed-use project uphold the NC 73 plan in their site development.
- Davidson is currently working with an elementary school site that would merit a signal in conflict with the NC 73 plan.
- Concord had good input from COP members regarding a rezoning at NC 73 and Poplar Tent.
- The new NC 16 should open to NC 73 by May 2007, and to Optimist Club by 2009.

Next Meeting Date and Location: The next meeting was scheduled for April 19, 2007 at 1:30 PM near Kannapolis. The specific location will be determined later and distributed to the COP.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 PM.