

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
August 20, 2020

Members Present: Noah Henderson, Emily Scott-Cruz, Judy Sloan, Terri D’Avano and Suzanne Sherrill.

Members Absent: Vicki Eastland, Jacki Hawkins, Tim Jones, Nick Kroncke, Autumn Radcliff, Hope Prather and Janna Peterson,

WCCA Staff Present: Bill Crisp and Kim Hall.

Chair Suzanne Sherrill opened the meeting at 10:00 AM.

Welcome and Introductions:

Minutes of February 24, 2020 Transportation Advisory Board Meeting:

Suzanne Sherrill called for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2020 meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board. Terri D’Avano moved to approve the minutes. Suzanne Sherrill seconded the motion. The minutes are approved as submitted.

Update from French Broad River MPO, Emily Scott-Cruz reported:

- The Regional Transit Feasibility Study is underway and AECOM is the consultant.
- AECOM has created an Existing Conditions Report and a Public Engagement Plan for the MPO staff to follow and execute over the coming months. The Public Engagement Plan will be fully virtual. For more information check the website at: <http://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/regional-transit-feasibility-study/>
- MTP closer to being complete. Hosted an engagement event virtually. Have been collecting public input for a few weeks for MTP. Hopefully this will be complete by the end of September and be passed by the Board and NCDOT.
- Hell Bender Trail Project is out for public comment. Please see their website.
- NCDOT projects that are already funded will resume construction. There is still uncertainty with no new Federal Transportation Act being passed. Rural operating and SMAP funds are depleted until next fiscal year. There is a regional transit operators meeting in mid-September, ROAP and SMAP funding will be discussed then.
- Nathan Ramsey has been named as the new Executive Director. There is no longer funding available for four planners so we will be proceeding with the three currently employed.
- With Covid, online efforts have been increased to compensate for public meetings. This seems to be going well.

Update from Henderson County, reported:

There were no Henderson County representative in attendance.

Update from Apple Country, Bill Crisp reported:

- Follow up on ROAP and SNAP cuts, last year we received \$221K in ROAP funding. Loosing that was a big hit. Chuck McGrady will be going before the state legislature in early September to work on getting these funds restored. There have been many unforeseen consequences with the loss of these funds. The NCPTA Board legislative committee is working with NCDOT to find a way through these issues.
- Transit has been running throughout the pandemic. Ridership had been down. We are requiring masks and are limiting capacity if need be. We have blocked off the drivers. We are doing one to two shopping trips per day for the elderly. We are staying in contact with the Council on Aging in regards to meal deliveries. We are still doing medical transports and expect those to increase as more doctor's offices reopen. Edneyville is still running. We have had some issues with fuel as the counties pumps are down until next week but we are working through that as best we can.

TAB Member News:

Terri D'Avano reported that Vocational Rehab is working via mail, phone and computer to keep all services going. Terri has had four clients accept jobs recently.

Suzanne Sherrill reported that while the Sammy Williams Center is not operating they do have can goods on Thursday morning and any clients that can get there can come and get food. She understands that they have good turnouts so far. In addition, volunteers from the Council on Aging are still delivering five frozen meals each week.

Judy Sloan reported she no longer working with Habitat and is not attending in a representative capacity.

Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting date was set for Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 10:00 AM. We will meet virtually until further notice.

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 AM.

Suzanne Sherrill, Chair 12/10/20