

FINANCE AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE MINUTES  
September 2, 2009  
Transportation Building, Raleigh, North Carolina

Vice-Chairman Perkins called the committee meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. Upon a motion by Board member Burrell, seconded by Board member Lakey, the August 5, 2009 minutes were approved as presented. Board members Burrell, Collett, Collier, Dennis, Galyon, Lakey, McNairy, Overholt, Perkins, Proffitt, Szlosberg, Tulloss, Watts, White, Wilson, and Womble were present.

Jim Trogdon, Chief Operating Officer, started his remarks by welcoming everyone and giving Secretary Conti's regrets for not being at the meeting. Secretary Conti is in Biloxi, Mississippi attending the 68th Annual Southeastern Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials meeting.

Storms along the North Carolina coast kept DOT crews busy over the past two weekends. Hurricane Bill brought wind and high tides to the Outer Banks on August 22. The staff in Division 1 moved heavy equipment to flood-prone areas and had crews on standby. Wind and high tides pushed sand and water onto N.C. 12 on Ocracoke Island. The division was forced to close the highway on Ocracoke for several hours in the morning and at night. There were no road closures in Rodanthe, but overwash did impact traffic.

Division staff communicated constantly with Ferry Division staff. With the closing of N.C. 12, the ferry division reduced the number of runs from Hatteras Island to Ocracoke. When it reopened, the ferries carried travelers with hotel and cottage reservations to Ocracoke. Tropical Storm Danny did not cause any road closures or ferry delays last weekend. Mr. Trogdon thanked the Division 1 personnel for their hard work to keep citizens safe.

Mr. Trogdon announced that the Department has a new way to inform the public about events like tropical storms. It's called Twitter. It's a free social-networking Web site that allows us to send brief alerts, or "tweets," to motorists and ferry passengers. It will identify any congestion, accidents, delays, construction work, and lane closures.

There are 17 Twitter accounts showing travel conditions for the state's major metropolitan areas, key interstate routes, and the Ferry Division. The accounts are listed on the DOT Web site under "Travel and Maps." By signing up for them, users can get tweets sent to their mobile devices or they can check Twitter before they travel. This will not only enhance safety, but it will also help motorists determine the best route to take.

The Department is moving ahead with efforts to get American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding for rail projects. Six final applications were turned in to the Federal Railroad Administration on August 24. These applications included nearly \$76 million in grant requests for “shovel ready” projects. Projects will upgrade rail equipment, improve tracks, expand stations, and eliminate grade crossings.

The Department is currently seeking qualifications from contractors interested in bidding on the I-85 Corridor Improvement Project. The project includes replacing the Yadkin River Bridge, widening 6.8 miles of I-85 from Exit 81 in Rowan County to Exit 87 in Davidson County, and improving the rail infrastructure in the area. Accepting qualifications is the first step in the design-build process for hiring a contractor. If American Recovery and Reinvestment funds are awarded for this project, the Department will be ready to award a contract quickly.

Mr. Trogon announced that the Turnpike Authority broke ground on the Triangle Expressway on August 12. Construction on the Triangle Parkway portion of the project will begin this week and it will be the state’s first modern toll road.

The Division of Motor Vehicles has officially rolled out central issuance to its 113 offices and 4 mobile units statewide. Customers will no longer receive driver licenses “over the counter.” Instead, they will receive temporary driving permits and their driver licenses will be mailed to them within 20 days. The average mailing time for licenses is 8 days. This change will better protect citizens from identity theft and address fraud.

The “Booze It & Lose It” Labor Day campaign is under way across North Carolina. The goal is to crack down on impaired drivers during the holiday. This year marks the 15th anniversary of the “Booze It & Lose It” initiative. Since “Booze It & Lose It” started, law enforcement agencies have conducted more than 194,000 checkpoints and patrols during the campaigns and issued 103,000 driving while impaired citations.

Despite the tight budget, the Department is moving ahead with new construction projects. Twenty-one contracts for highway and bridge projects statewide were awarded in August totaling almost \$51 million. Of these projects, eight are funded with federal recovery dollars.

Mr. Trogon announced that two important projects completed last year have won America’s Transportation Awards from the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials. The Clayton Bypass won in the “on time” category and the replacement of seven bridges along N.C. 12 on Ocracoke Island won in the “innovative management” category. The awards were presented to Secretary Conti at the SASHTO meeting. Both projects will now be considered for the grand prize and the People’s Choice Award. Mr. Trogon congratulated those who worked on the projects.

Secretary Conti and Mr. Trogdon continue to work hard reaching out to NCDOT staff, local leaders and media across the state. They have attended 11 meetings or events since last month's board meeting. They have led question and answer sessions with NCDOT employees; met with community leaders, MPOs and RPOs; and talked to local media about transportation issues. They plan to continue these outreach efforts across state in months ahead.

Jim Trogdon, along with Mark Tyler, Director of the Governance Office, provided a presentation on the Transportation Work Program.

Don Voelker, Director of the Strategic Planning Office, provided a presentation on the Loop Prioritization Process.

Mark Foster, Chief Financial Officer, provided a financial update.

The September 3, 2009 board agenda was reviewed.

Mr. Doug Galyon, Chairman of the Board, made an announcement concerning the Board of Transportation Committees handout. He asked the members who are already assigned to a committee to review their current committee assignments and make any changes they deem necessary. He asked the new board members to review the list and decide on which committees they would like to serve. All board members were asked to give their preferences to Tammy Denning before they leave on Thursday morning.

Mr. Perkins called for committee reports. On behalf of the Rail Subcommittee, Mr. Perkins announced that Pat Simmons will draft a letter to the North Carolina Congressional Delegation regarding the Board's continued support for the development of North Carolina's intercity and high speed passenger rail program. This will be presented to the board members on Thursday morning.

Vice-Chairman Perkins made the following announcements concerning Thursday's schedule:

- The Road Naming Committee will meet at 8:30 a.m. in room 149
- The Board meeting will be at 9:00 a.m.
- The Small Projects Work Group will meet at 10:00 a.m. in room 350.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Sarah Mitchell.