

FINANCE AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE MINUTES
October 7, 2009
Transportation Building, Raleigh, North Carolina

Chairman Perkins called the committee meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. Upon a motion by Board member Collier, seconded by Board member Wilson, the September 2, 2009 minutes were approved as presented. Board members Collier, Dennis, Galyon, Lakey, McNairy, Overholt, Perkins, Proffitt, Tulloss, Watts, White, Wilson, and Womble were present. Board members Burrell, Collett, and Szlosberg were absent.

Secretary Conti started his remarks by welcoming everyone to the meeting.

Secretary Conti noted that heavy rains hit hard last month in Division 14, specifically Jackson, Swain, and Transylvania counties. Flooding closed many secondary roads and washed out several unpaved roads. Estimated repairs could cost as much as \$300,000. Secretary Conti thanked the road crews who worked hard to reopen roads to traffic.

Governor Perdue signed Executive Order 24 last week that bans state employees from accepting gifts or favors. This applies to everyone in the department. The department has a zero-tolerance policy for ethical violations. Actions of a few can taint the perception of the entire department. The department wants to maintain the public trust and avoid appearance of conflict. Katherine White will discuss the ethics policy in more detail later in the meeting.

Secretary Conti commended Commissioner Robertson for his recent actions. He acted swiftly when ethical concerns were raised at DMV, and he recommended the SBI further investigate the situation.

Despite that issue, DMV is doing many good things. They arrested and charged five people with making fake IDs last month. They have also implemented central issuance of driver licenses in all offices statewide to reduce the potential for fraud and identity theft.

The Rail Division has received \$9 million in grants from the Federal Railroad Administration for track and safety improvements. These grants will help upgrade rail for heavier trains; advance locomotive emissions research; and streamline freight operations.

The Rail Division has more big news. They submitted the second round of applications Friday for ARRA funding. The department requested more than \$5 billion for four projects. The money will be used to further develop the Southeast High Speed Rail Corridor.

Secretary Conti announced that the department has awarded nearly \$132 million in Powell Bill funds to 502 municipalities. These funds will help cities and towns repair and widen roads, and add sidewalks. This is especially important for the recipients this year, due to the slow economy.

The Governor's Highway Safety Program has also awarded grants. They have given more than \$9 million statewide in highway safety grants. These grants went to 139 police departments, sheriff's offices and other agencies to help promote highway safety awareness and reduce the number of crashes on our roads.

Secretary Conti announced that David Weinstein has been appointed as the new director of the Governor's Highway Safety Program. Mr. Weinstein is a retired merchant from Robeson County. He also held seven terms in the state Senate. He started his new job on Monday.

The "Booze It & Lose It" Labor Day campaign was successful. It ran from August 21 to September 7. Officers cited more than 3,500 motorists for driving while impaired.

As a result of the September letting, the department is moving ahead with new construction projects across the state. Seventeen contracts were awarded for highway, ferry and bridge projects last month totaling \$65 million. Eight of those projects were funded with recovery dollars.

Several of NCDOT's projects have won awards recently. The U.S. 70 Clayton Bypass is a finalist in AASHTO's national America's Transportation Award competition. The department is competing against nine other projects for the Grand Prize Award and the People's Choice Award. Secretary Conti encouraged everyone to vote for the Clayton Bypass project on the Web site for People's Choice Award. The voting closes October 23. The results will be revealed later this month.

The second award-winning project was on I-77 in Yadkin County. This project won the Excellence in Concrete Pavement Award from the American Concrete Pavement Association for rehabilitating 6.5 miles of interstate. It was named the "gold winner" in the overlays category and received the award for innovative use of concrete overlays, safety, quality, and traffic management. Secretary Conti congratulated all those who worked on this project.

The third award-winning project is the U.S. 17 Washington Bypass. This project involved a design-build team constructing a 7-mile, 4-lane bypass around Washington. It won the FHWA award for Environmental Excellence in Ecosystems, Habitat and Wildlife. This project was selected for using an innovative "top-down" construction method to build the bridge over the Tar River,

which significantly limited impact to wetlands. Secretary Conti congratulated everyone who worked on this project.

Another example of the department's environmental efforts was the opening of the state's first "green" rest area in Wilkes County. The ribbon cutting ceremony was held last week at the new facility. This rest area will be about 40% more energy efficient than traditional rest areas.

Secretary Conti continues to travel around the state to hold question and answer sessions with department employees. He is also meeting with community leaders, MPOs and RPOs and talking to local media about transportation issues. He plans to continue his outreach efforts across the state in the months ahead.

Katherine White, General Counsel, provided a handout on the Draft Ethics Policy. The policy will be tabled for one month to give the Board members time to review.

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

The October 8, 2009 board agenda was reviewed.

Chairman Perkins called for committee reports.

Board member Collier, chairman of the Safety and Emerging Issues Committee, apprised the Board of the proposed Public Private Partnership for the I-73/74 visitor centers in Randolph County. This was for information purposes only.

Chairman Perkins made the following announcements concerning the schedule:

- The Rail Subcommittee will meet at 2:00 p.m. today in the EIC instead of 3:00 p.m.
- The Transit Subcommittee will also meet at 2:00 p.m. in room 150
- The Board meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday
- The Toll Roads Subcommittee will meet at 10:00 a.m. in room 150
- The TIP Subcommittee has been cancelled

The meeting was adjourned at 1:57 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Sarah Mitchell.