



High Country Rural Planning Organization (RPO)

Municipalities and Counties of
Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Mitchell, Watauga, Wilkes, and Yancey

*“Serving North Carolina’s High Country with Continuing, Cooperative, and
Comprehensive Transportation Planning”*



Woodie Young, RTAC Chair

David Graham, Transportation Planner

David Jackson, RTCC Chair

**High Country Rural Planning Organization (RPO)
Rural Transportation Coordinating Committee (RTCC)
Virtual Zoom Meeting
Wednesday November 18, 2020
10:00 AM**

Meeting registration will be emailed to all RTCC Members. Any members of the public who are interested in joining the meeting, please email info@hccog.org for more information.

View the livestream of the RTCC meeting here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1s68WkuUQaeypt82hhCluQ>

Public Comments received by 9 AM on Wednesday November 18, 2020 will be available to be read by RPO staff during the public comment section of the RTCC meeting. RTCC members will have the ability to hear and respond to any public comments.

All public comments must be received by 9 AM on Wednesday, November 18, 2020.

Public comments may be submitted by email to dgraham@hccog.org



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RURAL TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE (RTCC)

Agenda

November 18, 2020

10:00 AM

Via Zoom

1. Call to Order (David Jackson, RTCC Chair)

Action Items

2. Approval of August 19, 2020 Minutes (RTCC Chair)

Informational Items

3. NCDOT STIP Reprogramming (Hannah Cook PE, NCDOT Senior Program Engineer)
4. Project Development Update (David Graham)
5. NCDOT Integrated Mobility Division (IMD) (TBD)
6. Public Transit Update (Local Transit Agencies)
7. Division Engineers’ Report (NCDOT Division 11 and Division 13 Representatives)
8. Transportation Planning Division Update (Pam Cook PE, NCDOT)

Other Items

9. Committee Member Comments/Other Business
10. Public Comment
11. Adjournment

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the RTCC is February 17, 2021 at 10:00 AM.

This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact High Country RPO Transportation Planner at (828) 265-5434 ext. 135 or at 468 New Market Blvd. Boone, NC 28607 for accommodations for this request.

Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con High Country RPO Transportación Planner al (828) 265-5434 ext. 135 o en 468 New Market Blvd. Boone, NC 28607 de alojamiento para esta solicitud.

**High Country RPO
Rural Transportation Coordinating Committee (RTCC)
August 19, 2020
Minutes**

The Rural Transportation Coordinating Committee held their quarterly meeting, August 18, 2020 at 10am Via Zoom. The following members were present:

David Jackson- Boone Chamber	John Ward- Town of Boone
Ken Noland- Town of Wilkesboro	Tim Green- Mitchell County
Charles Hardin- Blowing Rock Chamber	Richard Canipe- Town of Spruce Pine
Stephen Sparks- NCDOT Division 13 CDE	Adam Stumb- Ashe County
Amanda Roten- Ashe Transportation Authority	Chris Medlin- NCDOT Division 13
Debbie Powers- Town of Seven Devils	Debbie Smith- Avery County Transportation
Pam Cook- NCDOT TPD	Ryan Wilmoth- Town of Sparta
Sean Sizemore- NCDOT Division 11	Kate Gavanus- Beech Mountain Chamber
Sheila Blalock- Mitchell County Transportation	Rick Owen- Town of Banner Elk
Preston Yates- Town of Beech Mountain	Joe Furman- Watauga County
Wesley Barker- Ashe County	Kevin Rothrock- Town of Blowing Rock
Cathy Barr- Ashe County	Cathy Howell- Town of Jefferson
Melynda Pepple- Avery Chamber	Neal Winebarger- ASU

Guests present were: Ed Evans, Ted Silver, Kusandra King- NCDOT and Natasha Earle-Young- NCDOT

The following staff members were present from High Country Council of Governments: David Graham- Transportation Planner, Phil Trew- Planning & Development Director, and Angie Holman- Receptionist.

Call to Order:

Roll call was conducted, and Chair David Jackson called the meeting to order.

Approval of (June 17, 2020) Minutes

David Jackson asked for motion for approval of the June 17, 2020 minutes. Motion was made by Ken Noland. Motion was seconded by Charles Hardin. Motion carried.

Approval of NCDOT Division 11 & 13 Alternate Division Needs Criteria for P6.0 Projects

David Graham went over the proposed criteria for P6.0 projects and Stephan Sparks went over details of the proposed criteria and project scores. David Jackson asked for a motion for approval. Ken Noland gave motion for approval and Phil Trew seconded motion. Motion carried.

Prioritization 6.0 Local Input Points Methodology Subcommittee Request

David Graham went over the Prioritization 6.0 Local Input Points Methodology Subcommittee Request. Ken Noland and Joe Furman both volunteered for the Subcommittee. David Jackson asked for motion for approval. Motion was made by John Ward. Motion seconded by Adam Stumb. Motion carried.

US 321 Strategic Transportation Corridor (STC) Resolution of Support

NCDOT Representative, Kusandra King gave a presentation on the US 321 STC. She took questions from RTCC members and requested a US 321 STC letter of support by September 30, 2020. David Jackson asked for motion for approval. Motion made by Joe Furman. Motion seconded by John ward. Motion carried.

Prioritization 6.0 Schedule Update

David Graham provided the RTCC updates on the Prioritization 6.0 Schedule.

Public Transit Update

Amanda Roten stated that Ashe County Transportation ridership is low. John Ward informed the RTCC that Appalcart received a grant for an electric bus and charging station.

Project Development Update

David Graham went over updates and schedule changes for projects in the region.

Division Engineers' Report

Sean Sizemore gave updates for Division 11 and Stephan Sparks gave updates for Division 13.

Transportation Planning Division Update

Pam Cook went over the NCDOT TPD Newsletter which covered Traffic Forecasts, Yancey County CTP, the NCDOT Logistics & Freight Bulletin, and DMV adjustments to requirements for Drivers 18 and over.

Committee Member

John Ward updated members on the Town's parking deck and the Middle Fork Greenway trail connecting Boone and Blowing Rock.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Adjournment

David Jackson asked for motion to adjourn the meeting. Ken Noland made motion and John Ward seconded motion to adjourn meeting. Meeting adjourned.

David Jackson, Chair

David Graham, Secretary

NOVEMBER 2020 PROJECT UPDATE

(October 2020 NCDOT BOT Reprogrammed 2020-2029 STIP)

HIGHWAY PROJECTS

US 221 (R-2915): US 421 to US 221 Business/NC 88 – Ashe County

Description: *US 221, US 421 in Watauga County to US 221 Business/ NC 88 in Jefferson. Widen to four lanes divided*

Section A: Under Construction with B Section
Section B: Under Construction with A Section
Section C: Under Construction
Section D: Complete
Section E: Right of Way in Progress
Construction 2020

Estimated Completion Date: Sections A & B: 7/11/21, Section C: 1/11/21
Section D: 5/11/19, Section E: NA

NC 88, NC 88 to NC 194 (R-5832) – Ashe County

Description: *Upgrade roadway.*

Right-of-Way 2022
Construction 2024

US 19E, East of Spruce Pine to Mullin Hill Road (R-2520-A) – Avery/Mitchell Counties

Description: *Widen to multi-lanes.*

Right-of-Way 2029
Construction Future Years – Committed Project

NC 194/US 19E Intersection (R-5911) – Avery County

Description: *Construct right turn lane from US 19E northbound to NC 194 eastbound.*

Right-of-Way 2021
Construction 2022

NC 105 (R-2566B): NC 105, Clarks Creek Road to NC 105 Bypass (Boone) – Avery/Watauga Counties

Description: *NC 105, Old Shulls Mill (SR 1568) to SR NC 105 Bypass (SR1107) in Boone. Widen to multi-lanes (includes R-2566BA - Bridge over Watauga River at Broadstone Road).*

Section B:	Right-of-Way	2022
	Construction	2024
Section BA:	Right-of-Way	In progress
	Construction	2023

US 421/US 321 (R-2615): US 321/US421 Junction Near Vilas to 105 Bypass – Watauga County

Description: *Widen to Multi-Lanes*

Right-of-Way	2024
Construction	2027

US 421 & Poplar Grove Connector Intersection (R-5872) – Watauga County

Description: *Construct Roundabout*

Right-of-Way	2028
Construction	Future Years – Committed Project

SR 1522 (Deerfield Road), State Farm Road to SR 1523 (Wilson Ridge Road) (R-5830) – Watauga County

Description: *Upgrade Roadway.*

Right-of-Way	2024
Construction	2025

Bamboo Road (SR 1514); Wilson Ridge Road (SR 1523), US 421/US221 to Deerfield Road (SR 1522) (U-5810) – Watauga County

Description: *Widen Roadway to 12 foot lanes with 4 foot paved shoulders.*

Right-of-Way	2022
Construction	2024

NC 115, From US 421 to 2nd Street (R-5759) – Wilkes County

Description: *Widen Existing Roadway.*

Right-of-Way 2020
Construction 2024

NC 268 (R-2603): NC 18 to Airport Road – Wilkes County

Description: *NC 268, Multi-lanes east of NC 18 to SR 1966. Widen to multi-lanes.*

Under Construction

SR 1001 (Oakwoods Road), From US 421 to NC268 (East Main St.) (R-5772) – Wilkes County

Description: *Upgrade Existing Roadway.*

Right-of-Way 2026
Construction 2028 – Committed Project

Wilkesboro-North Wilkesboro Bypass, NC 18 to US 421 (R-0616) – Wilkes County

Description: *Construct multi-lane facility, part on new location.*

Right-of-Way 2026
Construction 2029 – Committed Project

US 421 (U-5312): Yadkin River Bridge to Westgate Drive – Wilkes County

Description: *US 421, NC 16 to US 421 Business. Convert existing roadway to superstreet and add service roads.*

Right-of-Way in Progress
Construction 2023

US 19E (R-2519B): Jacks Creek Rd to Spruce Pine – Mitchell/Yancey Counties

Description: *US 19E, SR 1336 (Jacks Creek Road) to multi-lane section west of Spruce Pine. Widen to multi-lanes. (Includes B-3268)*

Section B: Construction complete

NC 226, From Blue Ridge Parkway to Summit Avenue (R-5804) – Mitchell County

Description: *Widen Roadway to 3 Lanes.*

Right-of-Way 2029
Construction Future Years – Committed Project

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Yancey County Transit Facility (TA-6723)

Description: *Construct office, training, maintenance facility.*

Construction 2022

BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN PROJECTS

US 221 Sidewalk from Moses H. Cone Memorial Park to Main Street Blowing Rock (EB-5798)

Description: *Construct sidewalk along US 221*

Construction 2020

Middle Fork Greenway Section I From Blowing Rock along US 321 to the Blue Ridge Parkway (EB-5924)

Description: *Construct Greenway along US 321*

Right-of-Way 2021
Construction 2022

US 421 Multi-Use Path from Grove Street to Brookshire Road (EB-5983)

Description: *Construct multi-use path.*

Right-of-Way 2024
Construction 2025

AVIATION PROJECTS

Ashe County Airport (AV-5750)

Description: *Acquire land and existing hangers north of runway 10 threshold and adjacent to airport property*

Right-of-Way in Progress

Ashe County Airport (AV-5848)

Description: *Construct apron expansions*

Construction 2021

Wilkes County Airport (AV-5894)

Description: *Extend runway to 7,000 feet*

Right-of-Way 2022

Construction 2024