



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

Brantley Price, RTCC Chair

RURAL TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE (RTCC)

Agenda **August 17, 2022** **10:00 AM**

Action Items

1. Approval of May 18, 2022 Minutes (RTCC Chair)

Informational Items

2. Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Update Presentation (Loretta Barren, FHWA)
3. NCDOT Freight Presentation (Heather Hildebrandt, NCDOT Statewide Initiatives Supervisor)
4. Draft 2024-2033 STIP & Project Development Update (David Graham)
5. Public Transit Update (Local Transit Agency Representatives)
6. Division Engineers’ Report (NCDOT Division 11 and Division 13 Representatives)
7. Transportation Planning Division Report (Pam Cook PE, NCDOT)

Other Items

8. Committee Member Comments/Other Business (RTCC Chair)
9. Public Comment (RTCC Chair)
10. Adjournment (RTCC Chair)

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the RTCC is November 16, 2022 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)
May 18, 2022
Minutes**

The Rural Transportation Coordinating Committee held their quarterly meeting, May 18, 2022, at 10am in the High Country Council of Governments Board Room. The following members were present:

Rachel Deal- Town of Crossnore	Charles Hardin- Blowing Rock Chamber
David Jackson- Boone Chamber	Matthew Levi- Ashe County
Ken Noland- Town of Wilkesboro	Charity Shatley- Town of Jefferson
Phillip Barrier- Avery County	Pam Cook- NCDOT TPD
Brantley Price- Town of West Jefferson	Debbie Smith- Avery County Trans
Mandi Polly- Mitchell County Chamber	Shelia Blalock- Mitchell County Transportation
Joe Furman- Watauga County	Darlene Butler- Town of Spruce Pine
Stephan Sparks- NCDOT Division 13	Shelley Brucker- Wilkes County
Sean Sizemore- NCDOT Division 11	Kate Gavenus- Beech Mountain Chamber
Kevin Rothrock- Town of Blowing Rock	Phil Trew- HCCOG

Guests present: Jennifer Weiss, Alexius Farris-Zoom

The following staff members were present from High Country Council of Governments: David Graham-Transportation Planner, Julie Wiggins-Executive Director, and Victoria Potter-Communications Manager.

Call to Order

Chairman Brantley Price called the meeting to order.

Approval of February 16, 2022 Minutes

Brantley Price asked for motion for approval of the February 16, 2022 minutes. Motion was made by Phillip Barrier and seconded by David Jackson. Motion carried and minutes approved.

Approval of FY 22-23 RPO Planning Work Program

David Graham, Transportation Planner gave an overview of the FY 22-23 RPO Planning Work Program. Brantley Price asked for motion for approval of the FY 22-23 RPO Planning Work Program. Motion was made by Rachel Deal and seconded by Phillip Barrier. Motion carried and FY 22-23 RPO Planning Work Program approved.

NC Clean Transportation Plan Presentation

Jennifer Weiss, NCDOT Senior Advisor for Climate Change Policy presented a slideshow overviewing the NC Clean Transportation Plan. Mrs. Weiss noted that transportation is the number one source of greenhouse gas emissions. Mrs. Weiss discussed the Governor's new executive order and the planning/steps to present the NC Clean Transportation Plan to him by April 2023.

NCDOT Complete Streets Policy Presentation

Alexius Farris, NCDOT IMD presented a slideshow via Zoom overviewing the NCDOT Complete Streets Policy. Ms. Farris discussed the evolution, challenges, and new implementation process of this policy.

Draft 2024-2033 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Update

David Graham explained that the NCDOT has completed the process of how projects are scheduled for the draft STIP, without funding new projects due to recent cost challenges. NCDOT Board of Transportation is going to proceed with the 2024-2033 STIP for Prioritization cycle 6.0. Mr. Graham explained the process and steps. This STIP is still subject to change. Mr. Graham noted that a lot of the High Country RPO project survived this reprogramming.

Public Transit Updates

Shelia Blalock announced that the Public Transit Regional Rodeo will be held on June 10, 2022 in Madison County. Shelia Blalock and Debbie Smith presented David Graham with a Transit Advocate Award from the North Carolina Public Transportation Association (NCPTA) and applauded his support of Transit Authorities in the High Country 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 several items including no Traffic Forecasts at this time, a link to the Clean Transportation Plan survey, and a recent railroad grant received in Wilkes County for improvements to the Yadkin Valley Railroad.

Committee Member Comments/Other Business

David Jackson announced that Vision NWNC presented by the Boone Area Chamber will take place on May 19, 2022.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Adjournment

Brantley Price adjourned the meeting with there being no other business.

Brantley Price, Chair

David Graham, Secretary

AUGUST 2022 PROJECT UPDATE

(DRAFT 2024-2033 STIP with 2020-2029 STIP Revisions)

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: Complete
Section B: Complete
Section C: Complete
Section D: Complete
Section E: Under Construction

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

Description: *Upgrade roadway.*

Right-of-Way 2024
Construction 2025

American Emergency Vehicles Lane, Northwest Drive (HA-0006): NC 88 to Benfield Drive and American Emergency Vehicles Lane from Northwest Drive to American Emergency Vehicles Facility – Ashe County

Description: *Widen roadway and install signal at NC 88 and Northwest Drive.*

Right-of-way 2023
Construction: 2024

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 2022
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:	Construction	In progress

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	2028
Construction	2031

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	2022
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	2025
Construction	2027

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.*

Construction	2023
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NC 268 (R-5906), From SR 1966 (Airport Road) to Four Lanes West of SR 2026 Austin Traphill Road – Wilkes County

Description: *Modernize Roadway*

Right-of-Way	2026
Construction	2029

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Yancey County Transit Facility (TA-6723)

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

Construction	2023
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BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN PROJECTS

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	2022
Construction	2023

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-5848)

Description: *Construct apron expansions*

Under Construction

Wilkes County Airport (AV-5894)

Description: *Extend runway to 7,000 feet*

Right-of-Way	2024
Construction	2024