



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 ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RTAC)

Agenda **November 16, 2022** **2:00 PM**

Action Items

1. Approval of August 17, 2022 Minutes (RTAC Chair)

Informational Items

2. NCDOT Right-of-Way Unit Presentation (Heather Fulghum, NCDOT ROW Unit Manager)
3. NCDOT Project Prioritization Presentation (Dean Ledbetter PE, NCDOT Division 11 Corridor Development Engineer)
4. Draft 2024-2033 STIP & Project Development Update (David Graham)
5. RTAC Membership Update (David Graham)
6. Division Engineers’ Report (NCDOT Division 11 and Division 13 Representatives)
7. Transportation Planning Division Report (NCDOT Transportation Planning Representative)

Other Items

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

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the RTAC is February 15, 2023 at 2:00 PM.

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 Advisory Committee (RTAC)
August 17, 2022
Minutes**

The Rural Transportation Advisory Committee held their quarterly meeting, August 17, 2022, at 2pm in the High Country Council of Governments Board Room. The following members were present:

Woodie Young - Avery County
John Brady- Town of Sparta
Brenda Lyerly- Town of Banner Elk
Jim Blevins- Town of Lansing

Wayne Bonomo- Town of Seven Devils
Cullie Tarleton- NC Board of Transportation
Mike Inscore- Town of Wilkesboro

Others present: Hannah Cook-NCDOT Division 13, Tim Anderson-NCDOT Division 13, Stephen Sparks-NCDOT Division 13, Sean Sizemore-NCDOT Division 11, Michael Poe-NCDOT Division 11, Randy Steskal-NCDOT TSV, James Upchurch-NCDOT TPD,

Guests present: Loretta Barren-FHWA NC Division, and Heather Hildebrandt-NCDOT Statewide Initiatives (Zoom)

The following staff members were present from High Country Council of Governments: David Graham-Transportation Planner, Phil Trew- Planning Director, and Victoria Oxentine-Communications Manager.

Call to Order

Chairman Woodie Young read the Ethics Statement and called the meeting to order. Chairman Young recognized and welcomed Tim Anderson from NCDOT Division 13 and Michael Poe from NCDOT Division 11.

Approval of May 18, 2022 Minutes

Woodie Young asked for a motion for approval of the May 18, 2022 minutes. Motion was made by Mike Inscore and seconded by Brenda Lyerly. Motion carried and approved.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Update Presentation

Loretta Barren, Transportation Planner for USDOT Federal Highway Administration presented a slideshow on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) update. In November 2021 US Congress approved \$350 billion for the BIL. Mrs. Barren reviewed highlights of the updated BIL and new programs and grant funding available.

NCDOT Freight Presentation

Heather Hildebrandt, NCDOT Statewide Initiatives Supervisor presented a slideshow via Zoom overviewing the NC Statewide Multimodal Freight Plan Update. Ms. Hildebrandt discussed the

background, vision/goals, stakeholder engagement, analysis, and key takeaways/next steps of the plan update.

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

David Graham explained that the Draft 2024-2033 STIP has been revised again due to the 2023 budget being signed into law on July 11, 2022. The 2023 budget increases the amount of funding available for the STIP. Mr. Graham noted that Division 11 and 13 will hold public drop-in sessions in the Fall for the Draft 2024-2033 STIP. Mr. Graham will work with town and county managers regarding Project Swaps for the STIP due to the deadline being extended. Mr. Graham highlighted regional project updates that have changed since the May 2022 meeting.

Division Engineers' Report

Sean Sizemore and Michael Poe gave updates for Division 11 and Hannah Cook gave updates for Division 13.

Transportation Planning Division Update

Pam Cook was unable to attend the meeting, therefore James Upchurch presented the NCDOT TPD Newsletter and noted that Pam has taken a different position within NCDOT. Mr. Upchurch will be the interim HCPRO TBD Coordinator until the position is filled.

Committee Member Comments/Other Business

Sarah Call announced that the Wilkes County Commissioners have passed a resolution for future interstate designation. David Graham noted RTAC membership terms that will be up in December 2022.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Adjournment

With there being no other business or comments, Brenda Lyerly made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jim Blevins seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Woodie Young, Chair

David Graham, Secretary

NOVEMBER 2022 PROJECT UPDATE

(DRAFT 2024-2033 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: 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 2023
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 2023

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

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 and R-2566BB – Realignment with Old Shulls Mill Road).*

Section B:	Right-of-Way	2022
	Construction	2025
Section BA:	Construction	In progress
Section BB	Construction	2023

US 421 (Daniel Boone Parkway) (R-5915B): NC 105 to US 221/321 South of Boone – Watauga County

Description: Construct freeway on new location south of Boone.

Right-of-way	2028
Construction:	2031

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	2027
Construction	2030

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 2026
Construction 2028

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

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

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 2023

Construction 2024