

**MINUTES**  
**Intergovernmental Retreat**  
**January 26, 2009**

The Town of Blowing Rock attended an Intergovernmental Retreat on Monday, January 26, 2009. The Retreat was held at the Broyhill Inn and Conference Center in the Powers Room South in Boone, NC. In attendance from the Town of Blowing Rock, Town of Boone, Watauga County, Appalachian State University, and the Town of Seven Devils were the following:

Town of Blowing Rock

- Mayor J.B. Lawrence, Mayor Pro tem Keith Tester
- Commissioners: Bobby Ball, Phil Pickett, Tommy Klutz
- Staff: Town Manager Scott Hildebran, Public Works Director Johnny Lentz, Planning Director Kevin Rothrock, and Town Clerk Sharon Greene.

Town of Boone

- Mayor Loretta Clawson, Mayor Pro tem Lynne Mason
- Commissioners: Janet Pepin, Stephen Phillips.
- Staff: Town Manager Greg Young, Police Town Attorney Sam Furgiule, Chief Bill Post, Fire Chief Reggie Hassler, Public Work Director Blake Brown, Development Services Director John Spear, Planning Supervisor Ricky Hurley and Assistant Town Clerk Kim Brown

Watauga County

- Commissioners: Jim Deal - Chairman, John Cooper, Winston Kinsey, William Winkler
- Staff: County Manager Rocky Nelson, Assistant County Manager Deron Geouque, Planning Director Joe Furman, Planner Brent Graybeal, Clerk to the Board Anita Fogle
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Town of Seven Devils

- Mayor Pro tem Richard DeMott, and Commissioner Kathy Copley

Appalachian State University

- Vice Chancellor of Business Affairs Greg Lovins
- Board of Trustees: Jim Deal - Chairman and John Cooper
- Chief of Staff Lorin Baumhover

High Country Council of Government

- Director of Planning & Development Phillip Trew
- Transportation Planner Greg Hughes

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. Mr. Trew welcomed everyone to the retreat.

### **TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS IN WATAUGA COUNTY**

The following representatives from NCDOT were present to give an update on various transportation projects in Watauga County: Mike Pettyjohn, Trent Beaver, Michael Poe, Alena Cook, Sarah Smith, Drew Joyner, and Cooper Sellers. Mr. Bob Collier of NCDOT Division 12 was also in attendance.

Ms. Alena Cook of the NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch spoke regarding the proposed Daniel Boone Parkway, Pre-TIP Study. Ms. Cook stated NCDOT was proposing improvements to US 421 (King Street) in Boone. The section to be improved would begin near SR 1107 (NC 105 Bypass) west of Boone extending through the downtown area.

According to Ms. Cook, the study was still in the preliminary stages and there were four alternatives being studied. She stated in the future the Town of Boone and Watauga County would need to make a decision on which alternative they wished to endorse.

#### **Pre-TIP Study Summary Exhibit A**

Next, a power point presentation was given regarding the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) explaining the purpose of the plan and why it was needed by Mr. Cooper Sellers, PE of the NCDOT Project Development Planning Branch. During the presentation Mr. Sellers explained the CTP was a long range multi-model transportation plan for towns/cities or counties that spanned a period of 25-30 year period. The plan would incorporate land use plans, community and statewide goals.

The analysis and recommendations in the CTP would be the basis for project prioritization and to be eligible for inclusion in a TIP a CTP was needed. It also aided in the protection of right of ways and the coordination of subdivision and land use controls.

Mr. Sellers advised public workshops would be needed, an alternative would need to be selected and a time-line adopted.

#### **Power Point Presentation Exhibit B**

Mr. Drew Joyner, PE of the NCDOT Project Development and Environmental Analysis Branch gave a power point presentation explaining the project development process used by NCDOT. He stated that several studies would be needed such as environmental studies, etc. to see how the studies fit into the "big picture". Long range planning, programming, project development, design, and right of way acquisition was also discussed.

Mr. Mike Pettyjohn, PE of NCDOT Division II spoke regarding the current economic crisis and the effect this would have on NCDOT projects statewide. He advised there was a significant decrease in revenues due to a decrease in cars sales of approximately 31-35%, the increase in fuel costs which has reduced travel, etc. which affected projects such as the resurfacing of current roads and upgrading secondary roads.

In closing, Mr. Pettyjohn gave a brief update on several projects in the Watauga County area such as the NC Hwy 194 improvements, East King Street widening and the US Hwy 321 project in Blowing Rock.

Mr. Pettyjohn stated funds for right-of-way acquisitions were currently frozen and this would affect the NC Hwy 321 project as well as the King Street project.

Mr. Trent Beaver, PE Division Construction Engineer with NCDOT presented a visual computerization of the proposed changes to King Street which can be viewed on the following website: [www.regiond.org](http://www.regiond.org).

### **FUTURE MEETING TOPICS**

Group consensus was three intergovernmental retreats were needed annually to be held January, May and September.

### **ADJOURN**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

**MAYOR** \_\_\_\_\_

**J.B. Lawrence**

**ATTEST** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sharon Greene, Town Clerk**

### **ATTACHMENTS 01-26-09)**

Pre-TIP Study Summary Exhibit A

Power Point Presentation Exhibit B

