

JACKSON COUNTY PLANNING OFFICE

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MEMO

To: Jackson County Board of Commissioners
Cc: Don Adams, County Manager
From: Michael Poston, Planning Director
Date: January 31, 2018

RE: Resolution of Support for NCDOT High Impact-Low Cost project on Monteith Gap Road

The North Carolina Department of Transportation has recently made available a High Impact/Low Cost funding source to NCDOT Divisions to address transportation concerns in their respective area. Division 14 submitted several projects from Western North Carolina for consideration including a project to widen Monteith Gap Road, adding sidewalks and bicycle facilities, from Old Cullowhee Road to the intersection of Ledbetter Road. This project will be completed in conjunction with the replacement of Bridge #159 (on Monteith Gap Road) over Cullowhee Creek. The total anticipated cost for the project is 1.7 million dollars. Due to the cost of this project NCDOT is requesting that the Board of Commissioners adopt a Resolution of Support for this project.

Included in the resolution is a statement that the County is aware of NCDOT requirements for a 30% match for sidewalk construction and is willing to maintain the sidewalk segment along Monteith Gap Road. Although the roadway design has not been completed, according NCDOT the average cost across the state for sidewalk construction is \$35.10 per yard. The Planning Department estimates that there will be approximately 1450 LF of sidewalk for the project (may change based on final project design). For a five-foot wide sidewalk segment that would require approximately 805 yards which amounts to \$28, 255. The County would be responsible for 30% of the cost which is approximately \$8,500.

The widening and modernization of Monteith Gap Road is recommended in the 2017 Jackson County Comprehensive Transportation Plan and is also consistent with the Jackson County Land Use Plan 2040, specifically Transportation Goal 1 "Promote connectivity between schools, housing, business districts, recreation and community centers."

I am requesting that the Board of Commissioners consider approval of the Resolution of Support for NCDOT's use of High Impact/Low Cost funds to improve Monteith Gap Road at their regular meeting on February 19, 2018.



**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION'S PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS TO MONTEITH GAP ROAD**

WHEREAS, The North Carolina Department of Transportation has funded a High Impact, Low Cost road improvement program available to each Division in State to address transportation needs; and

WHEREAS, Division 14 has identified safety improvements along Monteith Gap Road in Cullowhee to be funded by this program; and

WHEREAS, This project will exceed 1 million dollars in cost and requires support from the Jackson County Board of Commissioners (hereinafter "the Board"); and

WHEREAS, The project scope will include widening the road, adding pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, and intersection improvement at the South Painter and Ledbetter intersections; and

WHEREAS, The Jackson County Comprehensive Transportation Plan identifies Monteith Gap Road as a secondary road in need of modernization to improve mobility, safety, and accommodate bicycles; and

WHEREAS, This project is consistent with Jackson County Land Use Plan 2040, specifically Transportation Goal 1 "Promote connectivity between schools, housing, business districts, recreation and community centers.", and

WHEREAS, The Jackson County Board of Commissioners fully support the improvement and modernization of the County's secondary road systems; and

WHEREAS, The Jackson County Board of Commissioners are committed to improving pedestrian safety in the County and are committed to participating in the 30% cost share for sidewalk facilities along Monteith Gap Road; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE COUNTY OF JACKSON, that the County of Jackson supports the efforts of the North Carolina Department of Transportation to use the High Impact, Low Cost funding source to improve and modernize Monteith Gap Road. This includes the County's participation with the required 30% funding match for sidewalk construction cost as well as agreeing to accept maintenance responsibilities of the sidewalks. The Board provides its support with the request that North Carolina Department of Transportation present the recommended road design to the Board of Commissioners for comment.

ADOPTED by the Jackson County Board of Commissioners on the _____ day of January, 2018.

Attest:

Approved:

Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman