

Dated Posted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Time Posted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Posted by Evelyn Baker  
Witnessed: \_\_\_\_\_

**MINUTES OF A PUBLIC HEARING  
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
of  
NOVEMBER 2, 2009**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners held a Public Hearing on November 2, 2009 at 6:00 p.m., Room A201, Justice & Administration Building, 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Sylva, North Carolina.

Present: Brian T. McMahan, Chairman	Kenneth L. Westmoreland, County Manager
Tom Massie, Commissioner	Evelyn B. Baker, Clerk to the Board
Joe Cowan, Commissioner	
William Shelton, Commissioner	
Mark Jones, Commissioner	

Chairman McMahan called the public hearing to order and stated the purpose is to receive public comment concerning proposed alternatives to the Comprehensive Transportation Plan.

(1) Clark Sheffield of Webster stated the traffic problems on Business 23, Hwy. 107 and Hwy. 116 should have been addressed 20 years ago. The southern loop was the answer to the traffic problem.

(2) Sue Burton of Cullowhee stated the public needs to see a map specifically showing the entire route of the proposed bypass so citizens will have a better understanding of how their property and the whole area will be affected. The bypass issue should be removed for consideration.

(3) Elly Davy of Cullowhee stated because the connector issue is just now being discussed it should be removed from the plan. The connector should be a 4-lane road located south of WCU and connected directly to Hwy. 107, not off Old 107.

(4) Lesley Reifert of Sylva requested that the connector be removed from consideration at this time. The county should not be locked into agreeing to a connector until more discussions that are public have been held and other options explored.

(5) Donald Selzer of Cullowhee stated he was a member of the Transportation Task Force. The task force was very limited in scope. Before the proposals are considered, the Board should seek advice from experts on how new roads can affect economic growth. Further, the Board needs to know WCU's and SCC's positions on the issue. DOT should give a ballpark estimate of the cost for a connector.

(6) Barbara Freeman of Blanton Branch Rd. stated she was adamantly opposed to any use of Cane Creek and Blanton Branch Roads to relieve traffic congestion. She asked why and to whom a costly connector is so important since the entire country is in a financial depression.

(7) Avram Friedman of Dillsboro stated that comprehensive public transportation options were not considered. The Board should not avoid the responsibility of considering the impact on health and the environment before considering the CTP. He suggested the concept of a statewide light rail system connecting Wilmington to Cullowhee should be explored. A study conducted by the Canary Coalition two summers ago entitled "Air Pollution costs Jobs" addresses the effects of air pollution on agricultural, forestry and tourist industries are serious issues. Paving the way for 10,000 more car trips each day through the county by building a wasteful and unneeded bypass could have a significant negative impact on the already poor air quality. He urged the Board to exercise some vision and remove the bypass from the CTP.

(8) Adam Bigelow of Sylva stated the Board should consider future growth in the county and remove the bypass from the CTP. A bypass will necessitate cutting up forests through another area and will impact animals, birds and plants. He stated he was in favor of the light rail concept suggested by the Canary Coalition.

(9) Jerry Mulkey of Cane Creek Rd. stated constructing new roads cost more than improving existing roads. Why carve up another mountain and route big trucks through residential areas when a corridor already exists – just improve it.

(10) Patricia Vance of Cane Creek Rd. stated she was opposed to a connector. She requested that a map should be made available so everyone can see what is being proposed.

(11) Norma Clayton of Blanton Branch Rd. stated she was opposed to a connector. Impacts to the environment, tourism and wildlife should be considered, not only for now, but also for the future

(12) Christa McTall stated the county does not need another bypass because there is already access to 4-lane highways. A new bypass will cause more destruction to properties, more pollution and destroying habitats for wildlife and birds. Taxpayer's money should be used for something else.

(13) Clark Lipkin of Tuckaseegee stated the proposed connector appears to be incompatible with the Mountain & Hillside Ordinance.

(14) Kerry Rayburn of Sylva stated she was opposed to a connector.

(15) Stan Hammer of Locust Creek Rd. stated the US 23 intersection needs to be addressed rather than a bypass. Median and access control on Hwy. 107 should be improved to make it safer for pedestrians and vehicles.

There being no further public comments, Commissioner Shelton moved that the public hearing be adjourned. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

Attested By:

Approved:

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Evelyn B. Baker, Clerk

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Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman

