

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DOT SECONDARY ROADS HEARING
MAY 12, 2004 - 10 A.M.
MINUTES

Chairman West convened the meeting/hearing at 10 a.m. as noticed stating the purpose of the hearing was to receive input on the secondary roads program in Macon County. All Board Members, the County Attorney, Deputy Clerk, DOT officials and staff, members of the news media and interested citizens were present. Chairman West introduced Conrad Burrell, DOT Board Member from the 14th District. Mr. Burrell introduced DOT staff present. Ron Watson and Brian Burch presented information and cost figures on the proposed FY 2005 Secondary Road Improvement Program for Macon County then opened the floor for public comments.

Dean Lauffer expressed appreciation for the work done on Hannah Mountain Road and questioned how the maintenance and/or paving is extended when right-of-ways have been refused. Mr. Burch explained the petition process and told Mr. Lauffer he had additional information on the right-of-ways for that particular road and would talk with him after the meeting.

Carolyn Fouts questioned how much right-of-way was needed for paving explaining that her parents lived on South Tryphosa Road and one property owner with a large amount of road frontage has refused right-of-way. Ms. Fouts listed several reasons the road needs to be paved and questioned if property owners were agreeable could the road be widened on the opposite side. DOT officials stated they would discuss the matter with her and look at the situation.

Wallace Welch complimented Frank Dills and the right-of-way staff for their work on Goshen Road, stated the road had been approved for paving in the past but had been dropped because of right-of-way refusals. Mr. Welch stated he didn't want DOT to forget about the road and Mr. Dills assured him they are still trying to work out a general agreement and right-of-ways on the road.

Frank Smith stated the proposed repaving and/or improvements to Leatherman Gap Road did not make sense when Goshen Road at the end is unpaved.

Narelle Kirkland made comments pertaining to several roads: expressed the need for a traffic light at the intersection of Wayah and Depot Streets; stated Olive Hill, Middle Burningtown, Rose Creek, Lloyd Tallent, Rabbitt Creek, Ferguson, River Road, Bryson Cove and Fulton Roads and Highway 28 North all need upgraded, widened or repaved; speed limits on Highway 28 North, Airport and Sanderstown Roads need to be changed and enforced; Highway 28 needs a bike lane and DOT needs to rethink work at dangerous intersections of Tellico and Lower Burningtown Roads, Riverview, Harrison Avenue (28 North) and Olive Hill and Middle Burningtown.

DOT Officials reported it is in the plan that the new Depot Street Connector will serve as the main road to Highway 28 and there are plans for repaving and upgrading of the road.

Neville Owens expressed concerns about the safety and traffic on the Highlands Road stating the State Patrol said it is the most dangerous road in the area. Mr. Watson, Division Engineer, stated DOT is moving ahead with a project that may cover the area Mr. Owens was talking about, that the project to three lane and make turning lanes should start this Fall. Mr. Owens stated he did not feel this would be enough and was advised DOT does not have funding to expand the road to four or five lanes. He suggested Mr. Owens attend the NCDOT TIP meeting, which should be held in September or October, to present his concerns.

Chairman West questioned the priority of resurfacing Highway 28 North. Mr. Watson explained the priority rating for primary routes/roads and stated this particular road was rated in sections. Commissioner Leatherman stated this road has been an issue for 10 to 15 years because he had spoken at a TIP meeting about that long ago concerning the road. He added that there were some environmental issues at that time and no work has been done since except for the addition of some guard rails. Mr. Burrell stated he had heard from a lot of people concerning the road, that it is a point of interest for DOT and as soon as funding is available something will be done.

The public hearing was closed and the Board convened in regular session for consideration

of adoption of the attached resolution as pertains to expenditure of Secondary Road Funds in Macon County for the fiscal year 2005. Upon motion by Commissioner Bryson and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman the Board unanimously voted to adopt the resolution as submitted.

The meeting was adjourned with a reminder the regular meeting had recessed until 6 p.m. on May 24, 2004.

Sam K. Greenwood, County Manager
Clerk to the Board

Mark B. West
Board Chairman

Minutes
05/12/04
Page #1