

NORTH CAROLINA TURNPIKE AUTHORITY MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 16, 2005  
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

Vice-Chairman Lanny Wilson called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the Transportation Building. Chairman Tippet and Board Member Sang Hamilton were absent. Vice-Chairman Wilson read the governor's ethics statement.

Vice-Chairman Wilson called on Secretary-Treasurer Perry Safran to present the January minutes for approval. The January minutes were approved as presented.

Vice-Chairman Wilson thanked Commissioner Kopp from Wilmington for attending the meeting. He also recognized Kay Gattis' attendance representing the North Carolina Port Authority.

Program Development Branch Manager Calvin Leggett asked that all attendees please sign the roster as it was being passed around.

Vice-Chairman Wilson also thanked John Sullivan with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for attending the meeting and for working with the Turnpike Authority on its first toll projects in North Carolina.

Vice-Chairman Wilson called on Department of Transportation Chief Financial Officer Mark Foster to discuss a resolution that would be presented to the General Assembly later in the day.

Mr. Foster said that the resolution was from the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee, which requests the Department of Transportation and the Department of State Treasurer jointly study the possibility of accelerating construction of the Garden Parkway and Cape Fear Skyway projects. Mr. Foster added that this study would include the legal, practical and financial aspects of accelerating these projects.

Vice-Chairman Wilson asked Mr. Foster if it was anticipated that the findings would be reported prior to the April 15 date outlined in the resolution. Mr. Foster responded that it may be April 15.

Mr. Foster was asked if the Turnpike Authority would be moving forward with hiring a financial consultant, to which he responded, not at this time.

Vice-Chairman Wilson clarified that the reason the study is only on the Garden Parkway and the Cape Fear Skyway projects is because those projects are the only ones eligible for loop funds. Mr. Foster stated that loop funds are State

Highway Trust Funds appropriated annually, and the amount available varies from year to year according to budget projections and actual revenues.

Board member Bob Spencer asked what the estimated completion date would be if loop funds are used. Mr. Foster said 2012. Mr. Spencer further questioned an anticipated projection date. Department of Transportation Staff Engineer Mike Stanley stated that date for completing all urban loop projects, based upon project revenue streams, was approximately 2030. Mr. Leggett added that it most likely would be after 2030 since cost estimates are not available for the Durham Loop project, but it would be somewhere in the 2030's.

Vice-Chairman Wilson thanked Mr. Foster for his presentation.

Vice-Chairman Wilson thanked Mayor Norman Holden from Southport for attending the meeting and asked him if he had any comments. Mayor Holden said that his only comment was that he was ready for a bridge.

Vice-Chairman Wilson stated that since the NCTA began meeting over a year ago that they have reviewed several projects. The first project is the Cape Fear Skyway/Wilmington Southern Bridge, which received support from the NC Port Authority as well as the public. The second project is the Garden Parkway for which a public input meeting was held and received great support. Another project that a public meeting was held and greatly supported by the public was the Monroe Bypass. The final project, which received good support, was the Triangle Parkway. Vice-Chairman Wilson added that as the Turnpike Authority moves forward, and as the state looks more favorably at toll facilities, the NCTA will look at more projects. He stated that there is a bill before the Legislature to allow up to six projects to be built; however, prior to constructing the toll facilities, the Authority would make sure that the public is in favor of them.

Vice-Chairman Wilson asked Board member John Culbertson to make a motion to study, plan and develop the Monroe Bypass, the Triangle Parkway, the Garden Parkway, and the Skyway Bridge, which he did. Board member Robb Teer seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of this motion.

Vice-Chairman Wilson said that this did not mean that construction would begin, but the projects would actually be studied for financial feasibility.

Vice-Chairman Wilson called on Tom Bradshaw of Citigroup to summarize for the entire Board a presentation provided to the Finance Committee.

Mr. Bradshaw and his associate Ron Berrino presented information on toll financing issues and options for toll authorities.

Board member Bob Spencer asked Mr. Bradshaw to discuss the initial screening process, which he did.

Vice-Chairman Wilson thanked Mr. Bradshaw and Mr. Berrino for their presentation.

Vice-Chairman Wilson called for committee reports.

Vice-Chairman Wilson began with the Executive Committee by stating that a public input session would be held in June in Greensboro. He reminded the Board that last month it was discussed that some may want to attend the IBTTA meeting that would be held in Florida in April, and to please consider it. Vice-Chairman Wilson said that Secretary-Treasurer Perry Safran had a motion to consider when the Turnpike Authority may want to retain legal services. Vice-chairman Wilson supported moving forward in cooperation with Deputy Attorney General Beth McKay, the Attorney General's office, and Ruffin Poole, who is a member of the governor's legal staff. Board member Allan Dameron seconded the motion, and it was approved.

Board member Spencer reported that the activities of the Finance Committee were heard during Mr. Bradshaw's presentation. He added that the information gave them some idea of what direction they need to go.

Board member Culbertson reported that the Plans and Programs Committee had several resolutions to present. He stated that the committee covered the final comments within the professional services agreement for HTNB, and believe that the document can be agreed upon by all. Mr. Culbertson made a motion to accept the agreement and have Chairman Lyndo Tippet sign the document. Board member Anthony Fox seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Mr. Culbertson made a motion to request that the NCDOT Board of Transportation terminate the contract they previously approved for a feasibility study for the Triangle Parkway project and allow the funds to be reallocated to the Turnpike Authority to move forward. The motion was seconded by Mr. Teer. The vote was unanimous.

Vice-Chairman Wilson asked if it would be necessary to make a motion to amend the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to be presented to the Board of Transportation for approval as a result of the above motion. Mr. Leggett said that the TIP currently has the Triangle Parkway scheduled for a feasibility study, but it can be amended to indicate that the NCTA will handle the process. Mr. Teer made a motion to amend the TIP and present to the Board of Transportation for approval, which was seconded by Mr. Dameron. The Board voted unanimously in favor of this motion.

Mr. Culbertson thanked Mr. Teer for inviting John Milikin to the Plans and Programs Committee meeting to give a presentation on public/private partnerships. He asked Mr. Teer if he would like to discuss that topic, to which Mr. Teer replied that he would not like to discuss the presentation at that time.

Mr. Culbertson made a motion to request that HNTB give the Board a scope and cost to plan and present an Alternative Project Delivery Feasibility Workshop and to develop a financial feasibility model for all toll road projects. HNTB would also be asked to prepare a grant application for a value pricing project to be submitted to the USDOT. The motion was seconded by Mr. Teer and the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Mr. Culbertson made a motion to ask HNTB to create terms, goals, schedules, costs and how to move forward with the projects as the transition of handling them is moved from DOT to the general engineering consultant (HNTB). Mr. Spencer asked if this referred to the transition of handling the environmental process for the four projects or the work plan to assume the development of the work plans for each of the four projects approved. Mr. Culbertson stated that the motion included future work on the projects. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spencer. The vote was unanimous.

Vice-Chairman Wilson thanked the Plan and Programs Committee for all of their hard work.

Mr. Dameron said that the Personnel Committee had nothing to report.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.