



Southwestern Commission

125 Bonnie Lane, Sylva, NC 28779 | 828.586.1962

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SOUTHWESTERN RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE (TCC) MEETING

January 15, 2020 at 1:00 PM

NCDOT District Office, 191 Robbinsville Rd. Andrews, NC

AGENDA

Welcome and Housekeeping

1. Introductions and Quorum check (Paige Dowling, TCC Chair)
2. Ethics Reminder* (Paige Dowling)
3. Agenda Approval/Modifications (Paige Dowling)
4. Public Comment

Action Items

5. Minutes from November 13, 2019 SWRPO TCC meeting (Rose Bauguess)
6. Graham County CTP Amendment

Informational Items

7. SWRPO Staff Update (Rose Bauguess)
8. NCDOT Division 14 Update (Steve Williams)
9. NCDOT Transportation Planning Division Update (Roger Castillo)

Other Items

10. TCC Member Updates (All)
11. Adjournment (Dowling)

**In accordance with the State Government Ethics Act, it is the duty of every TCC member to avoid conflicts of interest. If anyone has a conflict of interest with respect to any matters coming before the TCC today, please identify the conflict and refrain from any participation in the matter involved.*

Cherokee County
Andrews
Murphy

Clay County
Hayesville

Graham County
Fontana Dam
Lake Santeetlah
Robbinsville

Jackson County
Dillsboro
Forest Hills
Sylva
Webster

Macon County
Franklin
Highlands

Swain County
Bryson City



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SOUTHWESTERN RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION (SWRPO) Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) Meeting Summary

Meeting Date: November 13, 2019

Location: SCC, Franklin, NC

Jurisdiction	Representative	Title	11/13/2019
Cherokee County	Randy Wiggins	County Manager	<input type="checkbox"/>
Andrews	Bill Green	Town Manager	<input type="checkbox"/>
Murphy	Chad Simons	Town Manager	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clay County	Mark Pullium	County Manager	<input type="checkbox"/>
Graham County	Becky Garland	County Manager	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fontana Dam	Zelerie Rogers	Town Administrator	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jackson County	Michael Poston	Planning Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dillsboro	Debbie Coffey	Town Clerk	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sylva	Paige R. Dowling, Chair	Town Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Macon County	Jack Morgan	Planning & Development Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Franklin	Justin Setser	Town Planner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Highlands	Josh Ward	Town Manager	<input type="checkbox"/>
Swain County	Kevin King	County Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bryson City	Regina Mathis	Town Manager	<input type="checkbox"/>
EBCI	Manual Maples	Cherokee DOT	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transit	Kim Angel	Macon Co. Transit Director	<input type="checkbox"/>
NCDOT Division 14	Steve Williams	Division Planning Engineer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NCDOT TPB	Roger Castillo (via phone)	SWRPO Coordinator	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
TOTAL VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:			7

Representing	Name	Title	Present
Southwestern Commission	Rose Bauguess	RPO Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Southwestern Commission	Becca Scott	Project Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NCDOT Division 14	Troy Wilson	Corridor Development Engineer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NCDOT Division 14	Chris Lee	District Engineer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NCDOT Division 14	Alan Brown	Asst. District Engineer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
J.M. Teague Engineering	Forrest Lundgren	Planning Technician	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
TOTAL NON-VOTERS PRESENT:			6

Cherokee County
Andrews
Murphy

Clay County
Hayesville

Graham County
Fontana Dam
Lake Santeetlah
Robbinsville

Jackson County
Dillsboro
Forest Hills
Sylva
Webster

Macon County
Franklin
Highlands

Swain County
Bryson City

Welcome and Housekeeping:

1. Chair Paige Dowling called the meeting to order. Introductions were made. Paige determined a quorum was present.
2. Paige reminded members of the ethics statement printed on the agenda.
3. Paige reviewed the agenda and asked if there were any modifications necessary. Michael Poston motioned to approve the agenda; Steve Williams seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.
4. Paige offered the opportunity for public comment; no members of the public were present.

Action Items:

5. Rose Bauguess presented the minutes from the May 15, 2019 SWRPO TCC meeting for review and discussion. Steve Williams motioned to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Kevin King; the motion carried unanimously.

Informational Items:

6. Rose Bauguess presented an overview of NCDOT's updated Complete Streets Policy.
7. NCDOT's Steve Williams provided Division 14 updates.
8. Roger Castillo attended via phone and sent a pre-recorded presentation about the NC Moves 2050 Statewide Plan. Everyone is encouraged to take the NC Moves survey.

Other Items:

9. TCC Members provided updates from their respective jurisdictions:
 - Kevin King reported that Swain County endorsed NCDOT's request to add NC 28 to the Federal Highway Administration's National Highway System. Swain County is also considering a sidewalk policy.
 - Jack Morgan reported that the Macon County Comprehensive Transportation Plan is going well and that the County is currently conducting a space needs analysis and a middle school renovation.
 - Michael Poston reported on Jackson County's Cullowhee Small Area Plan and Pedestrian Plan.
 - Justin Setser reported that the Town of Franklin will be holding its fourth steering committee meeting for the Town's Comprehensive Plan, and they expect to have the full draft completed by January. The Town is also working on crosswalks and bulb-outs on Main St. The Town and RPO staff pursued a VW Settlement grant for an electric vehicle charging station but wasn't able to get enough information to submit during this

round. Two of the roundabouts on 441 Business are complete and the other two will be constructed next summer.

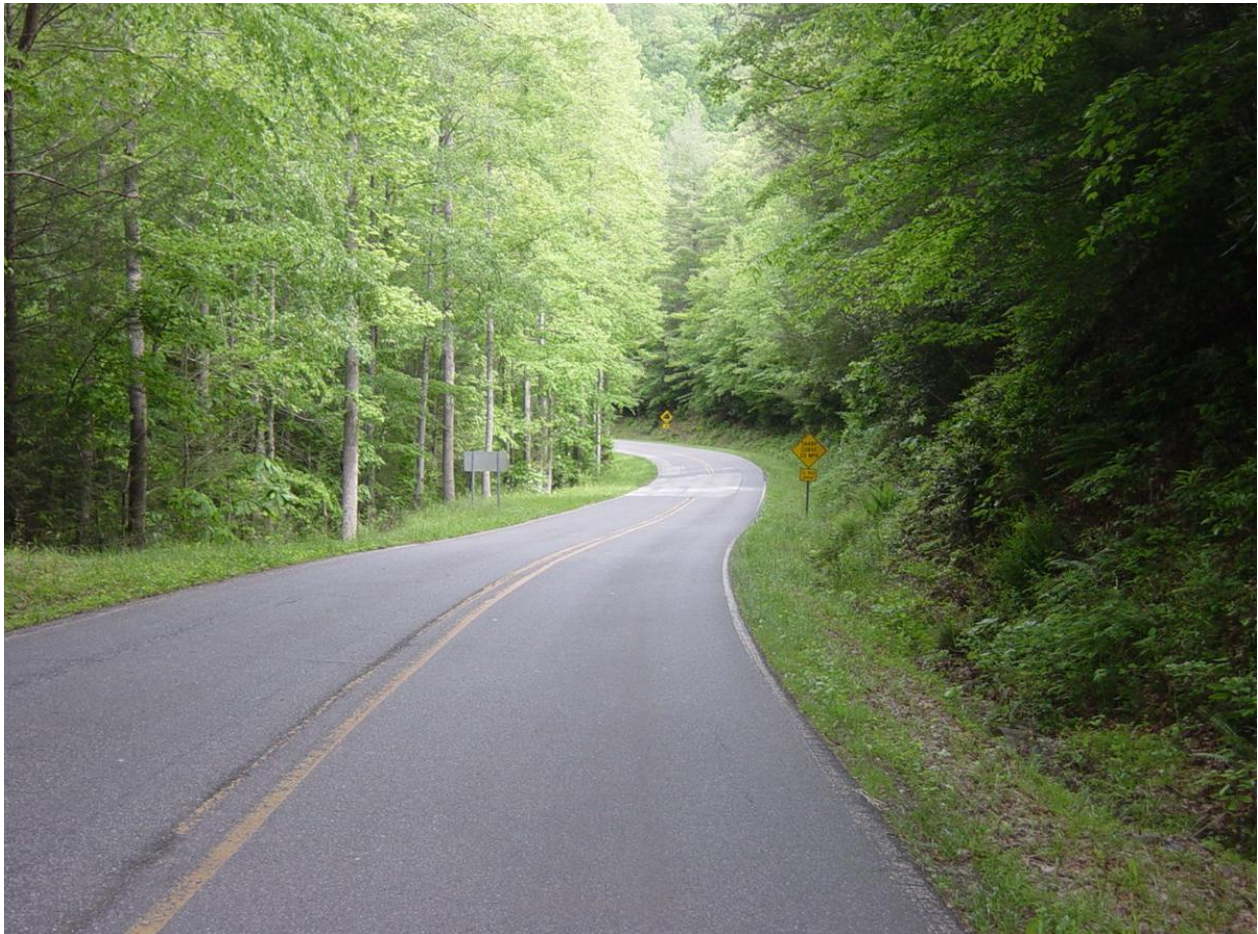
- Paige Roberson reported that the Town of Sylva is currently working on the NC-107 project, a zoning ordinance update, and sidewalks on Skyland Drive.

10. Poston moved to adjourn; Jack Morgan made a second.



2015 Graham County Comprehensive Transportation Plan

Proposed Amendments – November 2019



BACKGROUND

Following adoption of the Graham County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) in early 2015, a multi-disciplinary Project Team was formed to re-start work on the Corridor K (A-0009) project. The Project Team was instructed to use information learned in previous work, but to start with a fresh approach to the project by identifying the transportation needs of the area, and then identifying solutions to those needs. The Project Team conducted studies and held numerous meetings over the next several years. In early 2019, a Draft Design Study Report was published showing multiple scenarios for Corridor K as well as high-level assessments of the potential impacts of each scenario. A series of public workshops and stakeholder meetings were held to get public input on the Draft Design Study Report scenarios.

One outcome was that Corridor K was no longer envisioned as a relocation of US 74. It was determined that US 74 would remain in the Nantahala gorge, and that the Corridor K project would consist of improving US 129, NC 143, and NC 28 on existing facilities or new location.

In September 2019, the NCDOT Board of Transportation adopted the 2020-2029 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), which included updated descriptions of A-0009 to reflect the work of the Project Team. The designation “US 74 Relocation” was removed from the STIP and replaced with the following: “Upgrade roadway to include existing facilities and new location”. Section A-0009A is described as “US 19 Business in Andrews to US 129” and Section A-0009C is described as “US 129 to NC 28 at Stecoah” and includes the former Section A-0009B.

REASON FOR CTP AMENDMENT

Due to the changes in project direction, it is necessary to amend the Graham County CTP to be consistent with the current STIP. Additionally, adding US 129 from US 74 to NC 143, NC 143 from US 129 to NC28, and NC 28 from NC 143 to US 74 to the National Highway System will enable the A-0009C Project Team to apply for additional federal grants to fund A-0009C. The proposed revisions to the Graham County CTP Highway Maps are attached and summarized below:

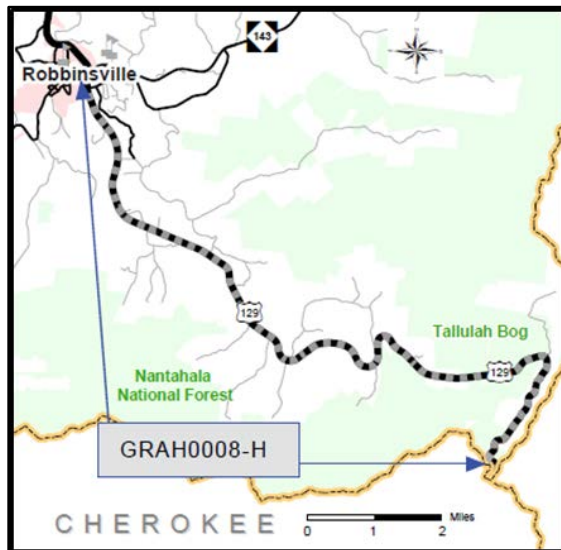
- Remove “US 74 Relocation” from the description of Corridor K
- Updated Corridor K Descriptions:
 - Change **US 129** to “Other Major Thoroughfare Needs Improvement”
 - Change **NC 143** to “Other Major Thoroughfare Needs Improvement”
 - Change **NC 28** to “Other Major Thoroughfare Needs Improvement”

HIGHWAY RECOMMENDATION REVISIONS:

- **Future US 74 Proposed Improvements:** This project has been removed based on the decision to keep US 74 in its current location.
- **US 129/NC 143/NC 28 Proposed Improvements:** Recommend improving these facilities to two-lane major thoroughfares with climbing lanes:
 - Improve **US 129** from US 74 to NC 143;
 - Improve **NC 143** from US 129 to NC 28; and
 - Improve **NC 28** from NC 143 to the existing four-lane section of NC 28 in Stecoah.
- It is recommended that US 129 from US 74 to NC 143, NC 143 from US 129 to NC28, and NC 28 from NC 143 to US 74 be added to the Federal Highway Administration's National Highway System (NHS).

PROJECT PROPOSAL REVISIONS:

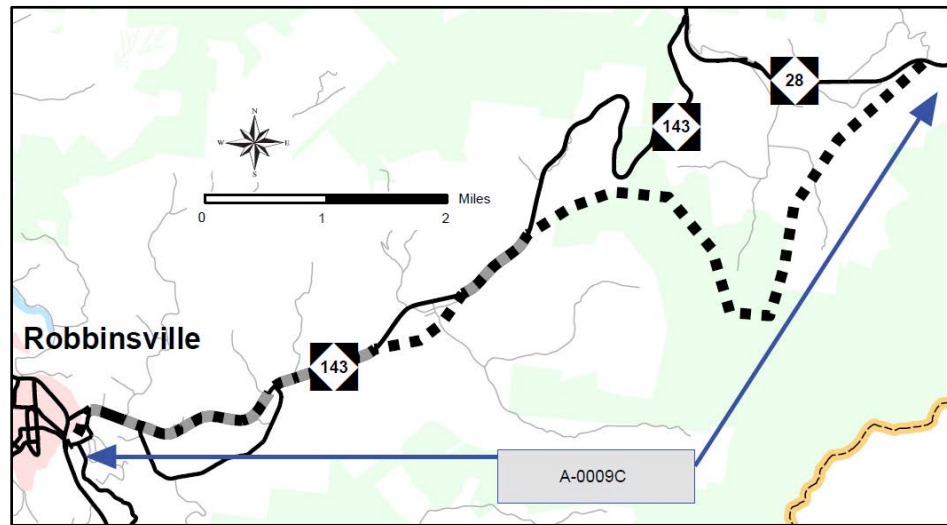
US 129 Proposed Improvements from US 74 to NC 143, Local ID: GRAH0008



The CTP project GRAH0008-H recommends improving US 129 as a two-lane major thoroughfare with climbing lanes from US 74 in Tipton to NC 143 in Robbinsville.

These improvements should provide the transportation infrastructure necessary for the well-being of local residents by improving mobility and reliability between Robbinsville and Tipton. Refer to Appendix I of the 2015 Graham County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) for more detailed information on other alternatives evaluated for this project as part of the 2015 CTP.

NC 143/NC 28 Proposed Improvements from US 129 to the existing four lane section of NC 28 in Stecoah, Local ID: A-0009C

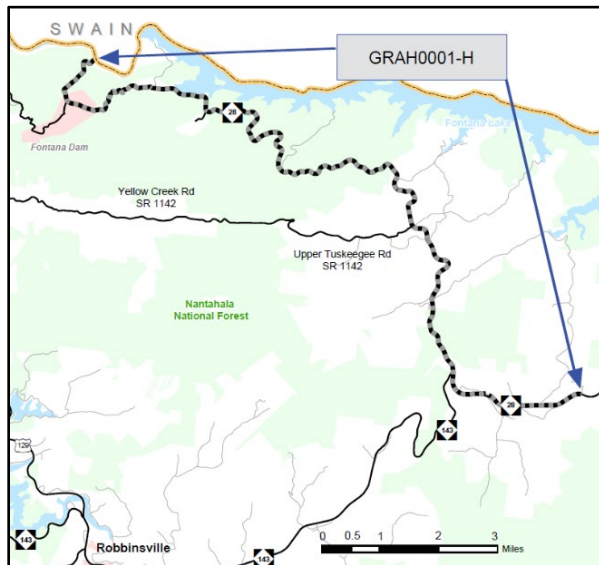


The CTP Project A-0009C recommendation is a combination of new location and improvements to existing NC 143 from US 129 in Robbinsville to the existing four-lane divided section of NC 28 in Stecoah. This facility is recommended to be a two-lane major thoroughfare with climbing lanes.

These improvements should provide the transportation infrastructure necessary for the well-being of local residents by improving mobility and reliability between Robbinsville and Stecoah and points further east. Refer to Appendix I of the 2015 Graham County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) for more detailed information on other alternatives evaluated for this project as part of the 2015 CTP.

The CTP Project A-0009A recommendation is a combination of new location and improvements to existing US 129 and US 74 from Andrews in Cherokee County to Robbinsville. The improvements may follow other identified needs in the CTP.

NC 28 (Fontana Road) from the existing four-lane divided section of NC 28 to Swain County, Local ID: GRAH0001-H



The CTP project GRAH0001-H recommends modernizing NC 28 (Fontana Road) from the existing four-lane divided section of NC 28 near Stecoah to the Swain County line. The road should be upgraded to modern design standards for lane width and shoulder width. Deficient curves and sight distances should be corrected where feasible. Additional improvements desired include passing lanes and slow-vehicle pull-offs.

Improvements to this facility would improve mobility and safety for all users throughout Graham County and into Swain County.