



Southwestern Commission

125 Bonnie Lane, Sylva, NC 28779 | 828.586.1962

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SOUTHWESTERN RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION TAC

January 27, 2020 5:00 PM

AGENDA

Welcome and Housekeeping

1. Introductions and Quorum check (C.B. McKinnon, TAC Chair)
2. Ethics Reminder* (McKinnon)
3. Agenda Approval/Modifications (McKinnon)
4. Public Comment

Action Items

5. Minutes from November 25, 2019 SWRPO TAC meeting (Rose Bauguess)
6. Graham County Comprehensive Transportation Plan Amendment

Guest Presentation:

7. NCDOT Division 14 District Engineers' Office Roles
Chris Lee (District II) and Andy Russell (District III)

Informational Items

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

Other Items

11. TAC Member Updates (All)
12. Adjournment

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 Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting Summary

Meeting Date: November 25, 2019

Attendees:

Jurisdiction	Representative	Present
Cherokee County	CB McKinnon – Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Andrews	James Reid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Murphy	Rick Ramsey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Clay County	Clay Logan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hayesville	Harry Baughn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Graham County	Connie Orr	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fontana Dam	Rob Hardy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lake Santeetlah	Roger Carlton	<input type="checkbox"/>
Robbinsville	Steve Hooper	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jackson County	Brian McMahan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dillsboro	Mike Fitzgerald	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Forest Hills	Niall Michelsen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sylva	Lynda Sossamon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Webster	Tracy Rodes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Macon County	Ronnie Beale	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Franklin	Bob Scott	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Highlands	Patrick Taylor	<input type="checkbox"/>
Swain County	Roger Parsons	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bryson City	Tom Sutton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Board of Transportation, Division 14	Dirk Cody	<input type="checkbox"/>
TOTAL VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:		14

Representing	Name	Present
Southwestern RPO	Rose Bauguess	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Southwestern Commission	Becca Scott	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NCDOT Division 14	Troy Wilson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NCDOT Division 14	Brian Burch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NCDOT Division 14	Steve Williams	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NCDOT	Blake King	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Town of Sylva and TCC	Paige Dowling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Board of Transportation, Rural at-large	Jack Debnam	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Town of Andrews, clerk	Emily Malin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
TOTAL NON-MEMBERS PRESENT:		9

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 CB McKinnon called the meeting to order. Introductions were made, and McKinnon determined a quorum was present.
2. McKinnon directed members to the ethics statement printed at the bottom of the agenda and reminded them about the importance of recognizing a conflict of interest when one exists.
3. McKinnon asked if there were any modifications to the agenda. Hearing none, James Reid motioned to approve the agenda as presented, and with a second by Lynda Sossamon, the agenda was approved.
4. McKinnon offered the opportunity for public comment; there were none.

Action Items:

5. Rose Bauguess presented the minutes from the September 23, 2019 SWRPO TAC meeting for review and discussion. Rick Ramsey motioned to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Clay Logan; the motion carried unanimously.

Guest Presentation:

6. Mr. Blake King, Program Analyst in the North Carolina Department of Transportation's Communication Office, gave a presentation on the N.C. Future Investment Resources for Sustainable Transportation Commission (NC F1RST).

Informational Items:

7. Bauguess provided the RPO staff update, including the following items:
 - 2020 SWRPO Meeting Schedule
 - County Crash Facts—A report was recently released that has compiled data on traffic crashes for each county from 2018 and the four years prior. Bauguess presented the data from each county on the Southwestern RPO.
8. Steve Williams provided the Division 14 project status updates and spoke about the delay or suspension of work on a lot of projects across the state.
9. Bauguess provided the TPD Update because Roger Castillo was not able to attend the meeting due to budget constraints. She presented slides for the NC Moves 2050 Statewide Plan and encouraged everyone to take the final public input survey by February 14.

Other Items:

10. TAC Member Updates:

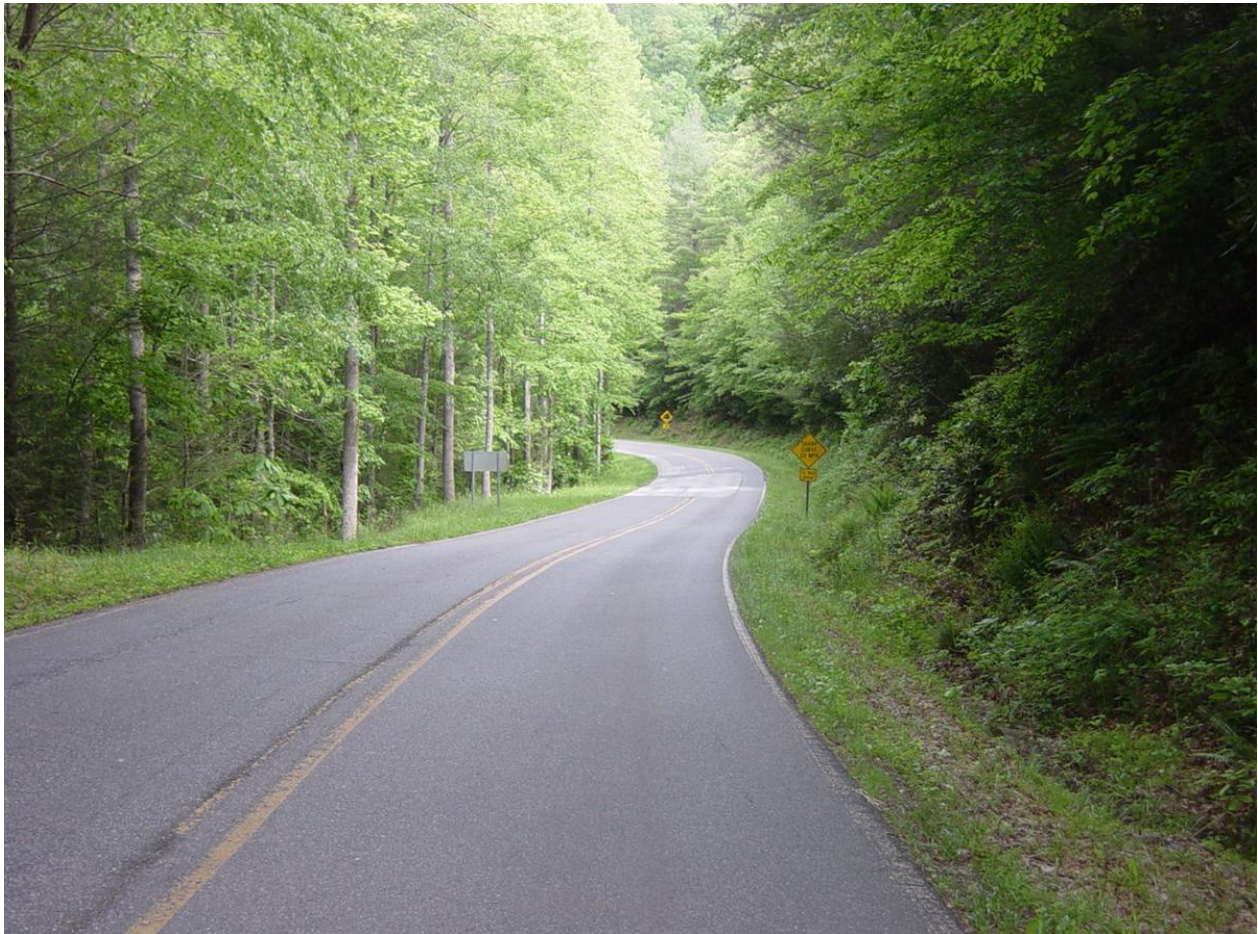
- Macon County Commissioner Ronnie Beale offered his compliments to the company that constructed the new bridge on Belden Circle behind the Ingles in Franklin.
- Town of Sylva Mayor Lynda Sossamon invited the committee to attend a public information session on R-5600 (NC-107) on December 9 in Sylva.
- Cherokee County Commissioner CB McKinnon stated that the speakers of the last several TAC meetings have been interesting and informative.

11. Ronnie Beale moved to adjourn, seconded by all. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 27, 2020.



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:

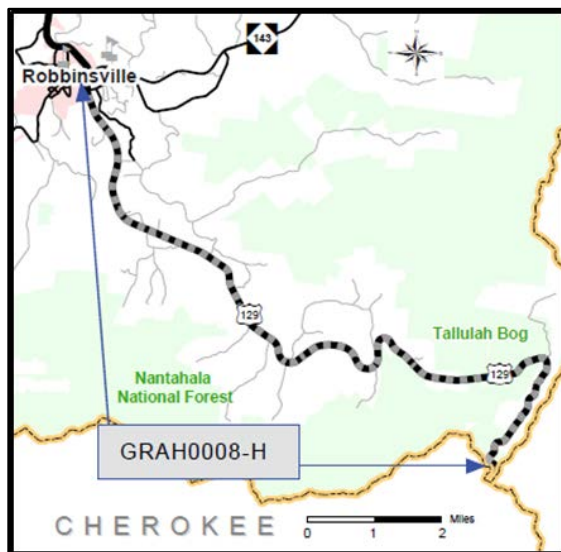
- Remove “US 74 Relocation” from the description of Corridor K
- Updated Corridor K Descriptions:
 - Change **US 129** to “Other Major Thoroughfare Needs Improvement”
 - Change **NC 143** to “Other Major Thoroughfare Needs Improvement”
 - Change **NC 28** to “Other Major Thoroughfare Needs Improvement”

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:

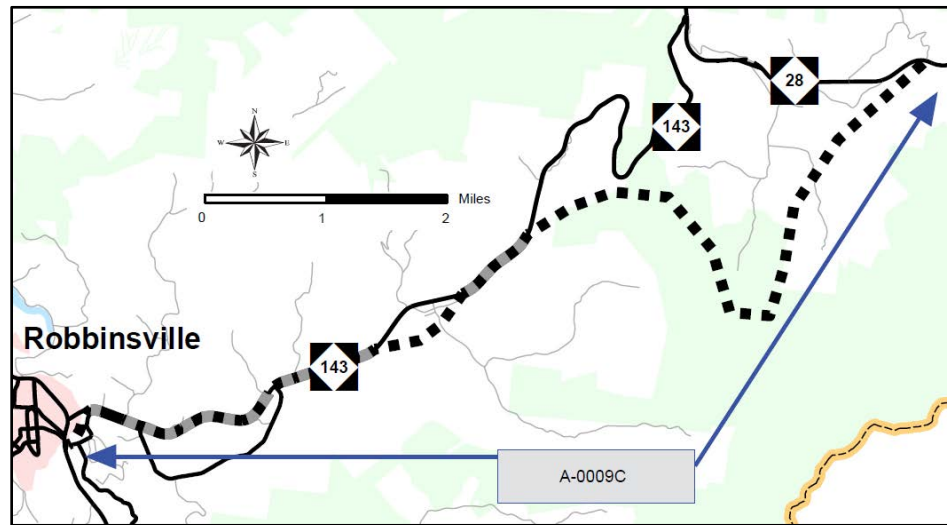
US 129 Proposed Improvements from US 74 to NC 143, Local ID: GRAH0008



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

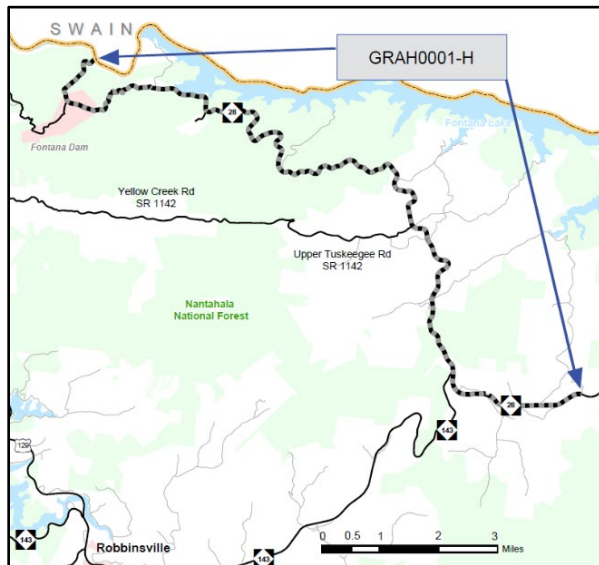


The CTP Project A-0009C recommendation is a combination of new location and improvements to existing NC 143 from US 129 in Robbinsville to the existing four-lane divided section of NC 28 in Stecoah. This facility is recommended to be a two-lane major thoroughfare with climbing lanes.

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.