

SPECIAL CALLED JOINT BOARD MEETING

Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners
Town of Sylva Planning Board
N.C. Department of Transportation
Asheville Design Center
March 21, 2019

The Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners held a joint meeting with the Town of Sylva Planning Board, N.C. Department of Transportation and Asheville Design Center on March 21, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room, Jackson County Library, Sylva, N.C.

PRESENT: Lynda Sossamon, Mayor
Mary Gelbaugh, Commissioner
Harold Hensley, Commissioner
Greg McPherson, Commissioner
David Nestler, Commissioner
Amanda Murajda, Town Clerk
Paige Dowling, Town Manager
Eric Ridenour, Town Attorney
Jake Scott, Public Works Director

Planning Board

Rose Bauguess
Dawn Gilchrist
Ben Guiney
Ellen Hunter
Joe Bill Mathews
Boyd Sossamon

N. C. Department of Transportation

Wanda Austin
Brian Burch
Josh Deyton
Johnathan Woodard

Asheville Design Center

Chris Joyell
Kristy Carter
Rachael Bronson
Kelsey Morrow

ABSENT: Barbara Hamilton, Commissioner
Russ Harris, Planning Board

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

STAFF PRESENT: Tammy Hooper, Police Chief and Rick Bryson, Assistant Police Chief

PURPOSE: The purpose of the joint meeting was for the entities to discuss the Highway 107 road construction project plans.

Chris Joyell, with the ADC, opened the meeting and reviewed discussion from a utilities meeting. He explained that design plans are 25% are complete. Plans are expected to be 65% complete with utilities in June.

Several areas of concern within the project area were addressed by the representatives from each entity.

A) Proposal by Carl Queen for a parallel road concept.

Joyell explained that topography issues throughout the distance of 107 would prevent this idea. The cost of land that would need to be acquired and the amount of land that would need to be moved proved to be to expensive for the project. Brian Burch explained that the environmental document (NCDOT requirement) to determine impacts would have to be re-evaluated from the beginning of the project. The current document is approximately six years in the making and changes of this magnitude would require a completely new review, thus a reapplication of funding needs. Johnathan Woodard explained that this idea does not address the original purpose of the project including safety and traffic issues. The cost of this new proposal would also be significantly higher for the Town of Sylva

B) Overpass at the intersection of Business 23 and Highway 107.

Joyell introduced another proposal from community input on the project which included an overpass at the intersection of Business 23 and Highway 107. NCDOT officials explained that this proposal would require much more land acquisition resulting in greater funding needed.

C) Roundabout to intersection of Business 23 and Highway 107

Another idea suggested by the public was a roundabout at the intersection of Business 23 and Highway 107. A dual-lane roundabout would not carry the traffic volume in this area.

D) Jim Sellers Road

Questions about the intersection at Jim Sellers Road and the impact on property owners was discussed. The ADC will examine this intersection to see if it can be redesigned to lessen the impact on property owners.

E) Cope Creek Intersection

Brian Burch and Jonathan Woodard explained that the intersection would be aligned from both sides of the road. There are several safety concerns being evaluated with moving this intersection. The ADC will research this intersection to see if an alternate design would lessen the impact on property and business owners in this area.

F) Webster Road and Highway 107 intersection.

The volume of school traffic at this intersection is a major concern. NCDOT officials explained that the entrances to the school from Highway 107 are their only access, therefore, traffic volume will be high during peak hours.

G) Municipal Drive and Chipper Curve Road intersection.

Questions have been raised at community meetings about changing the intersection of Municipal Drive and Chipper Curve Road at the railroad crossing to alleviate confusion. This intersection is affected by the railroad crossing and fire department access. The ADC will review the area for other possibilities of simplifying the intersection.

H) Bike lanes and sidewalks.

At previous community meetings residents have asked if bike lanes and sidewalks could be combined to decrease the amount of space needed. NCDOT officials explained that by combining the two would in fact increase the amount of right-of-way needed.

The Asheville Design Center fielded questions submitted to them by cards throughout the meeting. Inquiries included a construction timeline, turning lane requirements and boundaries of the Highway 107 project.

ADJOURNMENT: *Being no further comment, the meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m. by Chris Joyell.*

Lynda Sossamon
Mayor

Amanda W. Murajda
Town Clerk