

# Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2021

2:00 PM

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**Committee Members Present:**

Randy Ognio, Committee Chair – Representative, Fayette County BOC  
Kevin Madden, Committee Vice Chair – Council Member, Peachtree City  
Lee Hearn – Chairman, Fayette County BOC  
Edward Johnson – Mayor, City of Fayetteville  
~~Gary Laggis – Mayor, Town of Woolsey~~  
Maurice Ungaro – Staff, Town of Brooks  
Phil Mallon – Staff, Fayette County  
Tobi Ayodeji – Staff, Fayette County  
~~Chris Robison – Sgt., Fayette County Sheriff's Office~~  
Proxy: Kris Purkey – Sgt., Fayette County Sheriff's Office  
Martin Sas – Citizen Representative, Fayette County  
Jaimi Tapp – Citizen Representative, Town of Tyrone

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**1. Call to Order**

Committee Chair Ognio called the November 16, 2021, meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

**2. Ascertainment of Quorum**

Committee Chair Ognio acknowledged that a quorum of the Transportation Committee was available with nine members present. (A tenth member, Mrs. Jaimi Tapp arrived at 2:20.)

**3. Acceptance of Meeting Agenda**

Mr. Johnson made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Mr. Madden seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

**4. Review and Approval of the October Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Johnson made a motion to accept the October meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Ungaro seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

**5. Report of Committee Members**

**a. Brooks** – No report.

**b. Fayette County** – The following information was provided by Phil Mallon

**i. ARC TIP Solicitation Update**

Fayette County is preparing two grant applications. For the realignment of SR 279 (FA-279), Fayette is seeking additional funds in all phases and is shifting ROW to FY 2025. For the multijurisdictional resurfacing (FA-100C), Fayette is seeking additional money for PE and CST. CST is requested in FY 2023. Applications are due December 2 and supporting resolutions are due by December 31. Mr. Mallon asked if the City of Fayetteville was supportive of having their portion of Banks Road included in the resurfacing scope for FA-100C. Mayor Johnson said Chris Hindman will follow-up on that issue for the City.

**ii. Project Updates**

*Hampton Road East & West / SR 92* – GDOT approved the signal plans. Croy is working on final R/W plans.

*GDOT's Ebenezer Church Road Bridge Replacement* – construction activities are underway. Road closure expected in January or February and continue through fall 2022.

*Brogdon & New Hope Road Roundabout* – construction underway. Detours are planned in December and the first half of January. Gas line relocation is in process. *Redwine, Bernhard & Peachtree Parkway Roundabout* – County is acquiring right-of-way and easements. Croy finalizing plans for bid. ITB dependent upon ROW schedule.

*Federal-Aid Redwine Road Path Project* – The Contractor has been issued the NTP and is scheduling utility relocation work. Project scope is impacted by the locally funded tunnel project. Staff is working with the two design teams, GDOT and the Contractor to coordinate. Significant path work is expected next spring.

*Redwine Road Tunnel* – The tunnel will be located under Redwine Road, immediately south of Robinson Road. Staff is evaluating options for traffic management and reconsidering use of pre-cast box culverts to minimize road closure.

*Hwy 85C & SR 85* – The Intersection Control Evaluation (ICE) is being finalized by CROY and it will then be submitted to GDOT. The ICE will recommend a traffic signal.

*Future SPLOST* – County staff are looking at candidate transportation projects for a future SPLOST. Mr. Mallon suggested this be a topic for discussion for the December meeting.

*\$1Trillion Infrastructure Bill* – waiting on information on how money will be allocated – grant awards, formula-based, etc. Key questions include, will local match be required and what projects will be eligible.

- c. **Fayetteville** – Mr Cajen Rhodes said the City’s LMIG project list was approved for \$208,000 and it is all for road mill and match work.

- d. **Peachtree City** – The following information was provided by Kevin Madden.

On December 1, the Peachtree City Council will consider closing Crabapple Road to vehicular traffic but allowing golf cart use for additional time (6 to 12 months). The intent is to provide Tyrone and Fayette County time to provide for an alternate path route into Peachtree City. One option is to construct a new path west along Dogwood Trail and then traverse south using private property and/or the old SR 74 roadbed.

Mr. Ungaro said this is a past developer problem created by the connection to Crabapple when the Kedron Hills S/D was platted.

Mrs. Tapp asked why there is urgency to close the road now. Mr. Madden said it is an overdue problem and property owners within Kedron have been seeking relief for some time.

Lee Hearn asked about providing a safe turn-around on either side of the closure and if additional time could be provided to allow for design and construction. Mr. Madden replied Peachtree City is developing plans to gate the road from their side.

A member asked if additional road and/or path closures are planned elsewhere around the border of Peachtree City. Mr. Madden was not aware of any other closures and noted this action, on Crabapple, was safety driven.

- e. **Tyrone** – no report
- f. **Woolsey** – no report

## 6. Public Comment

Sarah Swab spoke about the intersection of Veterans Parkway and Eastin Road. She said there have been a tremendous number of crashes recently. She believes visibility is limited and said changes are needed for the intersection control.

Shelia Demons also spoke about the intersection of Veterans Parkway and Eastin Road. She said the noise caused by the rumble strips on Eastin Road has a significant and negative impact on the quality of her life. The noise impacts her ability to sleep at night and work at home during the day. She asked for an alternative intersection that would allow for the strips to be removed.

David Worley said there is excessive speed on Veterans Parkway and that is contributing to the number of crashes.

Matthew Swab has seen remnants of at least four crashes at the intersection of Veterans Parkway and Eastin Road. He asked if the vegetation could be further cut back on the Graves (east) side of the intersection. He also supported a roundabout in this location.

Jammie Scott spoke in support of a roundabout at this location and asked if the vegetation could be cut back further to improve sight distance.

Keith Larson said he is representing Bike-Walk FAYETTE and recently responded to a GDOT request for input on bike routes in Fayette County. He would like to have a community forum in which additional public input can be provided along with comments from local officials. The intent is to provide GDOT with comments that are supported by bikers and walkers, and consistent with government plans and policies.

## **7. Unfinished Business**

### **a. County Truck Routes – No Through Truck Routes**

Mr. Mallon informed the Committee that an agenda request for the BOC to consider no truck routes was submitted, as recommended by the Committee in October, but the item was removed during Fayette County's pre-agenda meeting.

Several members of the Committee expressed frustration in the recommendation not being considered by the Commissioners. Mr. Madden cited the need for proactive measures to address more, and heavier, freight movement in the future.

Chairman Ognio read an email message from Mr. Gary Laggis, Mayor, Town of Woolsey, into the record (a copy of the email is attached to these minutes).

Mr. Madden made a motion to request the BOC consider the no-truck route ordinance as recommended in October. Mr. Ungaro seconded the motion but suggested instead for the Transportation Committee Chairman to prepare a letter seeking input from the BOC on how to proceed with this issue. The amended motion passed unanimously.

## **8. New Business**

- a. Brooks request for the renaming of Hwy 85C** – Mr. Ungaro introduced a request from the Town of Brooks to rename Hwy 85C. The Town feels "Hwy 85C" conveys a heavy feel that invites trucks, cut-through traffic, and high speeds. Mr. Mallon said he looked for, but couldn't find, a policy on the process to rename a road. Mr. Hearn suggested the Town start by seeking citizen input and support. Mr. Mallon offered to provide a list of property addresses from Fayette County's GIS database. Mr. Ungaro said he'd start with that and see what feedback they get.
- b. Update on intersection improvements for Ebenezer Church, Ebenezer, and Spear Roads** – Mr. Mallon said County staff re-evaluated the turning movements for this intersection to determine what should become of the 1,100-ft section of existing Ebenezer

Church Road, between Ebenezer and proposed new alignment once the new section of Ebenezer Church Road is constructed.

For the assessment, staff looked at the 1,073 turning movements recorded during AM and PM peak hours. Of these, 38% were considered good turning movements, 25% moderate, and 37% poor. An example of a poor turn is a left-hand turn from Spear onto Ebenezer, where there are sign distance concerns coupled with high speeds and the need to turn across the southbound travel lane.

By keeping Ebenezer Church Road open as a one-way eastbound, the number of good turns (e.g., a right-hand turn with adequate sign distance) increases from 28% to 78% and the number of poor turns drops from 37% to 2%. Two factors contribute to the improvement: 1) the new intersection which has good sight distance in both locations; and 2) maintaining one-way traffic on the existing Ebenezer Church Road segment nearly eliminates the need for a left-hand turn off Spear Road.

Members of the Committee confirmed improvements at Spear and Ebenezer (such as a roundabout) are not feasible due to unmarked graves in the area. The Committee supported the one-way option. Mr. Mallon said the next step is for the rezoning request to be heard by the Planning Commission in December and then the BOC in January.

**c. Intersection control at Veterans & Eastin – presentation by Tobi Ayodeji.**

Mrs. Ayodeji provided an overview of traffic and crash data associated with this intersection. Attached are the slides presented. Mr. Mallon noted these are preliminary and have not been fully reviewed by County staff.

Mrs. Ayodeji said the intersection warrants a four-way stop based on the number of correctable crashes over a 12-month period. In addition, an all-way stop may also be warranted based on traffic volume (additional data needed to confirm). Her analysis was based on the Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).

Mr. Hearn asked if a traffic signal is warranted. Mrs. Ayodeji said staff does not yet know but is proposed the all-way as a stop-gap measure.

Mr. Madden supports a roundabout at this location based on the traffic volumes, speeds, and crash history. He also noted Peachtree City has had success with a blinking red light in lieu of rumble strips.

Mr. Hearn said the all-way stop option should go before the BOC to allow for public input. Mr. Ungaro made a motion for the Transportation Committee to recommend to the BOC the short-term installation of an all-way stop as an interim measure and for the development of a roundabout as the long-term intersection control. The motion was seconded by Mr.

Madden. The motion passed 8-0-1 with Mr. Mallon abstaining to allow for further review of the data.

## **9. Adjournment**

Mr. Ungaro made a motion to adjourn at 3:47 PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sas and it passed unanimously.

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Gary Laggis [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 15, 2021 11:47 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Transportation mtg

Randy

Unfortunately, I am out of town and unable to attend our November 16th meeting. In my absence, I am requesting the following statement be presented to the committee under agenda item 7-a "County Truck Routes-No through truck routes".

Thank you  
Gary Laggis

Mr Chairman,

As the Town of Woolsey's representative on this committee, I am disappointed to learn that our proposal regarding "no truck routes" in unincorporated Fayette County, which was approved and duly passed by this committee at our last meeting and directed to be sent to the Board of Commissioners for their consideration, was apparently rejected by the "BOC Agenda Review Committee". This decision essentially blocked our request for the full Board of Commissioners to review our proposal of which I do not understand.

Unfortunately, this action, or frankly their inaction, has essentially nullified the extensive efforts and countless hours that both this committee and our county staff have put forth in addressing a key issue; one of which many citizens have asked us for help in resolving. This is not only disheartening to me, but in a larger sense, it also begs the question as to what is the Board of Commissioner's perceived value of the work and function of this committee?

As you know, I have been an advocate for advancing a strategic county wide plan for trucking routes that not only makes sense for the safety and welfare of Fayette County but also recognizes the efficiency needs of the transportation industry in routing the logistics through our communities. This is a design strategy that most of our neighboring counties have already taken.

Unfortunately, in light of this development, it's now apparent that our county leadership will not even get an opportunity to formally discuss the work that our committee and staff has offered. As noted, that is very perplexing and disappointing.

Respectfully,  
Gary Laggis  
Mayor, Town of Woolsey