

Logistics Task Force Meeting
June 24, 2010
Cullowhee, NC

Lt. Governor Walter Dalton, Chairman of the Logistics Task Force, called the meeting to order at 9:43 a.m. on Thursday, June 24, at the Hinds University Center with the following members present:

Gene Conti, Dan Danieley, Patricia Long, Dee Blackwell, Terry Bellamy, Larry Wooten, Joseph Stephens.

Manly Wilder attended the meeting on behalf of Task Force Member Dee Freeman.
David Hauser attended the meeting on behalf of Task Force Member David Congdon.
Jed McMillan attended the meeting on behalf of Task Force Member Keith Crisco.

Members John Atkins and Tom Eagar participated via conference call.

Members absent were: Al Delia, Dee Freeman, Nelson Cole, Clark Jenkins, Dawn Clegg, Rick Sholtes, Allen Joines, Earl Brinkley, Buddy Shavender, Jerry Orr, Bob Morgan, Gary Teng, Paul Kauffman, Colonel Beth Austin, David Willauer, John Goodman, Danny McComas and Michael Walters.

Mr. Kenneth Flynt, Associate Dean of Advancement, welcomed everyone to Western Carolina University. He was happy that the Task Force was meeting in this part of the state.

Chairman Dalton thanked Mr. Flynt for hosting the meeting at Western Carolina University. He stated that the Task Force is charged with what is important to the various areas of the state and traveling to these different areas allowed the Task Force to hear what some of the needs are.

Chairman Dalton introduced Chief Michell Hicks, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. The Mission of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians is to understand the needs of our people and to address those needs in an ethical and responsible manner. As a Tribe, we strive for cultural integrity, economic prosperity, a healthy and educated membership and a natural environment that is respected and protected. EBCI is an empowered sovereign nation. Through sovereignty, EBCI maintains its own financial, legal, medical, educational and public service system. In 1994 EBCI successfully completed compact negotiations with Governor Hunt that allowed the opening of their Casino Enterprise. On November 13, 1997 Harrah's Cherokee Casino opened on the Qualla Boundary. The Casino currently employs 1674 people. With the expansion taking place at the Casino it is the sixth largest construction project in the United States. A copy of Chief Hick's presentation is made a part of the minutes as Addendum Item 1.

Dr. Mickey Duvall, Director of Planning and Development with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians spoke with the Task Force about programs that Governor Perdue has put together to help with logistics in North Carolina. Dr. Duvall stated that financial support to form business education partnerships need to continue. Also, the business climate to encourage small business

growth in the western part of the state is very important. One project that will improve infrastructure for western North Carolina is the Andrews Airport expansion.

Dr. Steve Ha, Director of Graduate Programs at Western Carolina University, talked with the Task Force about the economy of western North Carolina – NCDOT Division 14. There are 10 counties in Division 14. The unemployment rate for the counties are as follows: Cherokee – 13.6%, Clay – 10.4%, Graham – 14.1%, Haywood – 9.4%, Henderson – 8.4%, Jackson – 8.6%, Macon – 10.3%, Polk – 8.4%, Swain – 11.9% and Transylvania – 8.9% A copy of Dr. Ha’s presentation is made a part of the minutes as Addendum Item 2.

Dr. Michael Smith, Professor of Global Management and Strategy at Western Carolina University shared information with the Task Force regarding finding regional logistics solutions. He stated that the work of the Logistics Task Force is very important in reaching solutions. One of the keys in finding these solutions is a variation in transportation infrastructure. Dr. Smith also mentioned rail issues in the western part of the state are Murphy Gap and Saluda Grade. A copy of Dr. Smith’s presentation is made a part of the minutes as Addendum Item 3.

Mrs. Olivia Collier, Chief of Local and Regional Affairs, ARC Program Manager with the NC Department of Commerce shared information with the Task Force about the Appalachian Regional Commission. The ARC is a federal-state partnership providing social and economic support for a 13 state region. It was established by the Congress in 1965 and has worked to bring Appalachia’s 22 million people into America’s economic mainstream since then. One of the goals of ARC is to develop and improve Appalachia’s infrastructure to make the region economically competitive. A copy of Mrs. Collier’s presentation is made a part of the minutes as Addendum Item 4.

Mr. Dan Daniele, Manager the Burlington Alamance Airport Authority shared information with the Task Force regarding North Carolina aviations system. There are 9 commercial air services and 63 funded general aviation airports in North Carolina. In 2009 there were 24 million enplanements. Mr. Daniele stated the general aviation airports act as reliever airports by reducing congestion at air carrier airports and also by supporting pilot training. There are 180 aerospace companies in North Carolina offering 9500 high-tech jobs. A copy of Mr. Daniele’s presentation is made a part of the minutes as Addendum Item 5.

Dr. George List from NC State University presented information to the Task Force regarding the “Seven Portals Study”. The idea of the study is to find possible locations for transport-driven logistics portals statewide, study several options in each of the seven economic regions and examine modal connections, land availability, economic growth impact potential, feasibility, benefits and costs. The Study Group plans to gather relevant regional data and studies; meet with airport and town managers; gather answers to the assessment questions; investigate site conditions and compare the findings against the development criteria; establish deficiencies and estimate the investments needed to meet the development criteria and prepare a brief report on the findings. Chairman Dalton asked Dr. List why do we need to focus on 7,000 foot runways? Dr. List responded that if you are interested in bringing people to your, you have to have such access. A copy of Dr. List’s presentation is made a part of the minutes as Addendum Item 6.

Mr. Joel Setzer, NCDOT Division Engineer, shared information with the Task Force regarding transportation infrastructure in the far west. There are 9 strategic highways in the Division 14 area. Overall this strategic highway system works well. With the exception of I-40 and I-26, there is generally enough capacity for the traffic for years to come. A few needs of the strategic highway network in the area are the connectivity with Southeast Tennessee, the Chattanooga to Asheville link (Appalachian Corridor K). Also, additional capacity on segments of I-40, I-26, US 64 and NC 107 to address occasional and future congestion. Mr. Setzer shared several needs for the regional roads and local roads. He stated that the terrain and environmental concerns in the area will result in high costs for improvements. A copy of Mr. Setzers's presentation is made a part of the minutes as Addendum Item 7.

Chairman Dalton thanked all of the presenters and announced the next meeting of the Logistics Task Force will be Monday, July 19, 2010 in Raleigh.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.