

**Belhaven Town Council
Special Called Meeting – January 14, 2008- DOT
Minutes**

Call to Order

Mayor Adam W. O'Neal called the Special Called Meeting to order on January 14, 2008 at 5:30 P.M. in the Boyette Civic Center at 257 W. Pungo Street with the following Council members present: J. Nelson Guy, Mayor Pro-Tem; Steve W. Carawan, McKee (Mac) Pigott and Robert L. Stanley. Interim Town Manager Guinn Leverett and Town Clerk Marie J. Adams were also present.

Elected Officials Meeting with the Department of Transportation – Bridge Replacement Projects in the Vicinity of Belhaven

Mayor O'Neal stated that the Department of Transportation (DOT) had contacted the Town concerning meeting with the elected officials of the Town of Belhaven and the Town of Pantego as to the impact of proposed future bridge replacements in the vicinity of these two communities. The DOT officials would meet with the elected officials of the Town of Pantego following the meeting with Belhaven's elected officials.

DOT Officials attending the meeting were: Ms. Karen Capps and Mr. John Williams, DOT Project Development; Mr. Reed Smith, Bridge Maintenance; Mr. Bobby Taylor, County Maintenance Engineer; Mr. Ed Eatmon, Division Construction Engineer; Mr. Woody Jarvis, District Engineer; and Mr. Neil Lassiter, Division Engineer.

Meeting Purpose

Ms. Capps reviewed the following information concerning the bridge replacement on NC Hwy 99 near B-J's (Sidney Crossroads):

NCDOT is in the process of evaluating options for replacing Bridge No. 59 on NC 99 over Jack Creek. The evaluation of each option takes into account several components, including comments and concerns from citizens and local officials. The purpose of our meeting today is to give you information on this project and to discuss potential issues such as:

1. Project Schedule
2. Maintenance of Traffic
3. Impacts to the Natural and Human Environment

Purpose and Need for the Project

Bridge No. 59 has a sufficiency rating of 49.1 out of a possible 100. The bridge was built in 1949 and, while it is safe to drive on, it needs to be updated in order to meet strict state and federal criteria. The bridge is currently posted at 19 tons for single vehicles and 26 tons for tractor-trailer semi truck.

Alternatives Being Studied

Four alternatives are being studied for replacing the bridge. They are summarized below.

Alternative 1A proposes to replace the bridge in the existing location and use an offsite detour to maintain traffic during construction. The studied offsite detour would utilize

Belhaven Town Council
Special Called Meeting – January 14, 2008- DOT
Minutes

Pungo Creek Rd (SR 1715), US 264, and Yeatesville Rd (SR 1718) back to Sidney, NC. The estimated time for completion of construction is one (1) year. Both Beaufort County School Transportation and EMS have been contacted and have indicated that they will have no problems using an offsite detour during construction.

The proposed bridge would maintain the existing vertical clearance between Jack Creek and the bottom of the bridge.

Alternative 1B proposes to replace the bridge as described under Alternative 1A. However, the proposed bridge would be raised to provide additional vertical clearance between Jack Creek and the bottom of the bridge. The length of construction would be approximately the same as Alternative 1A.

Alternative 2A proposes to replace the bridge in the existing location. However, this alternative would construction a temporary detour bridge adjacent to the existing bridge to maintain traffic flow through the area during construction. The estimated length of construction for this alternative is 1-1/2 years.

The proposed bridge would maintain the existing vertical clearance between Jack Creek and the bottom of the bridge.

Alternative 2B proposes to replace the bridge as described under Alternative 2A. However, the proposed bridge would be raised to provide additional vertical clearance between Jack Creek and the bottom of the bridge. The length of construction would be approximately the same as Alternative 2A.

Project Costs

	Alternative 1A	Alternative 1B	Alternative 2A	Alternative 2B
Construction	\$1,750,000	\$2,600,000	\$ 3,300,000	\$ 4,300,000
Right of Way	\$ 117,500	\$ 222,500	\$ 60,500	\$ 200,000
Utilities	\$ 7,890	\$ 17,491	\$ 7,890	\$ 17,491
Total Project Cost	\$ 1,875,390	\$ 2,839,991	\$ 3,368,390	\$ 4,517,491

Mayor O’Neal stated that the cost of gasoline should be considered along with the impact this would have on the Town. Ms. Capps stated that 2A or 2B would be preferred and suggested that specific impact information be forwarded to the DOT. Councilman Pigott questioned the life span of the proposed bridge replacement. Ms. Capps stated an estimated 75 years of bridge life.

Belhaven Town Council
Special Called Meeting – January 14, 2008- DOT
Minutes

Meeting Purpose

NCDOT is in the process of evaluating options for replacing Bridge No. 51 on US 264 over Broad Creek. The evaluation of each option takes into account several components, including comments and concerns from citizens and local officials. The purpose of our meeting today is to give you information on this project and to discuss potential issues such as:

4. Project Schedule
5. Maintenance of Traffic
6. Impacts to the Natural and Human Environment

Purpose and Need for the Project

Bridge No. 51 has a sufficiency rating of 52.9 out of a possible 100. The bridge was built in 1956 and, while it is safe to drive on, it needs to be updated in order to meet strict state and federal criteria. The bridge does not currently have any weight restrictions, but US 264 is a major route in Beaufort County and is designated as an evacuation route and needs to be replaced before weight restrictions are imposed.

Alternatives Being Studied

Two alternatives are being studied for replacing the bridge. They are summarized below.

Alternative 1 proposes to replace the bridge in the existing location and use an offsite detour to maintain traffic during construction. The studied offsite detour would utilize US 264, NC 99, and Seed Tick Neck Rd (see attached map). The estimated time for completion of construction is one (1) year. Both Beaufort County School Transportation and EMS have been contacted and have indicated that they will have no problems using an offsite detour during construction.

Alternative 2 also proposes to replace the bridge in the existing location. However, this alternative would construction a temporary detour bridge adjacent to the existing bridge to maintain traffic flow through the area during construction. The estimated length of construction for this alternative is 1-1/2 years.

Project Costs

	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
Construction	\$ 1,150,000	\$ 1,750,000
Right of Way	\$ 12,350	\$ 12,500
Utilities	\$ 19,800	\$ 19,800
Total Project Cost	\$ 1,182,150	\$ 1,782,300

Belhaven Town Council
Special Called Meeting – January 14, 2008- DOT
Minutes

Other Projects In the Area

Ms. Capps stated that the other areas where bridge replacement is scheduled in the areas is as follows:

B-3611 – Replacement of the bridge on NC 99 over Pantego Creek. The project alternative and schedule is set.

B-3809 – Replacement of the bridge on NC 99 over Pungo Creek. The project alternative and schedule is set.

B-4413 – Replacement of Bridge No. 51 on US 264 over Broad Creek.

B-4428 – Replacement of Bridge No. 140 on SR 1626 (Railroad Bed Rd.) over a canal

B-4415 – Replacement of Bridge No. 21 on NC 32 over Pungo Creek

Closing Statements

Mayor O’Neal stated that the Town would be willing to work with the Department of Transportation and wanted “goodwill” between DOT and the Town of Belhaven. Following some discussion, Mayor O’Neal asked Ms.Capps to make a list of the priorities that the DOT would like and to bring those requests to the next Council Meeting for the two bridge replacements (Jack Creek # 59 on NC Hwy 99 and Broad Creek #51 on US Hwy 264).

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mayor O’Neal declared the meeting adjourned at 6:23 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie J. Adams, CMC
Town Clerk