



BOARD BULLETIN

July 18, 2008

Monroe Bypass Update

Another significant hurdle in the Monroe Bypass project was cleared recently when the General Assembly included important funding for the Monroe Connector-Bypass project. Gap funding (the difference between toll revenues and the total project cost) was approved for both the Monroe Bypass and the Wake Expressway in Raleigh. Gap funding for the long-awaited Monroe Connector-Bypass totals \$24 million per year during the life of the financing construction bond. It is projected the bond will extend thirty-nine (39) years.

Upon completion of the environmental impact statement and route selection (both projected to be completed by year-end), permits for the project can be obtained and construction can begin.

Local License Plate Office Closed

The local license plate agency operated under contract with the NC DMV since 1984 has been closed for alleged fraudulent activity.

Anson County staff have contacted the NC DMV to ascertain the process for possibly operating this service. This would provide an additional revenue source for the County. Further, our vehicle tax collections would be enhanced due to the integration of tax collection and the tag renewal/purchase process. Staff will provide an update to the Board upon receiving additional information from the NC DMV.

Health Department Physician

The interim doctor at the Health Department has resigned due to personal reasons. The temporary agency (referred to as a Locum Tenens) is in the process of identifying a replacement.

In the interim, Dr. Bracy has been contracted by the Health Department to provide a basic level of physician services. On a separate, but related note, the permanent doctor identified by the Board of Health is still working to clear the NC Medical Review Board. It is anticipated this process could take another 30 days.

Present-Use Value Program Expanded

A new present-use land value designation has been approved by the General Assembly. The legislation creates a new property tax deferral program for landowners who manage their land for wildlife conservation purposes.

Based on the language of the legislation, the land must be managed under a formal wildlife habitat conservation agreement with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

Additionally, the land must protect an animal species which is protected by the Commission per G.S. 113-333 or conserve any of the following priority animal wildlife habitats: longleaf pine forest, early successional habitat, small wetland community, stream and riparian zone, rock outcrop, or bat caves.

At this time it is unclear what impact this new tax deferral program will have on the County's assessed valuation. Staff will track all of the land in the program and provide an update during the annual budget development process.

In some respects the legislation assists the Board in achieving its goal of maintaining a "green" Anson County. At the same time, it will erode a portion of the tax base and shift more of the burden to residential homeowners and businesses.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Recessed Board Meeting	Monday, July 21 5:00 PM Courtroom #1
Regular Board Meeting	Monday, August 11 6:00 PM Courtroom #1
Golden Leaf Foundation Community Assistance Forum	Tuesday, August 12 1:00 PM Lockhart-Taylor Center
NCACC Annual Conference	August 20-23 New Bern, NC