

Approval – Roanoke Rapids-Weldon-Gaston Comprehensive Transportation Plan

Mike Bruff, Branch Manager of Transportation Planning, advised that the Transportation Planning Branch has worked cooperatively with the City of Roanoke Rapids, the Towns of Weldon and Gaston and the Peanut Belt Rural Planning Organization (RPO) to develop a Comprehensive Transportation Plan for the area. This plan is based on an analysis of existing and projected travel, land use, public involvement and field investigations of recommended improvements.

The City of Roanoke Rapids adopted the plan on November 27, 2007 and the Towns of Weldon and Gaston adopted the plan on November 29, 2007. We have certified copies of their resolutions on file. The plan has been coordinated with, and endorsed by the Peanut Belt RPO on November 8, 2007.

Accordingly, on a motion by Board Member McRae, seconded by Board Member Thornburg, the Board approved the Roanoke Rapids-Weldon-Gaston Comprehensive Transportation Plan.

Additional Business

Approval – Resolution for Oscar A. Keller Jr.

Upon a recommendation of the Road Naming Committee, a motion was made by Board Member Kindley and seconded by Board Member Collier to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Oscar A. Keller Jr. has been a pioneer in the Lee County business community for many years, including contributing in many ways to the Boys and Girls Club and Central Carolina Community College; and

WHEREAS, Oscar A. Keller Jr. has been a successful entrepreneur, established the first nursing home in the state; founded several nursing and retirement homes and banks, and has served on the Board of Directors of other banks and operating home health organizations; and

WHEREAS, Oscar A. Keller Jr. has worked for many years to help secure funds for the U.S. 421 Bypass project, which will benefit the community through the better movement of people and goods; and

WHEREAS, Oscar A. Keller Jr. has served on numerous civic and charitable boards including the Lee County Board of Health, Environmental Health, Jury Commission, Recreation, the Bread Basket, Central Carolina Community Foundation, First Baptist Church, Cool Springs Baptist Church, Jonesboro Masonic Lodge, Sanford Shrine Club, Elks Club and a charter member of the Sanford Jaycees; and

WHEREAS, the Lee County Board of Commissioners and the City of Sanford requested the North Carolina Department of Transportation honor Oscar A. Keller Jr. for his contributions to the economic viability of the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the North Carolina Board of Transportation dedicates the U.S. 421 Bypass from U.S. 1 to N.C. 42 around the City of Sanford in Lee County as the **Oscar Keller Jr. Highway**.

That appropriate signs be erected at a suitable time.

Adopted, this the sixth day of December 2007 by the North Carolina Board of Transportation.


Chairman


Secretary of Transportation