

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Special Meeting
October 10, 2022 - 5:00 PM
R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice - Womack Building Columbus, NC
Columbus, NC
MINUTES

PRESENT: Chairman Melton, Vice-Chairman Beiler, Commissioner Moore, Commissioner Overholt, and Commissioner Yoder. Also in attendance were County Manager Pittman, County Attorney Berg, Clerk to the Board Tipton, media, and citizens.

1. Call to Order - Chairman Melton.
2. Invocation - Vice-Chairman Beiler.
3. Pledge of Allegiance - Chairman Melton.
4. Citizen Comments on Agenda Item.

There were 13 comments on Agenda Items.

5. Agenda Item(s)
 - A. Approve No Build Alternative Letter to be sent to Alan Toney, Transportation Planner Foothills Regional Commission Rural Planning Organization (RPO), regarding STIP R-5840 Highway 9 Project. Signed letter attached below.

Tommy W. Melton
Chairman

Paul (Little) Beller
Vice-Chairman



Myron Yoder
Commissioner

Andre Overholt
Commissioner

David Moore
Commissioner

October 10, 2022

Alan Toney
Transportation Planner
Foothills Regional Commission RPO
111 W Court St.
Rutherfordton, NC 28139

Wanda Austin,
Division Engineer
NCDOT
253 Webster Rd.
Sylva, NC 28779

Mr. Toney,

The Polk County Board of Commissioners greatly appreciates the RPO and NCDOT's efforts on the Polk County NC Hwy 9 project and willingness to compromise on some areas of the plan while still promoting public safety. We especially appreciate Division Engineer, Wanda Austin's willingness to participate in multiple meetings and come to the table to negotiate a solution more palatable to the citizens along the route.

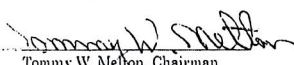
While we were encouraged by the 11-foot lanes and 4-foot shoulders and were pleased to come to an agreement with NCDOT about the project, we ultimately serve our constituents and based on public comments we received, have concluded that they are no longer in support of that compromise.

Therefore, on behalf of the citizens that feel this project would negatively impact the rural character of Polk County and the citizens who will be physically impacted by the Polk County Highway 9 project, and at their request, we respectfully request you implement the "No Build Alternative."

We would also like to take this opportunity to request that the entire corridor on Hwy 9 North and Hwy 9 South no longer be considered for any STIP modernizations in the future, with the exception of turn lanes at Polk Central Elementary School or other life safety issues on this route. Specifically, we ask that NC 9 Highway in Polk County, never be considered for a four-lane thoroughfare.

Signed,

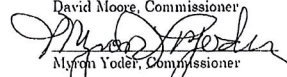
Polk County Board of Commissioners


Tommy W. Melton, Chairman


Paul Beller, Vice-Chairman


David Moore, Commissioner


Andre Overholt, Commissioner


Myron Yoder, Commissioner

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Commissioner Yoder moved to to approve the No Build Alternative Letter, seconded by Commissioner Overholt and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Chairman and Commissioner Comments.

The Chairman and Commissioners each spoke on their approval of the No Build Alternative Letter as written. Chairman Melton and Commissioner Moore both read a statement, a copy of which is hereby incorporated into these minutes by reference. Commissioner Moore explained the next step is to go to the Rural Planning Organization (RPO) and encouraged the public to attend. The RPO meeting will be held on November 16th at 10:30 am in Rutherfordton, NC.

7. Adjournment

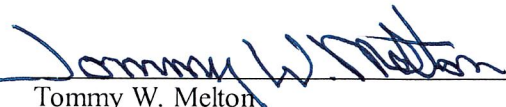
Commissioner Overholt moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Moore and the motion carried unanimously.

Attest:

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS



Kristy A Tipton
Clerk to the Board



Tommy W. Melton
Chairman