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# Mobility Study Workshop Set For Tuesday



Wayne Howard Staff Writer

The first of two community workshops related to the Eastern Lincoln County Mobility Study will be held Tuesday evening (July 23rd) from 7 - 8:30 at the East Lincoln Community Center.

The study, talked about for months and authorized by Commissioners May 6th, had a kickoff gathering on May 30th.

Jonathan Whitehurst, Project Manager and a Denver resident, gave those attending an overview of the study. Jonathan Guy, the engineer on the project, also spoke.

County Commission Chairman Carrol Mitchem lamented that most of the audience of about 50 people were senior citizens. "We need to get the younger people involved," he said. Several of the commissioners urged those present to talk with their neighbors asking them to attend the community meeting this Tuesday.

While traffic problems have been often discussed in various meetings, this is the first study of its kind undertaken by Lincoln County.

Whitehurst said it's important that those involved in the study will include the Dept. of Transportation and the Gaston-Cleveland-Lincol Metropolitan Planning Organization. "We need the public to be involved. This is your opportunity to have input on the plan that is developed."

Several of those attending the May 30th meeting questioned the need for the study and what--if any--impact it might have. "I've been to several of these," one man said, "and nothing gets done." Another suggested that the study was focusing too much on transportation needs in the future: "We need things done within five years, not fifteen or twenty."

County Planning Director Andrew Bryant responded: "The DOT already has its tentative plan for the next couple of years. We're too late for this study to have any impact on those plans--but we're right on time for the next STIP (State Transportation Improvement Program)."

Former Commissioner Martin Oakes said planning is very important to getting projects done. "When I served on the GCLMPO Board, the city of Belmont submitted a plan and got fairly quick action. They had a plan," he said he was told when he questioned how they got it done so quickly.

"People complain about the traffic, but then when we try to do something that may have some effect on the planning and construction approved by the DOT, they are too busy to come to meetings and provide input. It's one thing to complain--quite another to try to do something about it," Commissioner Bud Cesena told us. "We need the people in our community to show up and speak out."



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