

Warren Would Suffer In New Road Allocations Proposal

HENDERSON — Changes in the formula for parcelling out secondary road construction funds being worked on by the administration of Gov. Jim Hunt would take funds away from four of the five counties in the 13th Congressional District, Rep. William T. Watkins confirmed Monday.

"Vance would receive more money, although not much more," Watkins said, noting Warren, Granville, Person and Caswell counties would be among the 50 counties with a reduction in secondary roads funds.

About \$30 million per year is at stake in the reshuffling, which will reduce the money available to about 50 counties, increase funding in 47 others, and leave only three counties unchanged.

The formula will significantly shift funds away from northern coastal and western counties, with the southern Piedmont, Sandhills and interior counties in the East being the major beneficiaries.

Allotments in 1976 totaled \$889,500 for Granville, Vance and Warren counties, including supplemental funds of \$119,300

allocated last September.

The new formula, which would go into effect July 1 if approved, is expected to bring some dissent from representatives of the areas earmarked for significant funding cuts.

"I've always felt roads do not follow development, but development follows roads," Watkins noted, adding that the new formula would reverse this belief.

Sen. James B. Garrison, D-Stanly, a legislative appointee to the State Transportation board, wants the present statute, based on each county's unimproved road mileage, changed to divide the \$30 million with one-half based on unimproved mileage and the other half on paved mileage.

Garrison, whose own five-county district would receive \$450,000 more a year than it does now, said last week that the Holshouser administration's policies had favored traditionally Republican western counties.

"The West had been left out before that in secondary-roads money, but now this will catch things up" for other areas, he said. "There's a little loss in the

West, a little along the coast, but I think the West will understand that Holshouser tilted things toward the mountains."

The most outspoken opposites is expected to come from legislators, the legislature's Republicans, and western Democrats whose roads were badly damaged during winter storms.

Charles Hayes, Warren County manager, said Monday he could see both sides of the proposed bill, although he was naturally against his county receiving a cut.

"I can understand what more developed counties are saying," Hayes said, pointing out that these counties feel to continue developing, they need a good road system and need to keep the paved roads maintained.

"But by the same token, if Warren County is cut, we won't have anything, and we don't have anything now," he said.

Of the \$306,100 Warren County received for secondary roads construction in 1976-77, the entire amount went to maintaining already paved roads and improving dirt roads. "Warren County did not pave a single mile last year because it took all our money for maintenance," Hayes said. And if funds are cut further, there will be little money to improve even the dirt roads.

Roads are paved according to their priority on a list prepared in the various districts, said Robert Ross, District Engineer in Henderson.

"Each unimproved road is checked to see the number of houses, schools, amount of traffic and school bus use each year," he said. The survey is then computed to points, and the road given a number.

"This is done every two years, and roads have to wait for paving until their priority comes up," he continued.

Vance County has about 84 miles of unimproved roads compared to about 330 in Granville and 225 in Warren.

And although persons desiring to have their road paved must submit petitions signed by all the landowners giving the state the needed right-of-way, it may be years before any work is begun, Ross said. State funds are presently allocated under a formula adopted by the 1973 General Assembly. Emphasis is placed on less developed regions with fewer miles of paved roads.

In many cases, the new formula would mean more money for better developed sections of the state. Wilkes, one of the four counties with a GOP voter-registration majority would see its allocation drop \$230,000 a year, from \$848,000 to \$618,000.

Mecklenburg would go from \$175,000 to \$375,000; and Wilson, home of Gov. Hunt,

would jump from \$162,000 to \$247,000. New Hanover County, with the smallest unimproved mileage among the 100 counties would go from \$33,000 to \$110,000.

Garrison, who is advocating the new formula along with Sen. J. J. Harrington, D-Bertie, said additional funds are essential to urbanized Piedmont counties and those with growing middle-sized cities in the East. Costs of upgrading in these areas are high, particularly in obtaining land for rights-of-way for widening obsolete roads.

One westerner, Rep. Liston B. Ramsey, D-Madison, has circulated a letter among House members, including with it a three-page chart showing present funding and changes under the Garrison plan.

"A formula based on the number of unimproved miles in each county is the proper way under the present statutes to disburse these funds," Ramsey says.

The change in formula for the road money will wait until after passage of the Hunt administration's plan for reorganizing the transportation board, Garrison said.

But Watkins said he sees no way he can vote for the formula when it would take funds away from four of his five counties.

"We haven't seen all the details yet and it hasn't been introduced, but I don't see how I could vote for it," Watkins said. His fellow representatives, John Church and Tom Ellis, could not be reached for comment.

Allow Grain Crops To Recover From Weather

Farmers are being cautioned not to abandon fields of small grain until the crops have had a chance to recover from cold weather damage.

"A crop that looks bad now may recover," comments Ronald E. Jarrett, agricultural extension agronomist at North Carolina State University. "If plants are hurt as much as 50 per cent, they may still recover sufficiently to make 90 per cent of the original crop."

Jarrett and NCSU forage crops specialists Lamar Kimbrough and Paul Mueller, along with county agents across the state, are urging farmers to examine plants closely for signs of life. If the roots and growing points are living, the grain will make it, they say.

If the grower doesn't have almost a complete kill, he should consider topdressing his grain with nitrogen before March 15. Nitrogen is the primary factor in promoting tillering, particularly where the grain has been thinned out.

For farmers who are growing the wheat, oats or barley for grain rather than forage, the decision is slightly more difficult. If there is very little stand and most of the plants are dead, grain growers may want to turn the crop under and get ready for corn, soybeans or some other crop.

Dairymen who anticipated using small grains for grazing or silage may want to consider spring oats. They may be seeded alone or as a mixture with the present wheat, oat or barley crop.

Since spring oats don't tiller well, high seeding rates are suggested—three to four bushels an acre. Use similar nitrogen fertilizer rates as in topdressing the original crop.

Plant before March 15 for best results. Best spring oat varieties from the Midwest include Clintland, Clintford, Noble, Stout, Allen, Dal, Goodland, Otee, Garry and Pennfield. Of these, Clintland is best for hay and is probably the most readily available one.

Some of the familiar fall-seeded varieties can be sown in the spring. They are Windsor, Coker 66-22 and Salem. All three may be used for silage. Some Moregrain is available, and Roanoke can be used for silage or hay. Roanoke performed best in one NCSU test.

Another alternative is overseeding the damaged grain with rye. The use of ryegrass will cause more problems for future small grain crops.

Dairymen hard-pressed for feedstuffs may want to consider additional pasture fertilization for more growth. The sorghum-sudangrass hybrids, when seeded in May, can be used as wilted silage in about 45 days from planting.

Farmers are urged to consult with their county extension



Norlina Mayor Bill Perry [right] pins a chief's badge on Norlina Police Chief Romey Williams. Williams was named chief after the death of George E. "Buck" White, who had served as chief since 1957. (Staff Photo)

Interruption Planned

The electric service interruption scheduled for a portion of the Warrenton service area on Sunday, March 13, has been rescheduled for March 20 from 6 a. m. until 9 a. m., Gordon Greene, CP&L area manager, announced Tuesday.

Greene said the disruption is necessary in order for line and service personnel to perform needed maintenance work on company facilities.

The interruption will affect customers on the Country Club road and to the end of the company facilities on Highway 58 East. Customers on Loop Road also will be affected.

Additionally, service to a portion of the business district along North Main and Macon Streets in Warrenton will be interrupted, Greene said. He said the work will be accomplished as quickly as possible so as to cause minimum inconvenience to customers.

Greene added that in the event of bad weather conditions, rescheduling will be made each Sunday until weather permits.

Fertilizer Aids In Recovery

Winter-stressed landscape plants will recover faster if you help them along with a feeding of plant food—fertilizer.

Any complete commercial fertilizer—an 8-8-8 analysis, for example, or 10-10-10—will be a good choice. Over-feeding is a risk, so don't try to rush things with too much fertilizer.

Henry J. Smith, extension landscape horticulturist at North Carolina State University, suggests using three to four pounds of fertilizer per 100

square feet to stimulate new plant growth.

An easy way to determine the correct amount, Smith suggests, is to weigh out a pound and apply it to an area measuring five feet on a side.

The NCSU specialists reminded homeowners to wait until an accurate assessment of winter damage can be made before pruning away dead wood. Then cut this away and get the plant growing quickly with a correct application of fertilizer.

Missions Week Is Observed

The Baptist Young Women held a meeting for the home missions week of prayer on Thursday evening at the Littleton Baptist Church.

Miss Mary Sue Davidson, Mrs. Beverly Riley, and Miss Barbara Jeffers told of mission work in New Mexico, Utah, and Colorado. Scripture verses that Paul used as he prayed for churches were used.

Mrs. Katie Harvey was hostess for the meeting.

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