



Board Bulletin

August 14, 2015

Tourism Spending Increases Once Again

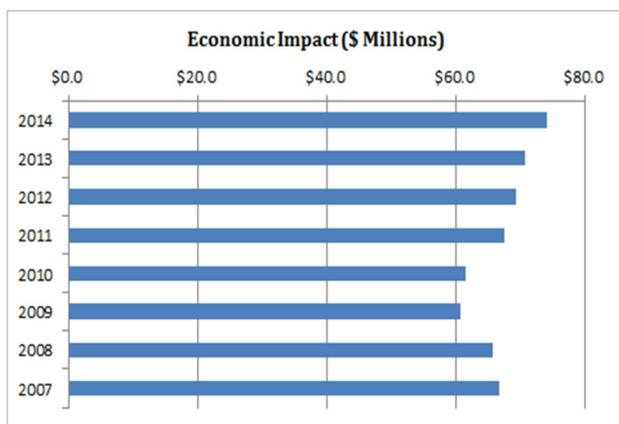
Tourism spending in Stanly County generated an estimated economic impact of \$74 million in 2014, according to statistics released this week by the NC Dept. of Commerce. The report includes direct visitor spending estimates for all 100 North Carolina counties, as well as estimates for travel and tourism related employment and tax revenues.

The \$74 million economic impact represented a 4.7 percent increase over the previous year's data.

Stanly County ranked 49th in travel and tourism impact among North Carolina's 100 counties. The report suggests travel and tourism generated \$9.56 million in payroll for Stanly County in 2014. Further, approximately 480 jobs were directly or indirectly attributable to travel and tourism spending.

According to the report, local sales and occupancy tax revenue receipts from travel and tourism activity amounted to \$2.17 million in 2014.

Below please find a chart illustrating the economic impact of travel and tourism in Stanly County over the past eight (8) years:



Upcoming Meetings & Events

Regular Board Meeting Tuesday, September 8
7:00 PM
Commons Meeting Room

Capital Projects Update

Fiber/Broadband Project

The initial analysis from the fiber/broadband RFP (request for proposals) indicates the cost to construct will be approximately \$1.552 million. This figure is slightly higher than the initial \$1.534 million the consultant's estimated prior to issuing a formal RFP.

The County's fiber project consultants recommend the County utilize a \$1.55 million budget when pursuing funding partners and grants.

Now that the County has a more firm budget figure, staff will work with our consultants to schedule another meeting with representatives from MCNC and Golden Leaf to ascertain their willingness to partner on the project.

Staff will continue to keep the Board informed as discussions with potential funding partners progress.

Big Lick Sewer Transmission Line

Chambers Engineering provided an initial report that the operational performance of the line is satisfactory.

Chambers mentioned a couple items for future consideration. First, the line crosses two (2) fairly significant NC DOT drainage culverts. The County may want to consider re-locating the line around these culverts in the future to avoid potential damage.

Additionally, the line only has two (2) pressure release valves. Chambers thought there should be more valves given the line has a few high points. However, the line appears to be operating properly with just 2 valves at the current time.

Staff will work to draw up an asset acquisition agreement and evaluate all easements in an effort to secure part ownership of the line in the near future.