

DOT Secretary Pledges Support for Chestnut Ridge in Blowing Rock

Written by Steve Frank

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Board members and management of Appalachian Regional Healthcare met with State Transportation Secretary Anthony Tata at the Watauga Medical Center conference room yesterday morning to talk about the role of the DOT in the new Chestnut Ridge facility for Blowing Rock. And while Tata was there to not only assure the DOT's involvement in the road construction needed for the US 321 site, adjacent to the Blue Ridge Parkway, but the conversation shifted to what that project will ultimately bring to the area—jobs. Tata talked about the state and DOT perspective on the project, “We’re proud to be able to partner with the community here to facilitate the development of Chestnut Ridge in Blowing Rock. And when you think about the Governor’s emphasis on job creation, on connecting health care centers and education centers and recreation centers, this project is almost the prototypical type of project he visualizes when he talks about those kinds of things. So we are ‘all in’ on this project. We’ve helped secure the \$2.5 million grant, and I believe that there’s some other funding we may or may not need to contribute to the project. So we are standing by and ready to go.” Tata said he was to meet with Governor McCrory today and would bring up the topic of another grant the hospital project is seeking. Hopes were expressed by the board to be moving on the project before winter.