

Transportation Advisory Board

Minutes of Regular Meeting

March 22, 2011, 5:30pm
Chatham Community Library
197 Hwy 87 N, Pittsboro



Voting Members Present

Claire Kane
Dale Chodorow
Faythe Canson Clark, Chair
Mary Bastin
Philip Bors, Vice-Chair
Robin Emerson

Non-Voting Members Present

Larry Cheek, Siler City
Amber Wagner, Chatham
Transit Network

Others Present

Rachel Hoff, Citizen
Steve Spade, Chapel Hill Transit
Brendan Merithew, NCDOT
Scott Walston, NCDOT
Geoff Sloop, NCDOT
Ben Howell, staff

- 1 1. Purpose and Agenda for today's meeting
- 2 Faythe Canson Clark called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for attending.
- 3 2. Public Comment
- 4 Rachel Hoff expressed support for the PX bus route as a resident of the East side of Pittsboro. She
- 5 also inquired about the status of the Pittsboro Highway Transportation Plan regarding the proposed
- 6 15-501 bypass options. Brendan Merithew clarified that NCDOT and Pittsboro will hold a public
- 7 meeting on the proposed plan on May 10th from 5-8pm at CCCC.

Action Items

- 8 3. Approval of Minutes from February 22, 2011 Regular Meeting
- 9 Ms. Clark suggested one edit to correct Vice Chair from Claire Kane to Philip Bors. Philip Bors
- 10 suggested adding "Durham Chapel Hill Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization" on Line 43.
- 11 Claire Kane moved to approve the meeting minutes with the two corrections. Dale Chodorow
- 12 seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was approved with no dissent.

Information & Discussion

- 14 4. Discussion of the Chatham County Comprehensive Transportation Plan, by Brendan
- 15 Merithew, NC DOT Transportation Planning Branch
- 16 Mr. Merithew and Scott Walston took questions from the TAB regarding the Comprehensive
- 17 Transportation Plan (CTP) process and asked about the TAB's preference for its role. The TAB
- 18 agreed to use the standing membership as the CTP committee rather than creating a separate
- 19 subcommittee. The process would still be open for public input and would take place at regularly
- 20 scheduled TAB meetings, unless additional meetings become necessary. The process is expected to
- 21 take 18 months and will include a public survey, community input sessions, an inventory of roads,
- 22 visioning, report drafting and map creation.

23 Mr. Bors suggested that NCDOT staff review the TAB Strategic Plan since the group has already
24 developed a transportation vision, values, and goals. Larry Cheek suggested that all local planners
25 be involved in the process. Ms. Kane asked about the involvement/agreement of elected officials
26 regarding the CTP. Mr. Walston indicated that they will periodically present plan elements to the
27 County BOC and Pittsboro and Siler City commissioners for their agreement.

28 5. Discussion of Carpooling, by Mary Bastin

29 Mary Bastin expressed interest in the TAB doing what it can to promote ride-sharing for Chatham
30 County commuters; she is willing to take a lead for TAB to increase carpooling. Ms. Kane mentioned
31 the existence of Triangle Transit's website (www.sharetheridenc.org), which was developed to
32 connect area commuters who are interested in carpooling. Ms. Clark suggested that HOAs could be
33 useful to promote carpooling. Amber Wagner offered that there are many options for boosting
34 ride-sharing and that CTN would be willing to help explore those. Steve Spade offered that
35 employer based promotion of ride-sharing is the most effective method to reduce single-occupancy
36 trips. Ben Howell mentioned that Triangle Transit has operated three van pools in Chatham.
37 Ms. Kane suggested that Triangle Transit present at the next TAB meeting and then decide the most
38 appropriate action for the TAB to encourage carpooling in Chatham.

39 6. Presentation and Discussion of Chapel Hill Transit PX Bus Route Statistics and Alternatives,
40 by Steve Spade, Director of Chapel Hill Transit

41 Mr. Spade presented the background of the Chapel Hill Transit (CHT) System and Partnership. He
42 provided a history of the PX route and its ridership data. The PX route ridership has generally risen
43 steadily since it began in August 2009 and grew faster than comparable services in Hillsborough and
44 Wake Forest, NC. Surveys indicate that 80% of PX riders reside in Chatham County and 20% of riders
45 live in the Pittsboro town limits.

46 The future PX route is in jeopardy because the Chatham BOC recently voted to discontinue the
47 county's portion of match funding as of June 2011. Pittsboro has committed to maintain level
48 funding for the PX route. The CHT Partners agreed to continue their grant-funded support for the
49 PX route until August 2011. CHT is in the process of discussing a possible future agreement with
50 Chatham Transit Network (CTN) to pick up two of the six daily routes between Lowe's and UNC. CTN
51 can offer service at a rate of \$20/hr cheaper than CHT, so they may be able to continue the PX
52 service at a lower cost. CTN already provides routes from Siler City to UNC that leave later than the
53 PX route.

54 7. Follow-Up Discussion on the Strategic Plan

55 Mr. Bors mentioned that the presentation of an update of the TAB and Strategic Plan for the BOC
56 was postponed to April 4th. Ms. Bastin suggested that TAB members should try to attend as a show
57 of support. Mr. Howell mentioned that the location is not confirmed but is likely to be in Silk Hope.

58 8. Updates from Staff and/or the Executive Committee

59 Ms. Clark updated the TAB that the Executive Committee discussed the three open positions and
60 asked members to encourage interested citizens to apply.

61 9. Announcements and New Business

62 There were no announcements or new business.

63 10. Adjourn

64 Mr. Chodorow moved to adjourn the meeting. Robin Emerson seconded. Meeting was adjourned
65 at 7:20 p.m.

66 Next meeting: April 26, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. in the Agricultural Building Auditorium in Pittsboro

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