

Transportation Advisory Board

Minutes of Regular Meeting

April 26, 2011, 5:30pm
Agricultural Building Auditorium
45 South St., Pittsboro



Voting Members Present

Claire Kane
Dale Chodorow
David Bordsen, Secretary
Philip Bors, Vice-Chair
Robin Emerson

Non-Voting Members Present

Larry Cheek, Siler City
Michael Fiocco, Pittsboro

Others Present

Emily Yasukochi, Chapel Hill
Transit
Amanda Simmons, Triangle
Transit
Brendan Merithew, NCDOT
Melissa Guilbeau, staff

- 1 1. Purpose and Agenda for today's meeting
- 2 Philip Bors called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for attending.
- 3 2. Public Comment
- 4 Mr. Merithew stated that NC DOT and Pittsboro CTP will hold a steering committee meeting on the
- 5 proposed plan on May 10th from 5-8p at CCCC. There will be no period of public comment. Mr.
- 6 Merithew also stated that a Siler City pre-CTP educational discussion will be held during the second
- 7 Monday (regular) Town board meeting.

Action Items

- 8 3. Approval of Minutes from March 22, 2011 Regular Meeting
- 9 Claire Kane moved to approve March's meeting minutes. Dale Chodorow seconded the motion.
- 10 The motion to approve the minutes was approved with no dissent.

Information & Discussion

- 12 4. Presentation by Amanda Simmons of Triangle Transit (TTA) about Share the Ride NC
- 13 (www.sharetheridenc.org). Share the Ride NC was developed to connect area commuters who are
- 14 interested in carpooling or vanpooling. Ms. Simmons said that TTA needs assistance in recruiting for
- 15 the program, which is a free service to commuters. Share the Ride NC primarily serves commuters
- 16 in Wake, Durham and Orange Counties, not Chatham County. Suggestions from the TAB members
- 17 included ads or mentions via Chatham Chatlist, the Daily Tar Heel, the Chapel Hill News, postings at
- 18 CCCC and the Chatham County public library and inserts into county utility bills. Additional
- 19 discussions included how Share the Ride NC competes with the PX bus line and for-profit
- 20 transportation programs but the overriding goal is to support ways and means to urge commuters
- 21 away from driving to work in single-occupant vehicles. Philip Bors and Dale Chodorow will work on
- 22 a PR piece/flyer and will share their draft product at May TAB meeting.

- 23 5. Presentation on the Chatham County Bicycle Plan, by Melissa Guilbeau
24 Over the past several months, Pinaki Santra, transportation planning intern, has developed a Bicycle
25 Plan for the county. The plan was developed with input from many stakeholders, including the
26 Towns of Pittsboro and Siler City, County advisory boards and members of the public. The plan is
27 almost ready for public comment and it is anticipated that the draft will be emailed to the TAB
28 members and released for comment in a few days. Discussion centered on the difficulties of the
29 timing of soliciting for public comment and approving the plan at the May TAB meeting, it being a
30 goal that the TAB-approved plan goes to the BOC for a June 20 presentation and approval.
- 31 6. Discussion of Potential New Projects, by Melissa Guilbeau
32 The DCHC MPO and TARPO are beginning the process of identifying projects to be included in the
33 next STIP, with potential construction years of 2018 and beyond. Each local jurisdiction has been
34 asked whether they have any new projects (not already on the SPOT list). The DCHC MPO is asking
35 for no more than 3 new highway projects, 6 new bicycle projects and/or 6 new pedestrian projects
36 by May 18. TARPO is asking for any new highway, bicycle or pedestrian projects by June 16. TAB
37 discussion ensued about recommending projects from an already approved plan to be put on the
38 list. Mr. Bors recommended making the Cole Park intersection more pedestrian-friendly (e.g. cross-
39 walks), given its dense commercial activity, growing residential activity and accompanying traffic.
- 40 It was also suggested that additional attention should be devoted to making US 15/501 a safer for
41 bicycling, especially from the Cole Park area and north to Orange County.
- 42 It was also suggested that the Town of Pittsboro could consider the intersection of Rtes. 64 (Bus.)
43 and 87 (Diner area) for better pedestrian access.
- 44 It was also suggested that the Town could also consider the vicinity of Rte. 64 (Bus.) at the Town Hall
45 for better pedestrian access.
- 46 It was also suggested that the intersection of Rte. 15/501 and Powell Place at Lowe's Home
47 Improvement Center could be considered for better pedestrian access.
- 48 It was also suggested that the vicinity of CCCC (Rtes. 64 Bus. and 87) could be considered for better
49 pedestrian access.
- 50 7. Discussion of Commissioners' draft Citizen Advisory Committees Policy, by Melissa Guilbeau
51 At its retreat in January, The BOC asked staff to develop a proposed general operating policy for all
52 non-mandated advisory committees which are under BOC control, in order to provide consistency in
53 committee operation and reporting to the BOC. The resulting draft policy was presented to the BOC
54 on 4/4/11. The TAB may hear of policy adoption in June. The new policy provides: (1) the TAB to
55 change to a Committee; (2) term limits will be 3 years; (3) reaffirmation of the limited powers
56 granted to the Committees (i.e. no self-guided promotional efforts). Additional discussion
57 comments are to be directed to Ms. Guilbeau. Questions arose concerning the appropriateness of
58 teleconferences of subcommittees with no decision provided.
- 59 8. Follow-Up discussion on the Strategic Plan
60 The TAB 2011-2013 Strategic Plan was presented to the BOC by the TAB Chair and Vice-Chair on
61 April 4, 2011. By consensus, the BOC approved the Strategic Plan. Discussion now focused on how
62 to keep the Plan dynamic, an example being the County Bicycle Plan included 'by reference' going
63 forward.

- 64 9. Updates from Staff and/or the Executive Committee
65 Mention was made about upcoming CTP steering committee meetings but with no firm schedule to
66 develop the plan.
- 67 A brief discussion ensued concerning ongoing efforts by Chatham Transit to study service options
68 and changes to ridership. There will be efforts at public outreach, essentially via surveys, with the
69 study process ending sometime in June or July.
- 70 Membership of voting members of the TAB is now at 7. Staff has received 2 applications for
71 membership and will act on these applications following formal adoption by the BOC of new policies
72 for citizen advisory boards.
- 73 The TAB expressed its gratitude to the Chair and Vice Chair for their work and presentation of the
74 Strategic Plan to the BOC.
- 75 There will be staff-level planning efforts including the Town of Chapel Hill, the Town of Carrboro and
76 UNC to study options related to running the PX bus line, perhaps utilizing the Lowe's parking lot.
77 Marketing efforts/ideas are needed and were solicited.
- 78 10. Announcements and New Business
79 There were no announcements or new business.
- 80 11. Adjourn
81 Mr. Chodorow moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Kane seconded. Meeting was adjourned.
- 82 Next meeting: May 24, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. at the Agricultural Building Auditorium in Pittsboro