

# Transportation Advisory Committee

## Minutes of Regular Meeting

10/23/12, 5:30pm  
Agricultural Building Auditorium  
45 South St, Pittsboro



### Voting Members Present

Chuck Gillis  
Dale Chodorow  
Keith Gerarden  
Tammy Phillips  
Philip Bors  
Scott Evenson

### Non-Voting Members Present

Larry Cheek (Siler City)

### Others Present

Brendan Merithew (NCDOT)  
Matt Day (TARPO)  
Jason Sullivan (Chatham Co.)

- 1 1. Purpose and Agenda for today's meeting  
2 Mr. Bors called the meeting to order. A voting quorum was reached.

- 3 2. Public Comment  
4 No one from the general public provided comment.

### 5 Action Items

- 6 3. Approval of minutes from September 25, 2012 Regular Meeting  
7 Mr. Bors recommended corrections as follows: lines 18-19, state "new Chatham Co. staff person"  
8 rather than "new person on Pittsboro staff"; line 29, change "Mr. Day" to "Mr. Merithew". Mr. Gillis  
9 made motion to approve minutes as revised above; motion was seconded by Mr. Chodorow.  
10 Minutes were approved unanimously.

### 11 Information & Discussion

- 12 4. Staff presentation on land use regulations, by Jason Sullivan (Chatham County staff)  
13 Mr. Sullivan presented a wealth of information available via a wide range of county planning maps  
14 and other publicly-accessible data. This information can potentially inform decisions made by this  
15 committee. Overview of Mr. Sullivan's presentation follows:  
16 -Chatham County is partially zoned; the areas that are zoned are zoned differently, from small  
17 residential development all the way up to commercial and some industrial use. The regulatory or  
18 zoning map is used to determine what can be built in a given area of the county. For example,  
19 watershed areas near the rivers flowing through Chatham are zoned for lower-density residential  
20 development than elsewhere in order to protect the rivers.

21 -Land use within the municipalities in Chatham is managed separately by the municipalities'  
22 planning organizations, so county-level land use maps do not show zoning within municipality  
23 boundaries (Pittsboro and Siler City).

24 -It's important to look at the larger picture, paying attention to counties outside Chatham and their  
25 zoning and development plans since those can affect Chatham. This is especially notable in the case  
26 of the area annexed or otherwise influenced by Cary.

27 -There are many different elements of land use for the Transportation Advisory Committee to  
28 consider. Examples beyond zoning itself include locations of parks, refuse connection centers, water  
29 lines, and schools.

30 -Mr. Bors asked for Mr. Sullivan's thoughts and suggestions regarding these and any other elements  
31 to consider in this committee's study of zoning and land use maps.

32 5. Comprehensive Transportation Plan update, by Brendan Merithew (NCDOT)

33 Mr. Merithew printed large maps for attendees to look at, allowing us to visually take into account  
34 overall county planning as well as capacity deficiencies already specified in the CTP. Mr. Merithew  
35 pointed out that the DOT doesn't necessarily always want to build larger roads, and that where  
36 appropriate alternatives exist, DOT embraces those options.

37 Group looked at these large maps and partook in a general discussion of major, developing  
38 intersections throughout the county. It was pointed out that there could potentially be conflict  
39 between recommendations for bicycle road use and vehicular road use in different levels of maps or  
40 plans. This committee should try to avoid recommending things that fly in the face of existing  
41 recommendations or plans from other planning bodies and instead look for alternatives or  
42 compromises where possible.

43 A question arose regarding what power we have to make recommendations on the major routes  
44 within Chatham, since those roads are subject to the NC DOT Strategic Highway Corridors plan. Mr.  
45 Merithew and Mr. Day answered that we need to be sure to put any desired items in the initial CTP.  
46 There is a process for requesting a change to the SHC plan, but there would have to be solid data  
47 and information to back up any such request for change or variation.

48 The next step in the CTP process is to create a draft list of potential or proposed projects. Certain  
49 roads, like 421 and 87 are relatively easy to upgrade to meet the SHC guidelines, so those are low-  
50 hanging fruit for this. Where SHC-affected items are concerned, we should concentrate on providing  
51 interim suggestions for improvement that are in line with the Strategic Highway Corridors' long-  
52 term planned development of the road in question.

53 Keep in mind that this plan looks at 30+ years out, so projects on the list aren't done until there is a  
54 need and funding for them. The SHC plan is a long-range plan to work toward. Interim projects  
55 should not go against SHC planning, but as noted above, steps in the right direction toward  
56 developing highway corridors would be OK to put into the CTP's proposed projects list.

57 Mr. Merithew and Mr. Day noted that the highway map, bike map, and other information is all  
58 considered at the point when a given project is funded, so any recommendations from those  
59 disparate sources are pulled into the project plan at that time.

60 Rte. 64 west of Pittsboro came up in discussion. Suggestion from Mr. Merithew and Mr. Day is that  
61 the CTP recommendation for that road could be “will be upgraded to freeway” while leaving the  
62 specifics of the upgrades to others at a later date.

63 We should also look at roads beyond the strategic highway corridors that are listed as deficiencies to  
64 determine what to recommend. General discussion of other routes ensued; following are notes  
65 from that discussion, not specifically attributed to any particular individual:

66 Potential options on those routes are things like adding bump-out turn lanes and/or center turn  
67 lanes at intersections like Farrington and Martha’s Chapel; turn lanes allow the main flow of traffic  
68 to remain at higher speeds and therefore accommodate more vehicles in a given period of time. 751  
69 probably needs to be widened unless traffic patterns change significantly in future, in a way other  
70 than what is currently expected. 87 N from Pittsboro is a potential safety issue given the layout of  
71 the road; we should probably suggest widening lanes there to provide additional breathing room.

72 Overall, several recommendations were made to Mr. Merithew; due to the holidays changing the  
73 timing and combining the next two months’ meetings into one, the committee will plan to hold an  
74 informal meeting in a few weeks to look at next steps.

#### 75 6. Update from bike/ped subcommittee

76 The bike/ped subcommittee used the October meeting to drive around on several of the bike routes  
77 identified on the Chatham County bike map. In our limited experience, the numbered routes are  
78 well laid out and well signed. Connector routes are unsigned and therefore harder to follow  
79 (especially in the dark!). Roads overall are in good shape and consistent but narrow. This is OK since  
80 most of these roads are carrying low to very low traffic volume. We should look at any signed route  
81 roads that have more than a certain amount of traffic to assess them for potential improvements.  
82 This dovetails with redoing the bike map.

83 We’ve put in for a small (\$1000) grant from the Galloway Ridge Community Fund that would be  
84 used, if awarded, to cover printing expenses.

85 We’re looking to collaborate with the Convention and Visitor’s Bureau in Chatham and with  
86 organizers of 2013 Ironman race that will start in Chatham County.

#### 87 7. Updates from Staff and/or the Executive Committee

88 There were no updates.

#### 89 8. Announcements and New Business

90 There were no announcements or new business.

#### 91 9. 2013 Calendar

92 Mr. Sullivan prepared a tentative 2013 calendar similar to that for 2012. Meetings will be held  
93 monthly except for combining November and December into an early December meeting. Meetings  
94 in 2013 will likely move to a different building and room but remain in the same general location.

95 The committee should hold elections either in December meeting or at start of meeting in January.

#### 96 10. Adjourn

97 The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

98 Next meeting: December 4 at 5:30pm in the Agricultural Building Auditorium in Pittsboro