

Transportation Advisory Committee

Minutes of Regular Meeting

October 27th, 2015, 6:00 pm
Dunlap Classroom
80 East St, Pittsboro



Voting Members Present

Ed Regan
Scott Evenson
Dennis Geiser
Don Wollum
Roy Girolami
JoAnn Beal
Jamie Nunnelly
Matt Alexander
Keith Gerarden

Non-Voting Members Present

Jennifer Park, Ch. Health Dept.
Larry Cheek, Siler City
Michael Fiocco, Pittsboro
Diana Hales, Co. Commissioner

Others Present

Brendan Merithew, NCDOT
Darius Sturdivant, NCDOT
Hillary Pace, Ch. Co. Planning

- 1 1. Purpose and Agenda for today's meeting
2 Chairman Ed Regan welcomed attendees. A 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 August 25th, 2015 Meeting
7 Matt Alexander moved to approve minutes with one correction to the spelling of Jamie Nunnelly's
8 name. Scott Evenson seconded, and minutes were approved unanimously.

9 Information & Discussion

- 10 4. Chatham's Comprehensive Transportation Plan update- Brendan Merithew
11 There are some updates occurring in the Pittsboro area of the CTP. The town would like to hold
12 public input meetings regarding these changes, which will take some time. Committee was asked to
13 choose whether to continue with the CTP process, leaving a "doughnut" in the Pittsboro area; or to
14 wait for Pittsboro to complete the public input process and then proceed with the complete plan.
15 There are pros and cons to either approach. Pittsboro plans on two to three months for their
16 process. TAC recommends to wait for Pittsboro to complete their input process and use the time to
17 review documents so we can move forward readily when Pittsboro's portion is complete. If
18 Pittsboro's input process takes longer than expected, we can revisit this decision and opt to proceed
19 with the "doughnut" out of the plan. Motion to this effect was proposed by Scott Evenson and
20 seconded by Dennis Geiser. It was approved unanimously.

21 Brendan showed the committee an example problem statement from the CTP- route 64 through the
22 county. Diana Hales and Matt Alexander both asked questions about 64, Commissioner Hales
23 regarding the difference between freeway and expressway, and Mr. Alexander about proposed
24 improvements to the Big Woods Rd./rte. 64 intersection.

25 5. Chatham County Comprehensive Plan Update- Hillary Pace

26 Hillary updated the committee on the progress of the Chatham County Comprehensive Plan. County
27 staff have selected a contractor and provided that recommendation to the Board of Commissioners.
28 The BoC approved the recommendation and have officially contracted with the vendor. This will be
29 an involved process spanning the next two years. A steering committee of thirteen has been
30 formed, and progress is expected to occur rapidly. Vendor is a company called Land Design.

31 6. Strategic Plan Subcommittee Update- Ed Regan

32 Ed updated the TAC with the membership of the subcommittee: Ed, Jennifer Park, JoAnn Beal, Phil
33 Bors, Matt Alexander). Ed thanked Jennifer for acting as editor and Matt Day for providing updated
34 census and other data. The strategic plan update is well underway. The subcommittee hopes to
35 simplify and shorten the plan while maintaining its important goals. Members would like to engage
36 the public by encouraging inclusiveness and public involvement in the planning process at all levels.

37 7. Discussion Regarding MPO discretionary funds

38 Hillary updated the committee on both the TARPO SPOT and the MPO process. Discretionary funds
39 are being allowed, and the committee needs to decide which of two projects to recommend.
40 Intersection improvements of O'Kelly Chapel Rd. at 751 versus O'Kelly Chapel Rd./ATT crossing area.
41 Intersection improvements rank higher, and there has been significant activity from citizens and
42 DOT in the ATT crossing area already, so intersection improvements were chosen.

43 Separately, discretionary funds of approximately \$43,000 are available to do a study regarding
44 bicycle signage. Jamie Nunnally moved to use this funding for a bicycle signage and trail crossing
45 study in the MPO area. Keith Gerarden seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
46 Commissioner Hales asked how long this study will take and whether Cary will be involved. Hillary
47 explained that Cary will be consulted and involved with any proposed or recommended
48 improvements.

49 8. Updates from County Staff

50 Hillary shared with the committee that the DOT's proposed improvement to Big Woods Rd./64 is a
51 superstreet. A public input meeting was held on Nov. 5th. The comment period is open until Nov.
52 19th.

53 Hillary attended a conference and presented to participants on the Chatham County recreational
54 bike map. She received lots of questions and positive feedback. This was a good representation of
55 the effect that the TAC can have in the real world. This map, created by the TAC, has had enough
56 impact that it's being considered in policy decisions in the county.

57 9. Bike/Ped Items

58 Bike/Ped discussion occurred in the previous agenda item. No further bike/ped topics were
59 discussed.

60 10. Announcements and New Business

61 Hillary announced that a new county planner is being hired in the near future, and this position will
62 take over as the county planning's TAC liaison.

63 Ed asked about the Chatham megasite. Larry Cheek said that Siler City hasn't heard any news about
64 the megasite lately.

65 10. Adjourn

66 Dennis Geiser moved to adjourn, Don Wollum seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. The
67 meeting adjourned at 7:22 PM.

68 Next meeting: December 3rd, 2015 at 6:00 pm in the Dunlap Classroom