

Transportation Advisory Committee

Minutes of Regular Meeting

June 10, 2014 6:00 pm
Dunlap Classroom
80 East St, Pittsboro



Voting Members Present

Tammy Phillips
Matt Alexander
Scott Evenson
Phil Bors
Erik Broo
Dennis Geiser
Ed Regan
Juan Pedraza
Matt Barnes

Non-Voting Members Present

Jennifer Park, Public Health
Larry Cheek, Town of Siler City

Others Present

Hillary Pace, Chatham Co.
Brendan Merithew, NCDOT
Darius Sturdivant, NCDOT
Scott Walston, NCDOT
Matt Day, TARPO
Jennifer Delcourt
Susan Moist
Candace Bailey
Commissioner Jim Elza

1. Purpose and Agenda for today's meeting

Matt Alexander welcomed everyone to the meeting. A quorum was reached.

2. Public Comment

None

Action Items

3. Approval of Minutes from April 22nd, 2014 Regular Meeting

Phil Bors moved to approve the minutes as presented. Scott Evenson seconded and minutes were approved with no edits.

Information & Discussion

4. Welcoming of New TAC Members and potential member

Hillary welcomed new members Juan Pedraza and Matt Barnes to the TAC. Ms. Susan Moist has requested to join TAC but she lives in a county district that already has full representation according to by-laws. Commissioner Mike Cross would need to approve her appointment to the TAC since the only open member slot is in his district. Ed Regan motioned and Dennis Geiser seconded a motion to recommend Ms. Moist as a member with Commissioner Cross' approval. Motion passes. Hillary will forward the recommendation to Commissioner Cross.

5. SPOT 3.0 Update

Durham Chapel Hill Carrboro MPO Scoring Update - Hillary Pace

Chatham could only have potential projects from the MPO long range plan. Chatham submitted four bike lane projects for Division Eight's SPOT list. Part of the score comes from DOT data, another part of the score comes from NC DOT Division Eight Office. Public input has some bearing on MPO and RPO scoring/rankings. The MPO has proposed an additional vehicle for Chapel Hill Transit PX routes into Pittsboro. TAC Members expressed support of the PX bus expansion vehicle. Ed Regan motioned and Erik seconded that TAC support for the CHT expansion vehicle. The motion passed.

Triangle Rural Planning Organization Local Input Point Assignments – Matt Day

TARPO met earlier today and its TAC will meet next week to address the draft project list for scoring. TARPO members were favorable to recommendations put forth by Chatham. Hillary asked the Chatham TAC if they wished to support the point assignments. (Handout provided). Scott Evenson motioned and Ed Regan seconded agreement with the projects proposed from Chatham on the TARPO draft priority list. The motion passed.

Division Eight Scoring Update – Darius Sturdivant

Division Eight has not yet scored their projects, but they will be doing so in the coming weeks. Darius reported that the NC DOT SPOT staff in Raleigh did not score the four Chatham bike projects. It's not clear why these were left out of the process. Each project would eventually need to have a 20% match. The county would have to meet the local match. Ed Regan moved and Phil Bors seconded to request that the Chatham BOC to send a letter of inquiry to NC DOT to clarify why the bike projects were not scored. The motion passed.

To learn more about the NC DOT Strategic Transportation Initiative, Scott Walston suggested that TAC members see the video on DOT's website, which explains the new process for determining state transportation projects. Also, Darius reported that the Town of Cary will be applying for Enhancement funds to build the O'Kelly Chapel Rd. side path in Chatham County.

6. Recommendation from TAC for Chatham CTP Direction

Brendan Merithew (NCDOT) provided CTP process update and asked for direction on next steps. NCDOT would like to "bubble out" the town of previous Pittsboro highway plan. The recent approval of Chatham Park has led Pittsboro to take a second look at their CTP. Brendan suggests going ahead without Pittsboro in the plan for the time being. County staff agree with moving forward without Pittsboro's portion. Brendan proposes the Aug 26 meeting for TAC feedback on the new maps. The town will continue to have its highway-only plan and want to make sure their CTP still meets the needs of Chatham Park development. TAC expressed no concerns about NC DOT "bubbling out" Pittsboro and re-doing the maps.

7. 15/501 Corridor Study Update

Darius Sturdivant (NCDOT) reported on the 15-501 corridor project. (See handout from DCHC MPO) Stantec was the consultant for the study. DOT is also doing a parallel feasibility study. Highlights included a proposed development across from Southern Village, which will create a four way intersection. Also, intersection improvements at Smith Level Rd. and 15-501 were proposed. Other key intersections for improvement were Mann's Chapel, Polk's Landing and Cole Park. No future widening will be required on 15-501 in Chatham County and "super-street"

designs were proposed to keep traffic flowing as demand increases. The presentation is available for TAC members.

8. Updates from County Staff

Bike Map Update

Hillary mentioned that the new TAC bike loop maps are now available on the county website and will be linked from Active Chatham. Phil suggested that the map website temporarily indicate that the Alston Chapel Bridge is currently closed. Erik suggested using the Strava website as a source for showing roads with heavy traffic. Strava uses “heat maps” to indicate busy roads. Erik will forward the website URL to TAC members.

9. Announcements/New Business and Next Meeting Topics

Discussion of TAC Strategic Plan

Hillary reminded members of the original TAC strategic plan and suggested that the TAC discuss updating the plan and develop annual action steps at the August 26th meeting. TAC members are encouraged to review the original strategic plan in advance of the discussion.

Other discussion

Darius Sturdivant updated the TAC on the request to consider the reducing speed limit at Northwood High School Rd at 15-501 during school hours. He suggested that DOT’s traffic service analyzed data and found that speed was not the cause of previous crashes at that intersection. A second study was conducted reaching the same conclusion when requested by the Town of Pittsboro. NCDOT agreed to continue monitoring speed issues at that intersection.

Scott mentioned that 15-501 is no longer a priority of the state Strategic Highway Corridor Plan. Currently, not being on the SHCP should not impact its SPOT scoring.

Adjourn

Next Meeting: August 26th, 2014 at 6:00