

Transportation Advisory Committee

Minutes of Regular Meeting

April 22, 2014 6:00 pm
Dunlap Classroom
80 East St, Pittsboro



Voting Members Present

Tammy Phillips
Dennis Geiser
Matt Alexander
Scott Evenson
Keith Gerarden
Phil Bors

Non-Voting Members Present

Jennifer Park, Public Health
Michael Fiocco, Pittsboro

Others Present

Erik Broo, prospective member
Mike Watkins, ChathamMatters
Hillary Pace, Chatham Co.
Brendan Merithew, NCDOT
Darius Sturdivant, NCDOT
Matt Day, TARPO
Felix Nwoko, MPO

- 1 1. Purpose and Agenda for today's meeting
2 Matt Alexander welcomed everyone to the meeting. A quorum was reached.

- 3 2. Public Comment
4 Mike Watkins asked for updates on changes to the CTP and other plans related to Chatham Park
5 from/for the Town of Pittsboro and the Chatham Park developers. Brendan Merithew suggested
6 covering this in the CTP agenda item, to which all agreed.

7 Action Items

- 8 3. Approval of Minutes from February 25th, 2014 Regular Meeting
9 Scott Evenson moved to approve the minutes as presented. Phil Bors seconded and minutes were
10 approved with no edits.

11 Information & Discussion

- 12 4. Bicycle and Pedestrian Discussion- Phil Bors
13 Phil updated the committee on the status of the new Chatham County bike route map. It has been
14 printed and is ready for dissemination. The group discussed and suggested a number of locations
15 where printed maps could be placed as well as several online locations where it could be hosted for
16 electronic access. A few notable locations (there were too many for me to keep up with the entire
17 list) were the new bike shop in Pittsboro, the Pittsboro kiosk at Jordan Lake, and at the bike planning
18 summit to be held in May.

- 19 5. Chatham's Comprehensive Transportation Plan- Brendan Merithew, NCDOT
20 The CTP is on hold due to the recommendations the Lawrence Group made about additional east-
21 west connections in the greater Pittsboro area. Brendan is meeting with Pittsboro planners to
22 decide what changes, if any, to make to the CTP.
- 23 We have two options at this point: Either put entire CTP on hold pending changes from Pittsboro, or
24 continue with county CTP leaving out the Pittsboro section and hoping to integrate it back into the
25 overall plan when decisions are finalized. Brendan will come back to the TAC after meeting with
26 town planners once he has a better idea of the scope of any proposed changes, and we can
27 determine at that point which approach to take.
- 28 Brendan's comments answered Mike Watkins' question for updates with relevance to Chatham Park
29 planning.
- 30 Additional discussion of the CTP included the question of whether the bike loops established on the
31 new county bike route map should be shown on the CTP as "needs improvement" for segments of
32 road that need shoulders added or other work in order to bring the whole of each loop up to
33 standard; or whether they should be shown with the entirety of each loop as "needs improvement."
34 The former approach is more difficult since it requires identifying individual sections more closely
35 now, where the latter is easier but doesn't help with project prioritization down the road. No
36 decision was made on this at this point, but a suggestion was made for anyone who can to ride or
37 drive the loops and report back with impressions and details.
- 38 6. Updates from Staff and/or the Executive Committee
39 SPOT 3.0: Hillary had reps from DOT, TARPO, and the MPO present at the meeting to discuss SPOT
40 scoring. Local input is being done now and will be complete by the end of April. DOT will release all
41 project scores for all organizations in May. Points will be assigned to each project in June, then a
42 period for public input will be provided. DOT is still working on its methodology for assigning points
43 and determining prioritization of projects. The RPO uses slightly different criteria than DOT or the
44 MPO. Jennifer Park asked whether the scoring/decision-making process is finalized and
45 standardized- it's not at this point. Matt Alexander pointed out that politically, economic
46 development seems to be the most important factor; Matt Day says that congestion/traffic volume
47 is still the primary driver.
- 48 TAC Annual Report is to be presented to the Board of Commissioners on May 19th in their 2:00
49 session. The committee discussed the content desired in the report by going through last year's
50 report to update it for this year. The updated presentation will be shared with the TAC before
51 presentation to the Board in May.
- 52 7. Announcements and New Business
53 TAC Member Recruitment Update- Erik Broo introduced himself and stated that he is interested in
54 joining the committee. Matt Alexander moved to send a recommendation to the Board of
55 Commissioners for removal of James Stewart, who has not attended a meeting and whom we have
56 been unable to contact. Scott Evenson seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.
- 57 Strategic Highway Corridors-related meetings will be held in May. If we have questions about
58 Strategic Highway Corridors plans and concepts, this would be a good opportunity to ask and learn
59 more. We should also be able to give input at these meetings, and we can send input electronically
60 to Judy Meyer (see handout distributed during meeting).

61 Matt Alexander asked about the status of the 15-501 corridor study. Darius Sturdivant explained
62 that the project is moving forward. A hired consultant is working on a model, using traffic
63 projections to simulate what the corridor will look like in 2040.

64 Phil Bors suggested adding an agenda item to discuss the Strategic Transportation Investments plan
65 and how it will affect Chatham County.

66 Additionally, a suggestion was made to add Chatham Transit as an agenda item.

67 After discussion, it was decided to reschedule the June meeting to Tuesday 6/10 with a fallback date
68 of Thursday 6/12, so that the committee can make a resolution and pass it to the RPO before they
69 meet to vote on their projects on 6/19.

70 Phil Bors brought up a safety concern about the new Bojangles. DOT personnel explained that
71 Pittsboro requested the DOT study 15-501 from Lowe's up to Northwood High School when the
72 development where the Bojangles is being built was proposed, but the study came back as not
73 warranting improvement or changes. This may need to be revisited down the line as many people
74 are likely to be concerned over this due to the perception of high schoolers endangered while
75 running across to get lunch at the new fast food locations. Darius offered to bring this up at his
76 monthly DOT meeting to suggest revisiting this. Michael Fiocco will try to get the town board to
77 pass a resolution re: concerns about this for Darius to take to the DOT meeting.

78 10. Adjourn

79 The meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.

80 Next meeting: June 10, at 6:00 pm in the Dunlap Classroom (across the parking lot from the
81 Agricultural Building Auditorium) in Pittsboro