

Transportation Advisory Committee

Minutes of Regular Meeting

February 25th, 2014, 6:00 pm
Dunlap Classroom
80 East St, Pittsboro



Voting Members Present

Tammy Phillips
Keith Gerarden
Matt Alexander
Scott Evenson
Phil Bors
Ed Regan

Non-Voting Members Present

Jennifer Park, Public Health
Larry Cheek, Siler City

Others Present

Darius Sturdivant, NCDOT
Brendan Merithew, NCDOT
Matt Day, TARPO
Hillary Pace, Chatham Co.

- 1 1. Purpose and Agenda for today's meeting
- 2 Chair Scott Evenson welcomed attendees to the meeting.
- 3 2. Public Comment
- 4 Mike Watkins, steering committee member of public group Pittsboro Matters, attended in order to
- 5 hear Brendan Merithew speak about the Comprehensive Transportation Plan as it involves and will
- 6 be affected by the Chatham Park development.

7 Action Items

- 8 3. Approval of Minutes from the November 7th, 2013 Special Meeting
- 9 Phil Bors moved to approve the minutes. Matt Alexander seconded, vote was unanimous to approve
- 10 the minutes with no edits.

11 Information & Discussion

- 12 4. Chatham's Comprehensive Transportation Plan- Brendan Merithew, NCDOT
- 13 Brendan explained to the group the current status of the CTP process. He is still working on the draft
- 14 narrative to accompany the maps. He has not yet scheduled the public input meetings we've
- 15 discussed in several recent TAC meetings because the report is not yet ready. He plans at this point
- 16 to schedule them to occur by the end of April. There was some discussion of adding bike-specific
- 17 recommendations to the CTP. DOT personnel request that committee members look through the list
- 18 of existing sections under review by DOT for repaving or other work to prioritize ones that we would
- 19 like to see dealt with where/when possible.
- 20 Matt Alexander brought up questions raised in the previous evening's Chatham Park-related
- 21 presentation to the Town Board by the Lawrence Group. Mike Watkins explained the issue
- 22 succinctly: roughly, some people are concerned about the existing plan because it may pull activity
- 23 and desirable traffic away from downtown Pittsboro and out to the proposed village centers

24 planned at intersections of the new roads planned around Pittsboro to the east and southeast.
25 Lawrence Group consultants recommended that Pittsboro's board and planning staff give thought to
26 how roads are routed and how this development could negatively affect the downtown area.
27 Bypasses are typically seen as desirable for traffic flow purposes, but they cause a major drop in
28 traffic on roads through town, which has a considerable economic impact on existing local
29 businesses.

30 Draft maps are planned for presentation to the public in April. The timeline beyond that is an
31 additional couple of months for any small changes to be incorporated to the plan, followed by
32 processing it through each of the town and county boards for hopeful approval.

33 Additional discussion of Chatham Park plans followed. Mike Watkins made clear his position and
34 concerns about the proposed development- that he and Pittsboro Matters are not trying to block
35 the development altogether, but they are attempting to ask appropriate questions with an eye
36 toward long-term positive effects rather than this development turning into another Cary.

37 5. Update from bike/ped subcommittee- Scott Evenson

38 Scott presented an update on the progress of the county bike map update. The overall map is
39 nearing completion. Dimensions at full scale are 17" by 20". Compared to the previous version of
40 the county bike route map, colors and layout have been updated and it is much easier to see, read
41 and understand now. The front has an overall view of the county with route descriptions for the
42 newly-created recommended bike loops, and the back contains a larger view of the whole county
43 with each route in its place.

44 Jennifer has secured funding through a grant for printing 1000 maps in color at the full size.

45 Ed Regan moved to approve the map as it stands and to move forward with printing. Keith seconded
46 the motion and it was unanimously approved.

47 Phil asked where we should place copies of the paper maps and where to put links online. Thoughts
48 included Chatham County facilities, such as all Parks and Recreation facilities within the county; the
49 Active Chatham website; and gas stations along major cycling routes/corridors. Other suggestions
50 are welcome and can be sent to Hillary.

51 6. Updates from Staff and/or the Executive Committee

52 SPOT 3.0: Matt Day explained that they're in the process of entering projects for scoring. Chatham
53 project in Siler City is tentatively in the middle of the pack in the regional category, and X Campbell
54 Road scores well divisionally. Final scores are expected in May.

55 Hillary explained that the bike/ped projects we identified in November did not make the cut in the
56 MPO process, but they've been submitted to our DOT division and we can hope to see results from
57 that.

58 Darius Sturdivant mentioned that the DOT is taking comments now from the public on its regulatory
59 standards. After the meeting, Hillary emailed the committee the link to the survey where public
60 input can be provided ([http://www.transportation.gov/fastlane/we-want-you-guide-our-second-
61 retrospective-regulatory-review](http://www.transportation.gov/fastlane/we-want-you-guide-our-second-retrospective-regulatory-review)).

62 Ed Regan brought up a safety issue and asked how to best bring it to the DOT's attention. Darius
63 explained that safety issues can be reported by anyone at any time and requested that Ed send him
64 the details offline so he can notify the appropriate people for the issue to be considered. After

65 discussion, it was determined that in this case, it would be appropriate for the HOA in Ed's
66 community to jointly request the issue, of adding a traffic signal at the intersection of US 64 and Big
67 Woods Rd. be considered.

68 7. Announcements and New Business

69 a. Appointment of Committee Officers

70 Vice-Chair was voted on first. Phil nominated Ed Regan as vice-chair. Ed accepted. Phil moved,
71 Keith seconded, and Ed was approved unanimously as Vice-Chair. Chair was voted on next. Scott
72 nominated Matt Alexander, who accepted the nomination. A motion was made and seconded,
73 and Matt was elected unanimously as Chair. Secretary was voted on third. Phil and Scott
74 nominated Keith, who accepted. A motion was made and seconded, and Keith was elected
75 unanimously as Secretary.

76 b. TAC Meeting Schedule

77 Hillary pointed out that we have recently had trouble meeting on a monthly basis due to a lack
78 of quorum. Additionally, we are nearing completion of both the CTP and the bike map update,
79 so a standing bike/ped committee may not be necessary for the time being. Phil moved to
80 absorb the bike/ped committee into the TAC and treat any updates regarding bike/ped as
81 regular meeting agenda items until such time as it is deemed necessary to break it back out as a
82 full-fledged subcommittee.

83 New Chair Matt Alexander moved to switch to bimonthly meetings on the following schedule:
84 February 25th, April 22nd, June 24th, August 26th, October 28th, December 3rd. A motion was
85 made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

86 Matt Alexander asked for a status report on the 15-501 corridor study. Darius responded that it
87 is still in progress but recommendations for treatment are expected to be completed soon.

88 c. Member Attendance

89 Hillary notified the committee that there is a member who has not yet attended a meeting
90 despite several attempts at contact via email. The new leadership of the committee will attempt
91 contact by phone prior to making a decision about whether to remove that committee member
92 from the committee's roster.

93 d. Additional item

94 Mike Watkins asked about the timeframe for building of roads included in the CTP. DOT and
95 TARPO representatives present explained that the CTP is a long-range plan and won't mean new
96 roads going in quickly, so the likelihood is that Chatham Park's developer would need to build
97 the roads they need to begin their buildout.

98 8. Adjourn

99 The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

100 9. Next meeting: April 22nd, 2014 at 6:00 pm in the Dunlap Classroom (across the parking lot
101 from the Agricultural Building Auditorium) in Pittsboro