

# Transportation Advisory Committee

## Minutes of Regular Meeting

September 24, 2013, 6:00 pm  
Dunlap Classroom  
80 East St, Pittsboro



### Voting Members Present

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

### Non-Voting Members Present

Larry Cheek, Siler City  
Jennifer Park, Public Health  
Dan Stroupe, Chatham Transit

### Others Present

Hillary Pace, Chatham Co.  
Brendan Merithew, NCDOT  
Darius Sturdivant, NCDOT  
Matt Day, TARPO  
Dale McKeel, DCHC MPO

- 1 1. Purpose and Agenda for today's meeting  
2 Scott Evenson welcomed everyone to the meeting. 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 the August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Regular Meeting  
7 Minutes were approved unanimously with no edits.

### 8 Information & Discussion

- 9 4. New TAC Member Welcome and Introduction- Hillary Pace  
10 Hillary notified the committee that Dale Chodorow has withdrawn from service. The new member  
11 Hillary planned to introduce was not present.
- 12 5. Chatham's Comprehensive Transportation Plan, Brendan Merithew, NCDOT  
13 CTP is undergoing the internal NCDOT review process. We remain on track for early-to-mid-  
14 November public input meetings with potential adoption of the CTP occurring in early 2014.
- 15 Scott Evenson asked whether the Chatham Park development has been considered in the CTP. DOT  
16 staff responded that the developers and county planners/NCDOT went through 26 iterations in  
17 designing the road proposals, so it has been thoroughly considered, but there could be additional  
18 changes down the road as development takes place.

19 6. SPOT 3.0 discussion, Hillary Pace  
20 Committee was shown a list of the top 20 projects in the Chatham area, ranked by county staff. This  
21 year all types of projects go on one central list instead of different ones that pull from separate pots  
22 of money. The RPO has asked each county to develop a single list of projects across all modes of  
23 transportation. RPO is limited to 17 highway projects, 20 (5 per county) bike/ped projects, and 5 rail  
24 projects. Funding at this stage is only guaranteed for 2016-2021, anything beyond that is subject to  
25 reapportioning at the next SPOT process in two years. Timeline for this is short, so committee is  
26 being asked to assess and provide comment on this list ASAP. Existing list has 5 plain road projects, 3  
27 bike/ped, 7 multimodal, and 5 air/rail/etc. Matt Day pointed out that the DOT and RPO have no  
28 official designation for multimodal projects.

29 The group read through the list of projects and discussed its contents. Matt Alexander asked  
30 whether new funding structure will affect how projects get scored. Matt Day explained that projects  
31 where there is a current, significant issue or problem are the ones most likely to get done. He  
32 suspects the majority of money will go to highway projects, mostly in urbanized areas, so Chatham  
33 may not get many projects funded given the rural character and low population density of the  
34 county. He pointed out, however, that in low density areas the locality only has to do a 10% match  
35 for building sidewalks, etc. if they're incidental to a highway project. If done on their own, the  
36 required local match would be 20%.

37 Matt Day explained that money is allocated as follows: 40% state, 30% regional, 30% division.  
38 Statewide percentage covers basically all big highway projects. Regional covers some highway things  
39 that span multiple counties. Division covers pretty much all bike/ped, air, etc.

40 Scoring percentages are as follows: Regional is determined 70% by data, 20% by RPO/MPO, and 10%  
41 by division engineer. Division is determined 50% by data, 30% by RPO/MPO, and 20% by division  
42 engineer.

43 The RPO will put all their projects together and assign 100 points to each of the top 14 projects,  
44 using all of their available 1400 points.

45 It helps for the TAC to approve this list so it can be seen as viewed and approved by county  
46 representatives.

47 After discussion, the committee voted to approve of the list as presented and recommends the  
48 board of commissioners approve it as well. Phil Bors suggested checking to see if bike/ped  
49 improvements can be stated more clearly in the descriptions of the projects on the SPOT list.

#### 50 7. Update from Bike/Ped subcommittee, Phil Bors

51 Phil reports that the group is still moving forward with the "Chatham County Recreational Bike  
52 Loops" map. Maps are nearly complete and the first one is almost finalized. Once that's done, a  
53 template will exist that should help creating the remaining ones go more quickly.

#### 54 8. Updates from Staff and/or the Executive Committee

55 Matt Day and Hillary Pace attended "Complete Streets" training in August. Complete Streets is a  
56 statewide policy requiring road planners to account for all modes of transit, disabled users, etc.

57 Dale McKeel announced the opening of the American Tobacco Trail bridge over I-40 at Southpoint at  
58 9:00 AM on Oct. 12. Bike/ped festival of sorts will accompany the official opening. Mr. McKeel also  
59 noted the upcoming NC Bike Summit to be held in Carrboro running from Oct. 18-20.

60 9. Announcements and New Business

61 Phil Bors mentioned the incident that resulted in two cyclists' deaths on 15-501 recently and asked  
62 whether the DOT employees can bring up the topic of improvements to 15-501 from the Chapel Hill  
63 town limits to Cole Park in Chatham Co.

64 10. Adjourn

65 The meeting adjourned at 7:22 PM.

66 Next meeting: October 22, 2013 at 6:00 pm in the Dunlap Classroom (across the parking lot  
67 from the Agricultural Building Auditorium) in Pittsboro