

Transportation Advisory Committee

Minutes of Regular Meeting

June 25, 2013, 6:00 pm
Dunlap Classroom
80 East St, Pittsboro



Voting Members Present

Phil Bors
Keith Gerarden
Matt Alexander

Non-Voting Members Present

Larry Cheek (Siler City)

Others Present

Brendan Merithew, NCDOT
Darius Sturdivant, NCDOT
Jennifer Park, Chatham Co.
Hillary Pace, Chatham Co.

- 1 1. Purpose and Agenda for today's meeting
2 Co-Chairs of TAC are out, so Phil Bors was nominated to run meeting in their absence. Attendees
3 went around the room to introduce themselves.

- 4 2. Public Comment
5 No one from the general public provided comment.

6 Action Items

- 7 3. Approval of Minutes from April 23, 2013 Regular Meeting
8 A quorum was not reached, so minutes could not be approved. Approval of minutes will be pushed
9 to the July regular meeting.

10 Information & Discussion

- 11 4. Chatham's Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP), Brendan Merithew, NCDOT
12 Brendan's meetings with the town boards and county commissioners have had to be postponed
13 once already and now need to be postponed again due to the timing of the NCDOT internal review
14 process, which can be lengthy. Meetings are currently scheduled for July but need to be moved back
15 to the next board sessions after that, presumably on August 19th for Chatham Commissioners.

16 UPDATE from emails sent after meeting: Brendan emailed TAC membership to notify us that the
17 DOT changed their plans in order to make it possible for the plan to be presented at the July board
18 meetings as originally scheduled. Brendan will present to Pittsboro town board on July 22nd, Siler
19 City town board on August 5th, and Goldston town board on August 5th. The Chatham County
20 Commissioners meeting will be held August 19th. Still plan to hold public input sessions in September
21 as discussed during meeting.

22 There is nothing for the TAC to do at this stage; we wait until these presentations have been made
23 to the boards, then add commentary to accompany the CTP maps.

24 A new recommendation was added to the CTP maps: Hollands Chapel and Lewter Shop don't
25 currently intersect, proposed changed will align them to intersect directly.

26 After town boards and county commissioners review CTP and their input is included, public
27 meetings will need to be scheduled and executed. This will likely take place in September. Hoping to
28 hold meetings in Siler City, Pittsboro, and possibly Silk Hope and/or Moncure if venues and
29 scheduling can be arranged. Hillary will identify venues and times, NCDOT will staff and run
30 meetings. Matt Alexander mentioned that he had attended the Chatham Park development
31 meeting on 6/24 and thinks that some questions about that project may come up in the CTP public
32 input meetings, so it would be good to have someone knowledgeable about that issue on hand at
33 the meetings, particularly any held in Pittsboro. One possible additional meeting location came up in
34 conversation, Fearrington. Hillary will check into venue availability there as well. TAC decided on a
35 maximum of four meetings given staffing considerations, so Hillary will see what's available and set
36 meetings up in available, appropriate locations. Hillary will also talk to Chatham Transit Network
37 about advertising these meetings to their riders and possibly picking people up to attend meetings
38 if/as needed.

39 5. Bike/Ped Subcommittee update

40 Subcommittee did not meet due to low number of available members. However, progress has been
41 made. The updated bike map is nearly complete thanks to Scott Evenson. Next step is to connect
42 Scott with Jeremy Poss to integrate additional info. Hillary suggested the TAC invite Brian Bock to
43 the next regular meeting to bring him up to speed on the next projects we'll be involved with once
44 the CTP is complete. Hillary tentatively plans to attend the next subcommittee meeting to help
45 move this along.

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

47 Darius Sturdivant presented information about the kickoff of the 15-501 corridor study. It covers the
48 area from 64 and 15-501 in Pittsboro to the intersection of 15-501 and 54, which is a 13-mile stretch
49 that has 25 intersections, 15 of which are currently signalized. Goal of study is to help guide future
50 development of road to keep traffic flowing well. Attendance at kickoff meeting was strong from
51 other municipalities nearby (Durham, Orange, etc.) with requests to consider proposals for projects
52 happening in nearby areas as they may impact traffic volume on 15-501 in coming years. Timeline
53 for study is short, draft plan will be delivered by October, wrap up by end of year.

54 Recommendations that come out of the study will be opened for public comment if we have
55 concerns. Hillary is on the steering committee for the study, so she can be a liaison for this. Study
56 will focus primarily on motorized travel, not bike/ped. Phil recommends that the study consider
57 bike/ped since it's a significant concern, and it sounds like others on the steering committee for the
58 study are interested in this aspect as well.

59 Hillary mentioned that Scott Evenson and Phil Bors did an admirable job presenting the overview of
60 the committee's work in the required annual presentation to the county commissioners.

61 7. TAC Member Recruitment, Hillary Pace, Chatham Co.

62 Hillary updated us on the TAC membership search. Committee needs three members, one from each
63 of districts 2, 4, and 5. Keith Gerarden, Dennis Geiser, and Chuck Gillis have all submitted
64 applications for continued service and should be reappointed officially on Aug. 19. Jennifer Park will
65 be added as ex officio committee member as well. There is one potential member applying from
66 district 5, so hopefully that will fill one vacancy.

67 8. Proposed Scenic Byway Discussion, Hillary Pace
68 Orange and Chatham want to create a scenic byway from the Old Well to Jordan Lake. Orange Co,
69 UNC-CH, and possible town of Chapel Hill are all on board, so Chatham Co. commissioners have
70 asked for TAC's input on whether this is a positive for Chatham in our opinion before they decide
71 whether to agree to the plan. The main impact of the designation would be to off-premises signs for
72 businesses, which would be restricted more than in non-designated areas. Matt Alexander noted
73 that the proposal doesn't seem to benefit Chatham much and suggested that the byway be routed
74 to end in Pittsboro instead, bringing greater economic benefit to Chatham Co. TAC decision was to
75 neither approve or disapprove but asked Hillary to relay our questions to the commissioners: 1.
76 Concerns about restrictions of/to business (signage, potential land use restrictions, etc.); 2. Concern
77 about future road improvements (would this designation prevent later road expansion, etc.)?

78 9. Announcements and New Business

79 Jennifer Park presented her updated Chatham Co. Physical Activity Resource Guide. It is complete
80 and ready for distribution. We can get additional copies if desired. She plans to distribute it to a
81 wide range of venues. Bike/ped subcommittee should let Active Chatham know if we want to apply
82 for grant funding to print our updated bike map. We can add links to the bike loops from our map to
83 the electronic version of the PARG map. Jennifer will be serving on the board of the Chatham Transit
84 Network and will be happy to pass information on to them on our behalf. She has already suggested
85 that they consider equipping some of their vehicles with bike racks.

86 Keith Gerarden noted that he will be out of town for the July meeting and someone will need to step
87 in as Secretary.

88 10. Adjourn

89 The meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

90 11. Next meeting: July 23, 2013 at 6:00 pm in the Dunlap Classroom in Pittsboro.