

Transportation Advisory Committee

Minutes of Regular Meeting

3/26/13, 6:00 pm
Dunlap Classroom
80 East St, Pittsboro



Voting Members Present

Phil Bors
Chuck Gillis
Matt Alexander
Dennis Geiser
Keith Gerarden

Non-Voting Members Present

Others Present

Matt Day, TARPO
Jennifer Park, Chatham Co
Brendan Merithew, NCDOT
Scott Walston, NCDOT
Darius Sturdivant, NCDOT
Jason Sullivan, Chatham Co

- 1 1. Purpose and Agenda for today's meeting
- 2 Meeting was called to order by Phil Bors, who acted as chair due to the elected chair and vice-chair
- 3 both being unable to attend. Meeting attendees went around the room to briefly introduce
- 4 themselves to the group.
- 5 2. Public Comment
- 6 No one from the general public provided comment.

7 Action Items

- 8 3. Approval of Minutes from Jan. 22 regular meeting
- 9 Minutes were approved as provided- no discussion or edits were made.

10 Information & Discussion

- 11 4. Chatham County Physical Activity Resource Guide and Community Transformation Grant
- 12 project presentation, Jennifer Park
- 13 Ms. Park presented the group with details of her efforts to update the Chatham Co. Physical Activity
- 14 Resource Guide (PARG) map. This effort dovetails with the projects coming out of the Community
- 15 Transformation Grant project. That grant's aims in Chatham County are:
- 16 To increase the availability and usage of free places (like government property used as parks) to
- 17 encourage people to be active. To increase the number of governmental grounds that are smoke
- 18 and tobacco free. Increase the number of people with access to free physical activity opportunities
- 19 through joint use agreements. Develop new and enhance existing farmers' markets, mobile markets,
- 20 farm stands, and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs. Increase the number of
- 21 community organizations offering support for individuals identified with high blood pressure, high
- 22 cholesterol, or tobacco use.

23 Matt Alexander asked how the PARG map can relate to the map the bike/ped subcommittee is
24 working to update. They won't show all the same resources, but some items will be listed on both
25 maps. Initially, Ms. Park needs help from the TAC with looking at her list of places to include on the
26 PARG map; Matt Alexander and Phil Bors offered to review the list.

27 5. Comprehensive Transportation Plan Update, Brendan Merithew

28 Mr. Merithew presented the committee on the current status of the CTP process.
29 Recommendations for changes from TAC are complete, so now we can start with approval process.
30 First, the DOT does an internal review, then it can go to the county and municipalities for initial
31 viewing. Once that's done, it can be presented to the public for their comments. Then we can look
32 at it again to incorporate suggestions from public or other bodies as necessary. Once that's
33 complete, the plan can be moved into the adoption phase (where it may or may not actually be
34 adopted).

35 Only small changes have been made to the maps since our last meeting. Items of note are changing
36 an intersection near Siler City and widening the road connected to that intersection, both to
37 accommodate the proposed megasite development north of town.

38 Phil Bors asked about the choice between making downtown Siler City a boulevard or creating a
39 bypass around the town. Mr. Merithew explained that the boulevard is the short-term solution to
40 potential traffic increase there, with the bypass not expected to be required in the near future.
41 However, if the Siler City megasite is developed, that could move the bypass' timeframe up. The
42 bypass must be shown in the CTP to satisfy requirements of the Strategic Highway Corridor at the
43 state level. Plan for dealing with this is to show the bypass on the CTP but include language in the
44 accompanying report to show that SHC is on the map but not justified by current traffic projections
45 within the life of the CTP.

46 The next step is to send the plan through DOT's internal review, then on to governmental orgs and
47 then the public. How does TAC want to help get the word out when public review come up? We will
48 discuss ideas for public outreach at the next TAC meeting. Scott Walston pointed out that using
49 facilities like libraries, community colleges, etc. for public input sessions because the public knows
50 where those locations are, unlike potentially obscure government buildings. Jennifer Park suggested
51 that there be an interpreter on hand for help communicating with Spanish speakers. Mr. Merithew
52 is ready to move forward with DOT internal review, and the TAC has given him the go-ahead to do
53 so. NCDOT is open to doing public input meetings with any advocacy groups or other specific
54 populations that may be interested in the CTP plan.

55 6. Updates from Bike/Ped subcommittee meeting

56 Jennifer Park presented to the subcommittee at its meeting the week before the TAC meeting. We
57 discussed how to coordinate her physical activity map with our updates to the Chatham County
58 bicycle map. We also went over updated detailed route maps with an eye toward showing them in
59 as clear and easy-to-understand a format as possible. Scott Evenson is continuing mapping work to
60 include changes identified. Phil Bors and Dennis Geiser went to the Triangle area bike/ped
61 workshop. The idea of eventually adding commuting routes to the Chatham Co bike map came up
62 as a result of a comment made in that workshop. We believe it's premature to consider commuting
63 routes at this time, but that may eventually be a useful addition to the map.

- 64 7. Updates from Staff and/or the Executive Committee
65 Chatham County is participating in a DOT-funded project with UNC Transportation Research and
66 Education. Goal is to identify transportation deserts within Chatham Co.
- 67 NCDOT is embarking on a corridor study on 15-501 from Pittsboro to the Orange County border.
68 Project details will be presented to Chatham Co. commissioners on April 15 if anyone from the TAC
69 wants to attend. Hillary Pace will represent Chatham Co. on steering committee for this study. This
70 project is being driven by potential development in both Orange and Chatham and is intended to
71 see how everything will fit together.
- 72 NCDOT also has a feasibility study on 751 that takes a long-term look at that corridor. Study will
73 provide a cost estimate and report on effects of additional widening or other ways to improve traffic
74 flow.
- 75 Jason Sullivan brought up the county's public records policy so that we'll all be aware that we are
76 subject to the policy when conducting county business- see Jason for policy documentation.
- 77 8. TAC Committee size discussion
78 Postponed to April meeting in hopes of greater attendance during this discussion.
- 79 9. Annual Report discussion
80 Postponed to April meeting as above.
- 81 10. Announcements and New Business
82 Dennis Sturdivant spoke about the Safe Routes to School project. He recommends that if we have a
83 request for a projet that meets the criteria for Safe Routes to School (SRTS), we contact Ed Johnson
84 to request it. SRTS projects can relate to any of the 5 Es: Education, Enforcement, Engineering,
85 Encouragement, Evaluation and must be within a two-mile radius of a school.
- 86 11. Adjourn
87 The meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.
- 88 Next meeting: April 23 at 6:00 pm in the Dunlap Classroom (across the parking lot from the
89 Agricultural Building Auditorium) in Pittsboro