

Transportation Advisory Committee

Minutes of Stakeholder Meeting

February 23rd 2016, 6:00 pm
Dunlap Classroom
80 East St, Pittsboro



Voting Members Present

Don Wollum
Matt Alexander
Ed Regan
Roy Girolami

Non-Voting Members Present

Jennifer Park
Mike Zelek
Michael Fiocco

Others Present

Brendan Merithew, NCDOT
Matt Day, TARPO
Don Bryson, VHB
Dave Head, VHB

- 1 1. Purpose and Agenda for today's meeting
2 Ed Regan welcomed attendees. Quorum was not reached.

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

5 **No Action Items:** Minutes from last meeting could not be approved

6 **Information:**

7 3. VHB meet with TAC for a stakeholder meeting to discuss transportation issues in Chatham
8 County. Hillary Pace introduced VHB consultants Don Bryson and Dave Head. A general explanation of
9 the Comprehensive Plan and timeline was given. After the completion of the stakeholder meetings, the
10 Phase one report will be completed in April and a Public Participation Plan will be issued for county wide
11 input. Afterward, the scope will be refined to pull together salient topics. Phase 2 will comprise the
12 detailed plan completed April 2017.

13 Matt Alexander asked how this County wide Comprehensive Land Use plan fit in or influences
14 the Comprehensive Transportation Plan. Brendan Merithew, Matt Day, and Hillary Pace explained the
15 steps toward the county adopting the CTP. They also explained that any recommendations that come
16 out of the Comprehensive Plan process can be amended when the Pittsboro portion is ready to be
17 adopted.

18 Don Bryson asked TAC to answer and discuss transportation issues that concern TAC members.
19 Ed Reagan said the East - West vehicular transport routes, connectivity, and safety. A prime example
20 was 64. Citizen concerns about safety may have a disconnect because newcomers of understanding and
21 expectation of the county doesn't match longtime residents.

22
23 Matt Alexander said He's concerned with North - South vehicular traffic. A prime example was 15 501
24 development coming such as with Chatham Park, main connector traffic is a concern. Matt pointed out
25 there are viable solutions to alleviate traffic such as connectivity between subdivisions, stoplights and
26 Michigan left turns, but not sure which would be the best option.

27 Michael Fiocco said his main concern is focused on Pittsboro and the urban environment's Bikability
28 and Walkability. He would like to ensure the safety of residents and visitors.

29
30 Roy Girolami said his main concern is the amount of subdivisions that don't have connectivity. Without
31 looks like it is going to be a mess (Lewter shop) 751 (at the stoplight at 64 is a backup – maybe
32 intersection improvements not necessarily more lanes - bottlenecks) weekend cyclists safety concern.
33 Experience just in the wrong place at wrong time

34
35 Don Wollum said his main concern about Transportation is in the Rural areas. He noted that due to
36 Alamance's recent growth there has been increase in cars on the road as a pass through for commuters.
37 Specifically on Chicken bridge to get away from I40. He noticed Little RiverRd is also getting cross traffic
38 increase the last 2 years. He also said 87 old hwy with lumber trucks is only safe for cars. He asked if
39 there is a tacking mechanism for how much of the county is gravel road?
40 DOT keeps record of impervious surface and keeping gravel roads lowers speeds.

41
42 Brendan Merrithew said his main concern was for rural bicyclists safety. In the CTP recommendation
43 map, there is a struggle to improve safety by way of funding and limited options.

44
45 Matt Day said the funding is his main concern. We can try to get as many things funded as we can, but
46 we have to ensure we are selecting the right things to submit in the first place. TARPO created a
47 Regional Bike/Ped plan to make sure made sure prioritization process improved to match the funds we
48 have with the best projects.

49
50 Mike Zelek said his concern is rural bicyclist safety. There are certainly health benefits to cycling but
51 need to be weighed against bike safety.

52
53 Hillary Pace's main concern was how widely diverse the county is and how we can accurately reflect
54 that. Would like a plan that has equitable distribution, access, and safety. She is concerned about the
55 population density that are underrepresents the Western part of the county. Also, the coordination of
56 processes going on in the county influencing the evolution of understanding and advocacy. Attractive
57 amenity for the county.

58
59 Cara Coppola's main concern is information sharing. In a plan this big and wide reaching, all parties need
60 to be involved and informed to ensure the best outcome and the best plan.

61 **General Discussion:**

62 Don Bryson discussed Freight, Transit and Parking. Freight & Goods movement is double sided
63 nature tearing up roads and safety but also essential to economic lifeblood. Concerns are at grade
64 crossings, rural roads turning to gravel, and 3M trucks through the traffic circle. Pittsboro Downtown
65 vision plan: is a N/S bypass a solution if local businesses also need delivery. Dichotomy of interests
66 and discussion of limited access.

67 CSX and Norfolk Southern railroads (Megasite CAM) grade separations (little rural crossings with
68 growth sets up conflicts.

69 Jennifer Park brought up transit services and how CTN is currently working on a strategic plan.
70 Interested in looking at ways to incorporate transit into multi modal (walk/bike to school) Access to

71 Healthcare is a big concern for Elderly and Hispanic populations. Travel for Healthcare in
72 neighboring counties puts a burden on Chatham transit

73 Don Bryson pointed out that parking may also experience a dramatic change. If we make community
74 centers walkable, one stop/park, you can service it with transit. Currently subdivisions like Briar
75 Chapel are a great illustration of how a compact community could in time become a one stop
76 community. Regulatory parking requirements would alleviate the burden of major Infrastructure
77 cost to the county.

78 Discussion about Uber and technology in Chatham County connecting bike to transit. Right now
79 there is a network of long routes servicing pockets. Having mobile accessible information to say
80 where the bus was increased consumer satisfaction dramatically. Also cities are using mobile
81 applications that indicated free parking spaces downtown and also allows payment by phone
82 instead of meters. Better service and product is provided while data is being collected to continually
83 serve the user in researching efficiency. Discussion also included the possibility of Shared cars and
84 Autonomous vehicles.

85 What is attractive about Chatham is its small town feel while it having access to amenities within
86 1hr. If access is lost, then suddenly not attractive. Looking at the through traffic laid on top of
87 internal traffic flows, in commuting is almost as much as out commute about 50/50.

88 Also, shared public parking using the different peaks to create efficiency. Lowe's Park and ride for
89 the PX or a Church parking lot during the weekdays. Michael Fiocco pointed out that in Pittsboro,
90 from a merchants perspectives, there is enough parking. However, from a visitors perspective there
91 appears to be none because there is no wayfinding or helpful signage. This is another example of
92 how technology can be used for awareness.

93 With a less certain future and different than national growth pattern we are experiencing regionally,
94 it is harder to predict what is coming, so might as well influence it.

95 Don asked the TAC after all is said and done, how will you know the plan was a success? Responses
96 included top level of service 15-501, the ability to move quick and safely on 64, and public
97 awareness of the plan: figuring out the needs of the community and how do we service everyone
98 and provide a level playing field for all citizens.

99 Don Bryson explained Plans often can look great at build out, but they also need to be functional.
100 Maximizing old infrastructure before investing in new infrastructure can be the best option.

101 **Announcements:**

102 9. Announcements and New Business

103 Ed Reagan asked if there was new business and confirmed the next TAC meeting in April.
104 There was discussion about whether or not a special March meeting needed to be held and
105 determined that staff would contact members, send e notification to listserv, and publish
106 meeting amendment to the website if needed for approval of time sensitive topics.

107 10. Adjourn

108 The meeting adjourned at 8:11 PM.

109 Next meeting: April 7th, 2016 at 6:00 pm in the Dunlap Classroom in Pittsboro