

# Transportation Advisory Committee

## Minutes of Regular Meeting

April 7, 2016, 6:00 pm  
Dunlap Classroom  
80 East St, Pittsboro



### Voting Members Present

Roy Girolami  
Jamie Nunnelly  
Jo Ann Beal  
Dennis Geiser  
Scott Evenson  
Ed Regan  
Matt Alexander  
Keith Gerarden

### Non-Voting Members Present

Jennifer Park  
Larry Cheek, Siler City

### Others Present

Various Members of Public  
Cara Coppola, Chatham Co.  
Matt Day, TARPO  
Darius Sturdivant, NCDOT  
Brendan Merithew, NCDOT

- 1 1. Purpose and Agenda for today's meeting
- 2 Chair Ed Regan welcome attendees. A quorum was reached.
  
- 3 2. Public Comment
- 4 Discussion of Bridge 147 replacement, agenda item 4a, took place at this stage due to numerous
- 5 members of public present. DOT has identified funding for replacement of this bridge, scoping to
- 6 occur in approximately 2017, with potential replacement occurring several years later.
  
- 7 Several members of public wished to comment on the proposed replacement. Chair permitted each
- 8 member to address committee members for approximately five minutes.
  
- 9 a. Don Clayton, lives nearest bridge on north side, would like the old bridge to stay and would like
- 10 a new bridge to be added. However, he has concerns about routing of roadway to serve a new
- 11 bridge and the likely higher traffic levels if the road is paved through rather than remaining
- 12 gravel for ½ mile as it currently is.
  
- 13 b. Kathy Shipp, of 3224 Chatham Church Rd., also a north-side resident, explained to the
- 14 committee that local residents worked together to save this bridge from replacement by DOT a
- 15 few years ago. She does not want a new bridge because of concerns about truck traffic from 3M
- 16 plant potentially using it to cut through to the railhead in Gulf.
  
- 17 c. Michael Barnes, another north side resident, is concerned about traffic levels and speeds if road
- 18 is straightened and paved to approach a new bridge.
  
- 19 d. John Spoon, 3936 Chatham Church Rd., detailed three aspects of community concern. First,
- 20 history: this bridge was built in 1924; it has been for years, and remains, a gathering point for
- 21 this small community. Second, environmental concerns about construction of a new bridge.
- 22 Third, quality of life in this community due to low traffic and hyper-local feel. Mr. Spoon has
- 23 concerns about increased speed and traffic level if road were paved and a new bridge built. He

24 would be one of the most-inconvenienced people if the existing bridge were closed to vehicle  
25 traffic, but he would gladly suffer that inconvenience if it meant that the community retained its  
26 current peaceful, tranquil atmosphere.

27 e. There were some additional comments from members of the public following the speakers,  
28 chiefly regarding environmental/conservation concerns about unnecessarily disrupting the  
29 ecosystem of the Rocky River to build a replacement bridge that may not be desired by the  
30 community to start with.

31 After discussing the public's input with the committee, Chair Ed Regan summarized thusly: The  
32 consensus from the public gathered here today, nearly unanimously, is that they would prefer to  
33 keep the existing bridge, and keep it open to vehicular traffic if possible. The TAC will present  
34 tonight's comments and our recommendations to the Board of Commissioners at their work session  
35 on April 18<sup>th</sup> and 2:00 PM. The important thing at this stage, very early in the process, is to make it  
36 clear that there is interest from the citizenry to make changes other than the standard DOT bridge  
37 replacement process.

38 Dennis proposed the following motion: "Based on concerns raised by residents of the area on  
39 Chatham Church Road near the single-lane Bridge 147 spanning the Rocky River, the Transportation  
40 Advisory Committee recommends that the Board of County Commissioners request additional  
41 information from the NC Department of Transportation regarding 1. the feasibility of various options  
42 for keeping, closing, or replacing the current bridge; 2. the environmental impacts of building a new  
43 bridge; and 3. current traffic counts at the existing bridge. The residents who attended the TAC  
44 meeting on April 7 did not perceive any urgent need to replace the current bridge."

45 This motion was seconded by Jamie Nunnally and approved unanimously. Cara will follow up with  
46 the DOT to find out the urgency involved or reason for replacing this bridge.

## 47 **Consent Agenda**

### 48 3. Approval of Minutes from December 3<sup>rd</sup> and February 23<sup>rd</sup> Meetings

49 Matt Alexander moved to approve both meetings' minutes as presented, Scott Evenson seconded,  
50 and minutes were approved unanimously.

## 51 **Action Items**

### 52 4. Bridge 147 Replacement over Rocky River on Chatham Church Rd.

53 Discussion was held during public input portion of meeting; see notes above. TAC recommendation  
54 to BoC was created and will be presented at the BoC's work session on April 18, 2016.

### 55 5. Strategic Plan Final Draft

56 Members of Strategic Plan update group updated the TAC with their progress. The final draft is  
57 ready for committee review and approval prior to presentation to the Board of Commissioners later  
58 this year. Cara suggested presenting the strategic plan along with the TAC's annual report to the  
59 Commissioners at their May meeting.

60 Scott Evenson moved to approve the final draft and present it to the BoC, Dennis Geiser seconded,  
61 and the strategic plan's final draft was unanimously approved.

- 62 6. CTP- steps to adoption  
63 Brendan Merithew updated the committee on the Comprehensive Transportation Plan’s current  
64 status. The TAC now needs to review and approve the problem statements and maps. Governing  
65 bodies of Goldston and Siler City were shown the plan some months ago. No significant changes  
66 have occurred since that time.
- 67 Discussion occurred regarding combining the CTP public meetings with the Chatham County  
68 comprehensive plan public meetings. Cara will keep the TAC informed of comprehensive plan public  
69 input meeting scheduling so we can piggyback on those meetings if desired.
- 70 Ed Regan moved to proceed with approval of the CTP with the Pittsboro “doughnut hole”. Motion  
71 was seconded by Jamie Nunnely and unanimously approved.
- 72 7. SPOT 4.0- Cara Coppola and Matt Day  
73 SPOT 4.0 point allocations have not yet been announced, so TAC cannot rank the projects as  
74 previously expected. When allocations are released, it will be important to act quickly. As such, staff  
75 worked to develop a methodology they can apply to the existing projects based on point allocations  
76 when those are released, then present the list they come up with to the Board of Commissioners.  
77 Cara Coppola and Matt Day presented the proposed methodology, which would prioritize projects  
78 based on scoring. The highest scoring projects in the county would receive the highest priority rank  
79 while ensuring that disparate areas of the county receive some SPOT project attention. Ed moved to  
80 accept the proposed methodology, Jamie Nunnely seconded the motion, and it was unanimously  
81 approved.

## 82 **Information & Discussion**

- 83 8. MPO Discretionary Funds Bike Signage Study- Cara Coppola  
84 Leftover planning funds are being used for a study of rural cycling safety and assessment of state,  
85 local, Mountains-to-Sea, and Chatham County bike map loops. Study is scheduled for completion in  
86 June 2016. Study is also collecting data on American Tobacco Trail crossings to help determine  
87 appropriate treatment of those areas.
- 88 9. Legislative Update- Cara Coppola on Don Wollum’s behalf  
89 Discussion of House Bill 232 working group results. Believe there may be a new bill introduced based  
90 on those findings in legislative session in late April or May 2016. If such a bill is introduced, TAC will  
91 consider a special meeting in order to craft a resolution responding to it for presentation to the  
92 Board of Commissioners.
- 93 10. May 2016 Annual Report to Board of Commissioners  
94 Ed plans to present the TAC’s annual report to the BoC at their May meeting.
- 95 11. Officers’ elections  
96 Current officers are: Ed Regan as Chair, Matt Alexander as Vice-Chair, and Keith Gerarden as  
97 Secretary. Jamie Nunnely moved to keep the existing board as-is. Motion was seconded and  
98 unanimously approved.

99 12. Announcements and New Business

100 Jamie Nunnely has concerns about the safety of the 15-501 and 64 bypass intersections. Darius  
101 mentioned that plans are underway at the DOT for improvements to these intersections, and he will  
102 bring details about those plans to the TAC's next meeting.

103 13. Adjourn

104 Matt Alexander moved to adjourn, Scott Evenson seconded, and the motion was unanimously  
105 approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

106 Next meeting: June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 6:00 pm in the Dunlap Classroom (across the parking lot from  
107 the Agricultural Building Auditorium) in Pittsboro