



## Meeting Notes

Place: Chatham County Office  
Dunlap Classroom  
80 East Street  
Pittsboro, NC

Date: February 23, 2016

Notes Taken by: David Head

Project #: NA

Re: Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting

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### ATTENDEES

Matt Alexander – Chair

Mike Fiocco – Pittsboro

Matt Day – TARPO

Ed Regan – Vice Chair

Mike Zelek – Health Dept.

Hillary Pace – Chatham Co.

Roy Girolami – District 1

Jennifer Park – Health Dept.

Cara Coppola – Chatham Co.

Don Wollum – District 4

Brendan Merithew – NCDOT

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The meeting was called to order and routine Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting business was attended to. Then Don Bryson and David Head gave a general explanation of the Comprehensive Plan and the project timeline was given. Don Bryson then asked the TAC to discuss transportation issues that the members had concerns over in the county. Below is a list of these concerns.

- There is a lack of east-west transportation routes
- Concerns about safety on US 64
- Without US 64 east-west travel is difficult
- Concern over development along 15-501 and what this will mean to traffic and capacity
- The additional of signals on 15-501, already congested with signals today.
- Concerns about a walkable and bikeable Pittsboro
- Safe biking routes through the county
- Concern that subdivisions are being built without connectivity to each other. Fear is that this lack of connectivity will overwhelm the road network for small trips
- There is a safety issue for cyclists, many county roads are not safe
- Concern about NC 87 and the amount of traffic that is beginning to use this
- Concern over people looking to back roads as a cut through during congested times, roads can't handle the traffic or speed
- Feeling of cross county (east west) pressure due to the limited crossings of the Haw River
- A concern was raised over rural cycling and the large number of cyclists that use the roads
- Feel that improvements should be recommended even if funding is not available
- Several sub-divisions are petitioning for the State to take over their roads (5 to date)
- How do we handle such a diverse County
- Equity and distribution of projects between the RPO and MPO

4000 Westchase Boulevard  
Suite 530  
Raleigh, NC 27607-3945  
P 919.829.0328

The Attendees were asked about Freight and Goods Movement

- Freight trucks are tearing up the roads
- If Fracking comes in the roads will deteriorate rapidly
- In Pittsboro 3M trucks go through the circle. Looking to route trucks around the town center

The attendees were asked to give some thoughts on Transit

- Better Transit is needed
- Much of the Health care is outside the county and many transit dependent people have a hard time accessing it, due to limited transit
- Access is an issue to health care and food markets / grocery stores

Attendees were asked for final thoughts on transportation in the county

- A question was raised as to what will replace 15-501 in the next 20 years
- US 64, should it be grade separated to ease traffic flow? Would this limit access?
- There is a large segment of the County that does not necessarily want to be planned
- There is a large disparity between East and West Chatham County and Siler City
- The Plan will need to address the needs of the area in question and not just apply a cookie cutter approach
- A concern was raised about affordable housing for elderly / retirees