

**MINUTES**  
**ORANGE UNIFIED TRANSPORTATION BOARD**  
**MARCH 18, 2015**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Paul Guthrie, Chapel Hill Township Representative; Alex Castro, Bingham Township Representative; Brantley Wells, Hillsborough Township Representative; Heidi Perry, Bicycle Advocate Representative; Ted Triebel, Little River Township Representative; Art Menius, Economic Development Commission; Tom Magnuson, Pedestrian Access & Safety Advocate; Amy Cole, Transit Advocate;

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Ed Vaughn, Cedar Grove Township Representative; Gary Saunders, CFE Representative; Cheeks Township Representative- Vacant; Planning Board Representative – Vacant; Eno Township Representative - Vacant;

**STAFF PRESENT:** Craig Benedict, Planning Director; Janice Tyler, Department on Aging Director; Nancy Coston, Social Services Director; Janet Sparks, Child Support Enforcement Director; Peter Murphy, Transportation Administrator; Malcum Massenburg, Assistant Transportation Administrator; Tom Altieri, Comprehensive Planning Supervisor; Bret Martin, Transportation Planner; Abigaile Pittman, Transportation/Land Use Planner; Eileen Nelson, Mobility Manager; Donna King, Health Dept; Tina Love, Administrative Assistant III

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jeff Charles, John Rees

**AGENDA ITEM I: CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

**AGENDA ITEM II: INTRODUCTIONS**

Craig Benedict: Later in the agenda, we will talk about the new formation of the OUTBoard with some additional representative that have to do with the Human Services Agencies. More specifically, the National Association of Counties has declared April County Government and this year's theme is transportation. We have met with internal departments and want to unfold this quickly and ask for help as move into the next month to talk about two events. One is a County Expo on April 10 and the second event that will include a bus tour including the commissioners on April 24. This is an afternoon event that will take the BOCC and a few select people on a tour of one of our new routes to get an idea of individuals that will use this service.

Heidi Perry: What are the hours.

Craig Benedict: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**AGENDA ITEM III: APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 17, 2014**

**MOTION** made by Art Menius to approve minutes. Seconded by Alex Castor. Minutes were approved by consensus.

Art Menius: There was a couple of housekeeping items in the minutes that don't seem to be on the agenda. One was a list of roads scheduled for maintenance and the other was Heidi asked Abigail to create a history of how projects got on the STIP.

54 Abigaile Pittman: We have a presentation later on the STIP and we can discuss that.

55

56 Bret Martin: There is a maintenance schedule by DOT every year in the summer that programs where they will  
57 repave. I have that from this past summer I can share. They won't release it until the summer.

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59 Paul Guthrie: Let's put that on hold.

60

61 Heidi Perry: The schedule from last year, does it have things on it that have not been done.

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63 Bret Martin: I look at it once a year to see if there are any opportunities for bikeway opportunities and there are  
64 hardly ever any.

65

66 Heidi Perry: That was the reason we wanted to see it to see what roads were coming up.

67

68 Craig Benedict: They try to get it done before the winter. I will check into that.

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70 Bret Martin: If you would like it to be normal practice, we could bring that every year.

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72 Paul Guthrie: That would be a great idea.

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75 **AGENDA ITEM IV: CONSIDERATIONS OF ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

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78 **AGENDA ITEM V: REGULAR AGENDA**

79 **A.) Transportation Services, Orange County Public Transportation (OPT)**

80

i. Introduction of representatives

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ii. Review of importance of transportation services function of the OUTBoard (Peter  
82 Murphy)

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iii. Endorsement of BOCC Action: OPT Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Plan.  
84 (Bret Martin and Peter Murphy)

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iv. Endorsement of BOCC Action: OPT Title VI of the Civil Rights Act Plan. Title VI  
86 prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin in programs and  
87 activities receiving federal financial assistance. Introduction to the Title VI Plan to be  
88 provided at the meeting. (Bret Martin and Peter Murphy)

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v. Information Item: National County Government Month (April) Transportation Themed  
90 Event(s)

91

**OUTBoard Action:** Receive information, discuss and provide comments; and  
92 endorse BOCC actions on ADA Plan and Title VI Plan

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**B.) Draft Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) – Review Planning  
94 staff's comments on the Draft STIP.**

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**OUTBoard Action:** Receive information, and provide any comments the Board may  
96 have

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99 Abigaile Pittman: Introduction of members. We will have a meeting with these members quarterly. The next  
100 meeting would be February, May, September and November.

101

102 Peter Murphy: Review of importance of transportation services function of the OUTBoard.

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104 Paul Guthrie: How do you visualize these quarterly meetings, open forums or documented topics, etc.

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106 Peter Murphy: They have to be open to the general public in the hearing format.

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108 Craig Benedict: About the expansion of the OPT system. In the past 10 years, there has not been anything new but now  
109 we have new funding sources from a few different locations. Another funding source is 5311, which is a rural community  
110 transpiration system. There are also 5307 monies.  
111  
112 Paul Guthrie: The theme of your April meeting the kickoff of a large expansion in service.  
113  
114 Craig Benedict: We want to rebrand OPT having it work well with all the other transit providers. As an interim measure we  
115 will order generic bus signs with an Orange County symbol until we brand them with their own symbol.  
116  
117 Bret Martin: Review of Endorsement of BOCC Action: OPT Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Plan.  
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119 Janice Tyler: For seniors, it was that our social work staff could approve folks for easy rider, would ya'll consider that here  
120 that our team could certify someone without seeing a medical provider.  
121  
122 Bret Martin: I can't answer that. Continued review.  
123  
124 Tom: Magnuson Can we make changes at this late date?  
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126 Bret Martin: If it is something that is definitely governed by the plan adopted by the BOCC, then the answer is no but  
127 something that would result in an administrative decision, then yes.  
128  
129 Tom Magnuson: I took issue with the appeal process. From the user standpoint, that will be uncomfortable. The people  
130 who rejected me are going to evaluate the rejection.  
131  
132 Bret Martin: We run into issues of decisions being made by people who do not meet often enough.  
133  
134 Paul Guthrie: Is there a hearing officer independent of the operating departments?  
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136 Craig Benedict: If someone disagrees with my decision, it will go to the Board of Adjustment. I would keep a record of  
137 comments.  
138  
139 Ted Triebel: The expanded service into Alamance County, was there cooperation between the two counties and is there a  
140 funding source from Alamance County to OPT.  
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142 Bret Martin: The answer to your second question is no. The first question is yes.  
143  
144 **MOTION** made by Heidi Perry to endorse the resolution as modified by the BOCC and that we revisit the issues  
145 of fairs and complaints procedures three months after the beginning of the system and three month intervals.  
146 Seconded by Alex Castro.  
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148 Alex Castro: You said revisit, I think subject of further study, those issues you mentioned. We need to spend  
149 time looking at provision and coming up with more definitive words.  
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151 Paul Guthrie: Would you accept the idea the OUTBoard would continue to look at these issues for procedural  
152 and administrative changes.  
153  
154 **MOTION** made by Heidi Perry to endorse the resolution as modified by the BOCC and that we revisit the issues  
155 of fairs and complaints procedures three months after the beginning of the system and three month intervals.  
156 Seconded by Alex Castro.  
157 **VOTE:** Unanimous  
158  
159 Bret Martin: Review of Endorsement of BOCC Action: OPT Title VI of the Civil Rights Act Plan. Title VI prohibits  
160 discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin in programs and activities receiving federal financial  
161 assistance. Introduction to the Title VI Plan to be provided at the meeting.  
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163 Heidi Perry: When someone completes this form, where does it go?  
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165 Bret Martin: They can send the complaint to the OPT administrator or file a complaint with the Federal Transit  
166 Administrators office of Civil Rights.

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168 Ted Triebel: You said something about the make up of the OUTBoard because we make important decision  
169 about transpiration but as far as I know, we don't make decisions. This is not a decision making board.

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171 Bret Martin: The NCDOT state management plan, they have developed to tell FTA how they are governing their  
172 sub recipients who are using their federal funding for rural transportation regarding who we are serving and how  
173 we are serving in the hands of this body. The business decisions are the board of County Commissioners.  
174 Malcum, can you concur?

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176 Malcum Massenburg: At the DOT level, one of the first questions before sending anything to the BOCC, has  
177 their TAB board reviewed and approved that document.

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179 Paul Gutherie: We are getting this after the fact instead of before the fact.

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181 Craig Benedict: This is not a final deciding board.

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183 Bret Martin: The preference would have been for these items to come before the OUTBoard first.

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185 Heidi Perry: I am reading the charge and we do not have the final say.

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187 Bret Martin: That is true, the BOCC has said but that is not true with the State Management Plan.

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189 Paul Gutherie: This function we have just discussed is a new function for this board and we can sort that out but  
190 it is a new function. We should adopt and endorse what the BOCC did and I would even welcome a second  
191 resolution to ask Staff to look carefully into what needs to be done to amend the overall guidance with regards to  
192 the responsibility of this board to encompass the powers that have been assigned to us.

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194 **MOTION** made Art Menius to endorse the action of the BOCC adopting the resolution adopting the Orange  
195 Public Transportation Title Six Plan Program. Seconded by Alex Castro

196 **VOTE:** Unanimous

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198 **MOTION** made by Paul Gutherie for the committee of this board to draft revisions to the statement of  
199 responsibility of this board to fit its new roles in managing of the Title Six Plan and the Americans with  
200 Disabilities Act Plan. Seconded by Alex Castro

201 **VOTE:** Unanimous

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204 Bret Martin: Draft Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) – Review Planning staff's comments on  
205 the Draft STIP.

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208 **AGENDA ITEM VI: STAFF UPDATES**  
209 **Bicycle Safety** – Update on the BOCC petition for planning staff to work with the  
210 OUTBoard to discuss bicycle safety.  
211 **OUTBoard Action:** Receive updates

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214 Abigaile Pittman: Review Bicycle Safety. Alex, would you read the bill?

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216 Alex Castro: One correction, this is a rural community of people. This is a draft bill introduced in the General  
217 Assembly on March 12, House Bill 232.

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Jeff Charles: I find it unique that I have heard one bicyclist out of 12. A lot of concerns raised by your group in Orange County were the fact there was large groups of bicyclist impede in traffic. There was wording in laws in bicyclist states was that cyclist couldn't ride more than two abreast nor impede traffic. That simple statement seems to do away with motorist concerns. I would hope the legislature would look to what is going on in these states as we try to improve the health of our young children and adults.

Alex Castro: Continued review of bill.

Jeff Charles: One thing I am concerned about is motorist delays and mentioning about how bicyclists are impeding emergency vehicles. It is fine to understand we may delay motorist sometimes. We have had four incidents of road rage since June. We have had two deaths in the last six months. I am trying to understand the weight being given to motorists. It is important to protect bicyclists.

Alex Castro: My wife is a tri athlete and sometimes I am dragged with her as a trainer. One of the positive things was to ask for increase law enforcement presence. I got the law enforcement community involved. I think it is important to form a work group with members of this community and the cyclist and put something together that is useful to improve the safety of the road.

Tom Magnuson: I am the newest member and I don't understand our role in this discussion. I experience the same thing as a pedestrian.

Paul Gutherie: This committee generated through staff an Orange County Bicycle Route Map as one of its activities. I think we can be influential in that. Jeff, you are right on target but this is an issue than is bigger than one or two. Number one, we have very lousy drivers in these county and surrounding areas. Second, I think some folks are unclear on the rule of the road pertaining to bicyclist. Third, many of our highways are totally unsafe for bicyclist and finally, we can take a hard look at the routes we promote for bicyclist use.

Heidi Perry: I ride recreationally and I do ride my bike to work daily. Roads are there for transportation and I don't think they should be closed to everyone and not just bikes. I think education is huge. When we talk about motorcyclist and cyclist, let's just talk about people because we are all people.

Abigaile Pittman: This is an update. I imagine Bonnie Hauser will be here.

Alex Castro: Bonnie is not the primary person on this. I have taken this because of my role on the OUTBoard. With regard to your comment was the suggesting routing for bicyclist on the county map. There are some areas that are unsafe for cyclists.

Tom Magnuson: Looking into ways of trying to change the way people see the road. Don't get close enough they can't fall. The place we may want to focus on is driver's education.

Abigail Pittman: I need clarity. The plan that went to the BOCC is coming back to the OUTBoard and then reporting back in June and there is a different suggestion by Alex by taking it outside the OUTBoard and then reporting back.

Alex Castro: The point is who will do the work? Is staff taking this on? I am suggesting a group including members of the OUTBoard and others can come up with suggestions and come back to the meeting.

Jeff Charles: What type of meetings would these be?

Paul Gutherie: As long as this body does not empower and receives a recommendation that it fully discusses in a public way, that would be the cleanest way.

271 Abigaile Pittman: It is an efficient use of time to have separate people that are looking as long as we are using  
272 the same plan that went before the BOCC. If we could work within the same organization.  
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274 Tom Altieri: The plan that is in your packet is a plan that has been reviewed by the county manager and  
275 reviewed and this plan was laid out to reflect a process in which would be supported by your staffs resources.  
276 This is the plan, staff will support the OUTBoard.  
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278 Alex Castro: The outreach meeting isn't attended very well.  
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280 Paul Guthrie: I think that is a presentation made to this board when we have a major agenda item to present to  
281 the BOCC. We have to agenda the next two meetings. The most important thing is to pull together a list of  
282 recommendations.  
283

284 Jeff Charles: Unfortunately, we are talking about an emotional issue and cyclist will want to show up and that is  
285 why I came up with a number of about 10.  
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287 Paul Guthrie: I will not support limiting access to this committee by any individual that wants to come but I am  
288 advising you to come in with a consensus from your constituents.  
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290 **MOTION** made by      Seconded by

291 **VOTE:** Unanimous  
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293 **AGENDA ITEM VII:**                      **BOARD COMMENTS**  
294    **OUTBoard Action:** Receive comments.  
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298 **AGENDA ITEM VIII:**                      **ADJOURNMENT**  
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300 The meeting was adjourned by consensus.  
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Paul Guthrie, Chair