

OUTLINE

MINUTES ORANGE UNIFIED TRANSPORTATION BOARD APRIL 15, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT: Paul Guthrie, Chair and Chapel Hill Township Representative; Alex Castro, Vice-Chair and Bingham Township Representative; Brantley Wells, Hillsborough Township Representative; Heidi Perry, At-Large Representative; Ted Triebel, Little River Township Representative; Art Menius, At-Large Representative; Tom Magnuson, At-Large Representative; Ed Vaughn, Cedar Grove Township Representative; Gary Saunders, At-Large Representative; David Laudicina, At-Large Representative; John Rubin, At-Large Representative

MEMBERS ABSENT: Amy Cole, At-Large Representative; Eno Township Representative - Vacant;

STAFF PRESENT: Abigaile Pittman, Transportation/Land Use Planner

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeff Charles, John Rees

AGENDA ITEM I: CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL; INTRODUCTIONS

AGENDA ITEM II: APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MARCH 18, 2015 – THE MINUTES FOR THE MARCH 18 MEETING WILL BE REVIEWED AND VOTED ON AT THE MAY 20 MEETING WHEN THE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES ADVISORY GROUP MEETS AGAIN.

AGENDA ITEM III: CONSIDERATION OF ADDITIONS OF THE AGENDA

No additions to the Agenda were made.

AGENDA ITEM IV: REGULAR AGENDA

A. BICYCLE SAFETY - At the OUTBoard's March 18 meeting there was a discussion regarding the plan to address the Board of County Commissioners' petition related to bicycle safety ([Attachment 1](#)). The Chair gave direction for representatives of the two groups that will be participating in discussions on recommendations for bicycle safety policies and procedures at the April 15 and May 20 meetings. A letter was written to each representative from the Chair providing guidance ([Attachment 2](#)).

Paul Guthrie: I would like to remind the OUTBoard members and the public that in this meeting you must seek recognition and have me recognize you before you address this advisory board or another member of the Board or staff. Our purpose tonight is to seek and consider good advice, information and practices for bike and auto safety on the streets and roads of Orange County. This dialogue tonight and next month will need to recognize a couple of essential realities which are: (a) County government in North Carolina by and large does not govern the public roads of the state, design, building maintenance or passage of the laws of governance, and for that matter (by and large) their policing. (b) Counties to not issue driver's licenses or test bike riders. This Board's sole function is to respond to the BOCC, with advice on issues based upon the best information it can gather based its members understanding of issues and facts, and predictable outcomes.

Abigaile Pittman: Reviewed plan.

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53 Alex Castro: We have a group of expert bicyclists which include Heidi, Jeff, John, Cliff, Tom, myself and another
54 lady. We have worked on putting together a plan of action with regard to making recommendations on what can
55 be done to improve bicycle safety. We have chosen not to get into the law because there is an active House Bill
56 that would task the Department of Transportation to look at the existing bicycle laws and report to the Joint
57 Transportation Committee by the end of the year.

58

59 Abigaile Pittman: Are you able to fill in some of the details?

60

61 Alex Castro: I don't feel I am the voice for this group. Heidi?

62

63 Heidi Perry: We are not quite ready to discuss it. We only have had one meeting. The task objectives came
64 from the BOCC. We have talked about several things and made a lot of progress. Education needs to be first
65 and foremost - how do we get it out it a more efficient way.

66

67 Paul Guthrie: Do you have a timeline? Are there any problems we can help with as far as framing?

68

69 Heidi Perry: Making sure it is comprehensive and specific. We need to have the Sheriff's Department

70

71 Tom Magnuson: I don't have much experience with this board. What are the mechanisms to get the county to
72 cooperate in generating material? Targeting PSAs may be the best vehicle we have.

73

74 Jeff Charles: I am impressed with this new working group. Education is a key. Because of the new legislation
75 whatever we do could be out of date in six months. We need the Orange County Highway Patrol rather than
76 Sheriff's Department to get involved; and maybe the Orange County attorneys that would be prosecuting the
77 cases.

78

79 Paul Guthrie: These need to be serious conversations between the professionals.

80

81 Alex Castro: We have had Chris Knox, Highway Patrol involved in our discussions. I would recommend that he
82 be invited to the next OUTBoard meeting and he could comment on the law enforcement issues.

83

84 Jeff Charles: We need to address road rage incidents. We need to develop a process for the motorists and
85 cyclists to deal with this.

86

87 Art Menius: It is clear there is a problem due to the tragedies that have happened. Isn't there a compromise to
88 be made? There is an issue of education and enforcement.

89

90 Heidi Perry: I agree but when there is an incident it is never addressed and gives the appearance that it goes
91 away. How do we get the incidents recorded so they don't disappear?

92

93 John Rubin: I am a motorist and a cyclist. Jeff Newman, Prosecutors Office is a good guy who may be willing to
94 put in some extra hours.

95

96 Alex Castro: We want to adapt Best Practices law enforcement for cyclists. One big problem is ignorance.
97 Maybe use maps like ones from Chapel Hill and Durham, that need to be posted in the field and give safety
98 greater prominence.

99

100 Paul Guthrie: Regarding Carrboro, what types of things have you promoted in the education sector in Carrboro?

101

102 Heidi Perry: We work closely with the Carrboro Police Department, we do bike light giveaways, bike rodeos for
103 the kids, etc. When we give a light to someone we actually install them and give them bike laws; we have night
104 rides.

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- 106 Paul Guthrie: Are the county schools involved?
107
108 Heidi Perry: Let's Go NC is the curriculum they use.
109
110 Paul Guthrie: Has anyone had any education with motorists?
111
112 John Rees: In a perfect world, we would spend more time with driver's education.
113
114 Jeff Charles: The real target here is not the young driver but the 18-plus aged drivers. Why don't we get auto
115 dealers involved to hand out pamphlets when they sell cars?
116
117 Abigaile Pittman: What about DMV?
118
119 Jeff Charles: Certainly DMV but this is a state problem. The bigger issue is about pelotons. We still need to
120 target the older drivers first.
121
122 Heidi Perry: We do traffic skills classes for riders. Two courses of action, one is for transportation planners and
123 the other is geared towards law enforcement officers. The dealer suggestion is great.
124
125 Art Menius: The kids in driver's education today can be reached in class because they learn to drive with bikers
126 today, which is common.
127
128 David Laudicina: Aren't most car dealers in Orange County?
129
130 Heidi Perry: Car rental places?
131
132 Jeff Charles: Many cyclists do 4,000 miles per year but there is not enough documentation of the incidents.
133
134 Paul Guthrie: We need broad based education. We may want to think about ways and vehicles we can build
135 the outreach for the people we have been talking about. Send them to Abigaile to share with all of us.
136
137 Alex Castro: We're on that path.
138
139 Paul Guthrie: How do we handle the unfocused problem for the BOCC that often our roads are inadequate?
140
141 John Rees: Actually the roads in Orange County are very adequate. Maybe it would be better to say cyclist and
142 motorist coexistence is inadequate. We need better recording of incidents.
143
144 Tom Magnuson: What about crowd sourcing?
145
146 John Rees: The new thing is a GPS type of documentation.
147
148 Jeff Charles: Wiki Maps for commenting and recording of incidents, heat map and self-reporting of areas.
149
150 Alex Castro: Technology: what are the experts doing? What technology is adaptable? We can use that to
151 educate the riders.
152
153 John Rees: Don't focus the Wiki maps on just cyclists. Use if for a broader range of people.
154
155 Tom Magnuson: They are called hazard maps.
156
157 Art Menius: Or co-existence maps.
158

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- 159 Paul Guthrie: Signage for slow moving equipment, etc. Maybe signage would be helpful.
160
161 Jeff Charles: Like a broader purpose for the maps but being able to differentiate between motorist, cyclist and
162 pedestrian comments.
163
164 Paul Guthrie: How much coordination can we expect between municipalities and the county when we try to build
165 a county wide system?
166
167 Alex Castro: I don't see a problem with getting the municipalities and counties to cooperate.
168
169 Jeff Charles: Carrboro and Chapel Hill are ahead of the county in bicycle planning. I am on the transportation
170 and connectivity board of Chapel Hill to get them to consider routes in Orange County.
171
172 Paul Guthrie: How much cycling commuter traffic do we have now?
173
174 Heidi Perry: No one knows.
175
176 Tom Magnuson: Does DOT have the ability to measure that?
177
178 Heidi Perry: There are bike counters for the road. We have two of those in the County.
179
180 Paul Guthrie: Do traffic lights have the ability to count the number of bikes?
181
182 John Rees: I don't think so.
183
184 Alex Castro: On Martin Luther King South of Estes, they installed new lighting for cyclists at the crosswalk.
185 Chapel Hill is investing \$16.4 Million to improve intersections and roads.
186
187 Tom Magnuson: One of our messages to BOCC is to acquire technology.
188
189 Gary Saunders: They replaced a standard flashing light at the crosswalk with a yellow strobe light.
190
191 Ted Triebel: Technical things and mechanical things cost money and education is relatively cheap. The thing
192 that is missing is more the intangible like respect, patience, etc.
193
194 Paul Guthrie: Abigaile, have you or anyone reached out to the County Attorney or Institute of Government?
195
196 Heidi Perry: Bill in House now – HB 232, Session 2015 is in the Senate now to have NCDOT form a committee
197 to study the laws that pertain to bicyclists.
198
199 Alex Castro: Verla Insko, State Representative NC House District 56 Representing Orange County Chapel
200 Hill/Carrboro, is a supporter. The Bill passed with a vote of 116-0.
201
202 Paul Guthrie: It seems if the bill recommends the establishment of a committee to do this, this should have
203 meaning for the BOCC.
204
205 Heidi Perry: We are waiting to see.
206
207 Jeff Charles: The purpose of BOCC petition was the people in the county were asking for a restriction of bicycle
208 riding in the county. We are talking more positive about bicycle riders.
209
210 Abigaile Pittman: The last BOCC meeting is June 16. You have to back up from that several weeks to get the
211 information on their calendar. Will the group be ready at the next meeting in May?

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212

213 Paul Guthrie: I was under the impression the BOCC wanted a skeleton to them in June. I think we need to do
214 as much as we can by the May meeting and if there are loose ends, we say there are and say it may take us
215 longer.

216

217 Alex Castro: We should provide a report to Abigaile by May 13.

218

219 Abigaile Pittman: That would work for our internal deadline.

220

221 Paul Guthrie: If appropriate, notify the BOCC that we plan to have a report to them at their June meeting.

222

223 Heidi Perry: We could have a plan in place with lots of specific details.

224

225 Alex Castro: We have parts that are basically finished.

226

227 Paul Guthrie: Is there any disagreement with what I have suggested? (no replies).

228

229 Abigaile Pittman: Will your report include recommendations?

230

231 Heidi Perry: I would think so. We will have an action plan and who will carry that will be a matter of whose
232 department it belongs to.

233

234 Jeff Charles: We are only talking about modifying the education to be the most current with the latest law.

235

236

237 **OUTBoard Action:** Discussed issues related to bicycle safety and committee work
238 on the issue, and continued to May 20 meeting. (Note: no motion made; not
239 necessary at this time.)

240

241 **B. NCDOT / Orange County Resurfacing Schedule/Program 2016** – NCDOT has
242 recently provided Planning staff with a list of roads on the 2016 Resurfacing
243 Schedule/Program, and which they are currently preparing for contract (Attachment
244 3). They are requesting comments by April 20, 2015.

245

246 Abigaile Pittman: Abigaile Pittman provided a handout entitled 'Roadway Segments Recommended in
247 Adopted Plans and explained the Planning staff has reviewed the reviewed the
248 resurfacing program and provided a summary of pertinent improvements found in
249 adopted plans, for the OUTBoard's information. She explained that should the
250 OUTBoard have any comments, planning staff will transmit them to NCDOT along
251 with the summary.

252

253 Tom Magnuson: Can we make a recommendation to DOT or legislature when they pave a road to push the
254 driveway paving at least four feet off the road?

255

256 Ed Vaughn: Those that are paved are off a little bit.

257

258 Abigaile Pittman: That is the sort of issue that would be at our discussion here with a DOT representative, or at
259 the county/DOT quarterly luncheon.

260

261 Abigaile Pittman: Reviewed the handout.

262

263 Alex Castro: They have been putting rumble strips on the shoulders, how does that fit into the bicyclist issue?
264 Has any thought been put into where these are placed?

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- 265
- 266 Abigaile Pittman: That is another question that could be put on the list for discussion with DOT.
- 267
- 268 Heidi Perry: Is it standard or can we specify that they be placed two feet from the outside of the white line
- 269 instead of the inside?
- 270
- 271 Abigaile Pittman: I don't know.
- 272
- 273 Heidi Perry: Do we rank the comments/projects?
- 274
- 275 Paul Guthrie: Do you want to rank them?
- 276
- 277 David Laudicina: What about Dobbins Road? It seems like that would be a good place to avoid 15-501. That is
- 278 number 14 on list.
- 279
- 280 Brantley Wells: You could ask but if you add up the numbers, you would take a full road width through there.
- 281 You will also need to look at the utilities down the road.
- 282
- 283 Paul Guthrie: Most of the utilities are beyond the ditch.
- 284
- 285 Heidi Perry: If I were going to rank them it would be almost the opposite from what is on the sheet. Provided
- 286 suggested ranking of list.
- 287
- 288 Paul Guthrie: Anyone want to make a motion?
- 289
- 290 **OUTBoard Action:** Reviewed and endorsed comments for forwarding to NCDOT.
- 291
- 292 **MOTION** made by Heidi Perry to endorse Planning staff's comments subject to the below prioritization order,
- 293 and requested that staff transmit its recommendation to NCDOT:
- 294 1. Old NC 86 from just south of Farm House Drive to North Radius of New Hope Church Road
- 295 2. Arthur Minnis Road from Old NC 86 to Rocky Ridge Road
- 296 3. New Hope Church Road from Old NC 86 to NC 86
- 297 4. Lake Orange Road from NC 86 to End of Maintenance
- 298 5. Walker Road from NC 57 to New Sharon Church Road
- 299 Seconded by Alex Castro.
- 300 **VOTE:** Unanimous
- 301
- 302 Heidi Perry discussed adding additional comments to the motion: 1) that the additional pavement for the
- 303 recommended road widenings is extended into driveways; and 2) that rumble strips be used that provide breaks
- 304 for bicyclists to cross.
- 305
- 306 **MOTION** to add the additional comments to the original motion made by Heidi Perry
- 307 Seconded by Tom Magnuson.
- 308
- 309 **VOTE:** Unanimous
- 310
- 311 **AGENDA ITEM V: STAFF UPDATES**
- 312 **Board of County Commissioners revisions to Advisory Board Policy and the**
- 313 **OUTBoard Rules of Procedure – Update on the revisions by Abigaile Pittman**
- 314
- 315 Abigaile Pittman: Explained recent Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) revisions to the General Advisory
- 316 Board Policy and the OUTBoard Rules of Procedure, and provided handouts. Abigaile also explained the

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317 charge of the OUTBoard as an advisory board vs. the charge of the OUTBoard in its role as the Transportation
318 Services Advisory Group.

319

320 Heidi Perry: By this board, we are actually on two boards.

321

322 Alex Castro: The State Transportation Improvement Program is out. They had a public hearing about a month
323 ago. Another one that came out was the rail program. Both are really the first implementation of the new
324 priorities given by the State Government transportation issues. Discussed map.

325

326

OUTBoard Action: Received updates

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328

AGENDA ITEM VII:

BOARD COMMENTS

329

OUTBoard Action: Received comments.

330

331

AGENDA ITEM VIII:

ADJOURNMENT

332

333

MOTION was made by Heidi Perry, seconded by Ed Vaughn to adjourn.

334

335

VOTE: Unanimous