

MINUTES  
ORANGE UNIFIED TRANSPORTATION BOARD  
MARCH 20, 2013

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Paul Guthrie, Chapel Hill Township; Jeff Charles, Bicycle Advocate; Alex Castro, Bingham Township; Annette Jurgelski, Eno Township;

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Susie Enoch, Cheeks Township; Bryant Warren, Hillsborough Township; Sam Lasris, Cedar Grove Township; Ted Triebel, Little River Township; Jeff Miles, Pedestrian Access & Safety Advocate; Amy Cole, Transit Advocate; Economic Development Commission - Vacant; CFE Representative-Vacant; Planning Board Representative- Vacant;

**STAFF PRESENT:** Craig Benedict, Planning Director; Abigaile Pittman, Transportation/Land Use Planner; Al Terry, Transportation Manager; Tina Love, Administrative Assistant II

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Tamra Shaw, NCDOT; David Bonk, Town of Chapel Hill

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

**AGENDA ITEM II: INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Craig Benedict, Planning Director; Al Terry, Orange County Transportation Manager; Tamra Shaw, Senior Mobility Development Specialist NCDOT Public Transportation Division; David Bonk, Town of Chapel Hill Senior Transportation Manager

Paul Guthrie welcomed and introduced the guests.

Tamra Shaw advised the group that her office had just had a call for projects which has ended but there is an annual call for projects and she would like to talk about that when the time rolls around, probably around August or September. She would like to come and talk about the funding opportunities. The big thing her department is dealing with right now is the locally coordinated human services transportation plan, developed by working with the local councils of government. It is an assessment of unmet needs in the county.

Craig Benedict introduced David Bonk from the Town of Chapel Hill and noted that David is the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro MPO Vice-Chair and is the primary conduit to the MPO for matters dealing with transportation and funding for a variety of public transit initiatives.

**AGENDA ITEM III: APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 20, 2013**

Approval of minutes for the February 20, 2013 meeting were moved to the April 17, 2013 OUTBoard meeting due to lack of a quorum.

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

**AGENDA ITEM V: REGULAR AGENDA**  
Next Steps for Implementing the Bus and Rail Investment Plan (BRIP)  
**OUTBoard Action:** To receive information in preparation for future OUTBoard role.

56 Craig Benedict gave an overview of the plan and map. Highlights include the creation of a rail station in Hillsborough,  
57 10% will come the BRIP and the rest would come from state and federal funds. New and expanded bus services is  
58 part of the plan and will amount to an additional 40,000 hours by 2026 with 8,000 hours to be used in the first five  
59 years.

60  
61 Craig Benedict told the OUTBoard that its role may come when monies come in to TTA or OPT to suggest or  
62 prioritize where funds may best be spent. Craig also talked about the implementation agreement which is between  
63 three parties, Orange County, Triangle Transit who is the implementing agency, and the DCHC and BG MPOs.  
64 Triangle Transit will be receiving all monies collected but each year they will report to the Commission and  
65 participants will be invited, municipalities, etc. and the questions can be asked at that time. Craig discussed an east-  
66 west route to connect the western side of Orange County to Hillsborough, Chapel Hill and Durham and coordinating  
67 with Piedmont Area Rapid Transit (PART).

68  
69 Alex Castro asked if there are any plans to combine the Chapel Hill Transit EZ Rider with OPT that makes more  
70 sense in terms of staging and shorter trip times, etc.

71  
72 Craig Benedict responded that the both the boards of Chapel Hill and Orange County have responded that they  
73 would like to take a look at a potential OPT/CHT consolidation between those two agencies for efficiency. There is a  
74 grant that was acquired from DOT/Public Transit Division to study that issue and a consulting firm was hired to  
75 analyze both systems and it has taken over two years to produce a draft report. Craig remarked that at some point  
76 he would like the consultant to come and speak to the OUTBoard.

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78 Jeff Charles suggested that if you use percentages of rider increase, etc. it means more to the public than saying that  
79 there will be X more hours added, X more buses, etc.

80  
81 David Bonk gave an update on the proposed Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) noting that an alternatives analysis will be  
82 done and a Request for Proposals (RFP) will be out in April. and once selected it will take about 18 months for the  
83 consultants to perform that work. He also noted that the Town of Chapel Hill has initiated a Small Area Plan for the  
84 area around Estes Drive/Martin Luther King Blvd. and through that process they are very aware of the fact that they  
85 are adjacent to that BRT corridor and what decisions they make about land use will have a direct impact on the  
86 Town's ability to meet the federal requirements. Those requirements have a very heavy emphasis on not simply  
87 having good intentions with regard to coordinating land use and transportation but actually adopting plans and in the  
88 best case scenario, actually having projects that have been built based on those plans.

89  
90 Paul Guthrie noted that while everyone thinks light rail is a wonderful thing and in his opinion a necessary thing by  
91 2030, we don't have to go there at this point but what can have a major impact is how we carefully decide where to  
92 put in bus services, where the connection points are located between routes so all this interchange can be made to  
93 expedite and also look at a few things relative to the light rail system that perhaps need to be worked on such as  
94 terminating the light rail system at memorial hospitals. It would have been smarter to curl it around so that it came up  
95 somewhere near the rail route and come in to Carrboro on the hard rail system, because sooner or later hard rail will  
96 run between Greensboro and Raleigh. The major work that is already underway on the track between Durham and  
97 Raleigh tells you that. One of the key ingredients for Orange County is to get the rail station in Hillsborough done  
98 and use the parking facilities as a connection point for bus service and other kinds of services for connections. Build  
99 that into the fabric of the community and then you are ready for the more sophisticated systems. Paul continued that  
100 54 is a major feeder and as PART can't service it, the area of Mt. Carmel Rd./Stagecoach Rd. is becoming the  
101 bypass for commuters and truckers to skip around the problems on I-40 and Chatham County. This is going to be  
102 increasing, sending traffic northbound and needs to be considered.

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105 **AGENDA ITEM VI:                   REGULAR AGENDA**  
106   Next Steps for Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Plan Adoption and Implementation.  
107   **OUTBoard Action:** To receive information in preparation for future OUTBoard role.

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109 This item was moved to the April meeting due to time constraints.  
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- 112 **AGENDA ITEM VII: STAFF UPDATES**
- 113 a. Update on BOCC action on Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP)
- 114 b. Update on staff meeting with NCDOT Rail Division regarding the three proposed
- 115 railroad private crossing closures in Orange County.
- 116 c. Update on BG MPO activities.
- 117 d. Update on DCHC MPO 2040 MTP and CTP.
- 118 **OUTBoard Action:** Receive updates
- 119
- 120 Abigaile Pittman updated the OUTBoard that the BOCC completed the public hearing on the CTP and adopted the
- 121 Highway Map, Public Transportation and Rail Map, the Bicycle Map, the Pedestrian Map and the overall Adoption
- 122 Map subject to the comments and recommendations of the OUTBoard and Planning staff. The BOCC also made
- 123 recommendations on the technical report included in the CTP. The technical report will not be considered for
- 124 adoption by the BOCC until the fall, after TARPO and NCDOT complete their review and adoption of all five maps.
- 125 The BOCC adopted the maps with the OUTBoard recommendations.
- 126
- 127 Abigaile Pittman updated the group regarding the proposed rail crossings showing proposed routes on map and the
- 128 timeline going forward with a deadline for completion by 2017.
- 129
- 130 Abigaile Pittman noted that she attended the BG MPO meeting and reviewed that meeting and gave the group a
- 131 handout on those activities and reports.
- 132
- 133 Abigaile Pittman gave an update and handouts on Orange County bridge projects and the adopted DCHC MPO MTP
- 134 and CTP. She also advised that the Riverwalk project in Hillsborough is scheduled to begin in June.
- 135
- 136 Abigaile Pittman advised that she would be giving a briefing on Safe Routes to School to the BOCC on April 9<sup>th</sup>. She
- 137 will brief the OUTBoard on April 17<sup>th</sup> and advised that the OUTBoard should be involved in it by the fall.
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- 140 **AGENDA ITEM VIII: UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS OF INTEREST ON OTHER REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION RELATED**
- 141 **BOARD AGENDAS:**
- 142 **OUTBoard Action:** Receive information as handout.
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- 145 **AGENDA ITEM IX: LISTING OF ITEMS FOR APRIL 17, 2013 MEETING**
- 146 **OUTBoard Action:** Receive information
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- 149 **AGENDA ITEM X: BOARD COMMENTS**
- 150 **OUTBoard Action:** Receive comments
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- 153 **AGENDA ITEM XI: ADJOURNMENT**
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- 155 The meeting was adjourned by consensus.
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Paul Guthrie, Chair