

MINUTES
ORANGE UNIFIED TRANSPORTATION BOARD
APRIL 17, 2013

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MEMBERS PRESENT: Paul Guthrie, Chapel Hill Township; Jeff Charles, Bicycle Advocate; Alex Castro, Bingham Township; Susie Enoch, Cheeks Township; Sam Lasris, Cedar Grove Township; Ted Triebel, Little River Township; Amy Cole, Transit Advocate; Annette Jurgelski, Eno Township;

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bryant Warren, Hillsborough Township; Jeff Miles, Pedestrian Access & Safety Advocate; Economic Development Commission - Vacant; CfE Representative-Vacant; Planning Board Representative- Vacant;

STAFF PRESENT: Abigaile Pittman, Transportation/Land Use Planner; Tina Love, Administrative Assistant II

AGENDA ITEM I: CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

AGENDA ITEM II: APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 20, 2013
APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MARCH 20, 2013

The February 20, 2013 and March 20, 2013 OUTBoard Minutes were approved by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM III: CONSIDERATIONS OF ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

AGENDA ITEM IV: REGULAR AGENDA
Next Steps for Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Plan Adoption and Implementation. The Planning staff has received authorization from the BOCC to proceed with initial SRTS Action Plan adoption steps. Following adoption, the staff is recommending that the future SRTS Advisory Committee be a sub-committee of the OUTBoard, supplemented by additional staff as needed from the County, Orange County Schools, and the Town of Hillsborough. Related documents:
<http://www.orangecountync.gov/planning/documents/CompleteFinalDraftSRTS.pdf>
OUTBoard Action: To receive information in preparation for future OUTBoard role.

Abigaile Pittman reviewed the Safe Routes to School Plan and advised the role of advisory committee would be a subcommittee of the OUTBoard responsible for advocating plan implementation and assisting with programing, evaluating plan progress and assessing plan priorities. The subcommittee with include interested OUTBoard member, representatives for the schools, the Town of Hillsborough, and planning staff as needed. Others will be brought in as necessary, such as NCDOT regarding road improvement, etc. and consultation from engineers and so forth. Staff is meeting on April 30th.

Jeff Charles commented that it is a good segue to the WalkBike NC Plan because you can't do the SRTS Program by itself, it has to be integrated into the bigger plan because of connectivity issues and you can use the SRTS to help defend trying to get financing from NCDOT on the bicycle issues where they are trying to upgrade the monies. He noted his cautionary point is to make sure it is not in its own bunker working on just this little issue, and talk about more interconnectivity as it might relate to WalkBike NC Plans that NCDOT frees up these additional funds. It is certainly a long term plan that doesn't mean you don't certainly do what you can around the schools but make sure that there is a plan for interconnectivity somewhere down the road and think it through.

AGENDA ITEM V: REGULAR AGENDA
WalkBike NC Plan – a North Carolina Statewide Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan
WalkBike NC is North Carolina's first statewide master plan to define a vision, goals and strategies for improving walking and bicycling for residents and visitors. The Plan identifies current conditions for walking and bicycling in North Carolina and serves as a policy guide for state agencies, local governments, and private sector interests to develop a transportation system that safely and efficiently accommodates walking and bicycling. The review period is short and the State is only accepting comments until April 30th.

56 Therefore, the Plan has been pre-reviewed by OUTBoard Vice-Chair, Jeff Charles, and by
57 planning staff member Abigaile Pittman. Related documents, including Draft Plan
58 Summary, Full Draft Plan, on-line comment form, and community engagement forum
59 (survey): <http://www.ncdot.gov/bikeped/planning/walkbikenc/>

60 **OUTBoard Action:** To receive review comments suggested by Jeff Charles and Abigaile
61 Pittman, and consider recommended comments to be provided to NCDOT
62

63 Abigaile Pittman reviewed the WalkBike NC Plan noting that WalkBike NC is North Carolina's first statewide master
64 plan to define a vision, goals and strategies for improving walking and bicycling for residents and visitors. She
65 shared the comments from staff and Jeff Charles.
66

67 Jeff Charles noted that there was a lot of work put into this plan and he thinks the OUTBoard needs to give NCDOT
68 staff kudos for doing a pretty good job. He added that he thinks it's important to tell them the positives and say 'oh by
69 the way' there are other things. Jeff elaborated that they took very unique approach, a good one, in that they looked
70 at economic factors, how it would improve tourism if we became a destination state for bicycling. They talked about
71 health issues, the obesity rates of young children, we rank fifth or sixth in the nation in obesity in children. They also
72 talk about economic benefits of health, safety, savings, environmental issues, increasing the use of these things. He
73 would like to come up with a general statement applauding their efforts in highlighting the need for bicycle and
74 pedestrian for all of these good reasons with the OUTBoard and staffs comments on how it can be improved.
75

76 Abigaile Pittman advised that in her research online, that most other states have a safe routes for seniors programs.
77

78 Jeff Charles noted that in the plan there is a benchmark reporting by the alliance for biking and walking from 2012.
79 Safest states to bicycle, the safest state in the US is South Dakota, North Carolina is 44th, safest state for walking is
80 Vermont and North Carolina is 41st. We are so far behind and we have to recognize they are taking an enormous
81 step forward with this new approach.
82

83 Paul Guthrie added that he thinks the plan is deficient in one way, it doesn't sufficiently indicate that for any of this to
84 have any major long-term significance it has to integrated with the broader picture of transportation. That is
85 especially true for this county where walking and biking will be the feeders to future transportation systems. We are
86 beginning to look at the infancy of transportation systems across the entire county. One thing we can do now is to
87 begin building a funding system for bus and rail transportation. Paul references the statistic of 6.7% of residents
88 without automobiles in the report and suggested that in rural areas of the county that rate is probably higher as high
89 as 13%.
90

91 Paul Guthrie suggested that the report should show examples.
92

93 Jeff Charles elaborated that this is an enormous step. He noted that this is becoming a big issue in respect to
94 bicycling infrastructure because we are looking for new modes of transportation in Orange County and we are seeing
95 these scooters that can only go 30 mph in 55 mph zones and they are going to flow into the 4 foot bike lanes as
96 bailout to allow vehicles to pass them. He noted that while Segways are not going to catch on but new technology,
97 organic transit, they are 36 to 42 inches wide, so when you talk about a 4 or 5 foot lane that is a problem. He added
98 that they are also designing a truck that could carry 850 lb. loads so you could envision that being used for pizza
99 delivery or grocery delivery and meals on wheels. Jeff noted that the report cites a shift in demographics to 65 from
100 13% today to about 20% and we need to broaden the thought process for the upright bicycles, scooters and other
101 competing technology in these four foot bike lanes we are arguing for.
102

103 Abigaile Pittman added that in some communities residents tool around in golf carts.
104

105 Alex Castro agreed with Jeff's comments and staff's comments. Alex Castro moved to approve the submitted
106 comments and the additional comments discussed at the meeting. Ted Triebel seconded the motion.
107

108 Ted Triebel added that his thoughts run parallel with Alex's and he was happy to see the work staff and Jeff did and
109 commended both. He particularly agrees with comment number 6 as going to the critical core to keep in mind going
110 forward.
111

111
112 The OUTBoard approved the submitted and discussed comments be submitted to NCDOT for the WalkBike NC Plan
113 by consensus.

- 114
115 **AGENDA ITEM VI: STAFF UPDATES**
116 a. Update on staff meeting with NCDOT Rail Division regarding the three proposed
117 railroad private crossing closures in Orange County. Related documents:
118 <http://orangecountync.gov/planning/RRCrossingClosure.asp>
119 b. Update on proposed Old Well to Jordan Lake Scenic Byway.
120 c. Update on the Triangle Air Quality Report released on 4-3-13 for public comment.
121 Related documents: <http://www.triangleair.org/topics.htm#transconf>
122 d. Update on changes to the DCHC MPO 2040 MTP Bicycle Map based on comments by
123 Orange County Planning staff.
124 e. Update on workshop for TARPO Locally Coordinated Human Service Public
125 Transportation Plan.
126 f. Update on the upcoming development of the Eno Economic Development District
127 (EDD) Access Management Plan.
128 **OUTBoard Action:** Receive updates

129
130 Abigaile Pittman updated the OUTBoard that she and Craig Benedict met with the NCDOT Rail Division, the NCDOT
131 Planning Branch, and their consultant, Florence and Hutchinson on March 15th to review the remaining issues and
132 questions regarding the purposed rail crossing closing. NCDOT has responded in writing and there is a letter and
133 meeting minutes included in the packet. In the spring NCDOT will be completing the environmental assessment and
134 in the summer they will be conducting traffic impact analysis for extending Byrdville Road and Walter Clark Drive at
135 NC 86. In the fall they will finalize crossing improvement in the final environment assessment document. Final
136 design and right-of-way acquisitions will begin in early 2014 and in early 2015 they will begin construction.

137
138 Abigaile Pittman updated the Board on a proposed new scenic byway in the county. She noted that there are three
139 existing scenic byways in Orange County, the Colonial Heritage Highway along NC 86 north of Hillsborough; the
140 Football Road, Old Greensboro Road west of Carrboro; and the Scots-Welsh Heritage Byway, Old NC 86, Arthur
141 Minus, Orange Grove, and Dairyland Roads. Over the past two years DEAPR has worked on this byway which will
142 link downtown Chapel Hill to Jordan Lake. The proposed byway is 15 miles long and features a number of locations
143 with historical, natural, recreational, and educational values.

144
145 Abigaile Pittman updated the Board on the Triangle Air Quality Report released by the DCHC MPO for public
146 comment and the TAC approved the key components at their December meeting. She noted that staff has reviewed
147 it and has no comments.

148
149 Abigaile Pittman noted that the DCHC MPO 2040 MTP written report was released and approved back in December
150 2012 but the maps were released a few weeks ago and they had a mess of names for projects without real
151 descriptions and complicated financial spreadsheets but no maps. She reported that the bike map had several
152 issues and planning staff made comments to DCHC MPO TAC and as a result TAC approved changes to plan last
153 Wednesday when they met. Abigaile further noted that this is a compromise as some parts they wouldn't change
154 and some they did.

155
156 Jeff Charles noted that in his communications he agreed that it is a good compromise regarding Old NC 86.

157
158 Sam Lasris asked about the route alternative to NC 86 N around Coleman Loop Rd and Abigaile offered to bring all
159 the maps to the next meeting for the OUTBoard's review of the changes.

160
161 Abigaile Pittman advised the OUTBoard on the workshop for TARPO for locally coordinated human services
162 transportation. The workshop will be held on April 16th from 9 am to noon at Southern Human Services in Chapel
163 Hill. She advised it will focus on the needs of rural Orange and Chatham Counties as part of the larger TARPO
164 region and will not focus on the urban transit services provided by Chapel Hill Transit or Triangle Transit but more
165 rural services provided by Orange Public Transit and Chatham Transit Network. This plan ensures that transit

166 systems and other transportation providers in the region remain eligible for certain federal funds. Abigaile noted this
167 plan is required by law in order to get federal funds and is needed to identify the specific areas of need for individuals
168 with disabilities, seniors, and low income.

169
170 Alex Castro advised that he will be attending and will put together a report for the OUTBoard.

171
172 Abigaile Pittman updated the OUTBoard regarding the Eno EDD Access Management Plan that she will be heading
173 up and noted the plan will provide better transportation system and capacities to serve the US 70 and Hwy 10 area.
174 Staff will be asking approval to move forward at the May 7 BOCC meeting. Abigaile noted she anticipates that the
175 OUTBoard will review that plan in September and make comments for the BOCC.

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177 **AGENDA ITEM VII: UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS OF INTEREST ON OTHER REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION RELATED**
178 **BOARD AGENDAS:**
179 **OUTBoard Action:** Receive information as handout.

180
181 Abigaile Pittman gave the OUTBoard handouts to review at their convenience.

182
183 Jeff Charles asked about coordinating with Durham City/County planning for connectivity in bike plans.

184
185 Abigaile Pittman will look into that and get back to Jeff.

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187 **AGENDA ITEM VIII: LISTING OF ITEMS FOR APRIL 17, 2013 MEETING**
188 **OUTBoard Action:** Receive information

189
190 Abigaile Pittman advised the OUTBoard that a transportation planner has been hired to fill the vacancy created when
191 Darcy Zorio left to take a job at Triangle Transit. His name is Bret Martin and he will start on May 20th and will attend
192 the May OUTBoard meeting.

193
194 The OUTBoard moved, seconded and unanimously approved to change the May OUTBoard meeting from
195 Wednesday, May 15th to Wednesday, May 22nd.

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197 **AGENDA ITEM IX: BOARD COMMENTS**
198 **OUTBoard Action:** Receive comments

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200 **AGENDA ITEM X: ADJOURNMENT**

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202 The meeting was adjourned by consensus.

203
204 **Items for future meetings:**

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 - Send Jeff Charles the recommend route to be used as an alternative to St. Mary's Road
 - Bring the Bike Maps to the May meeting

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Paul Guthrie, Chair