

**ORANGE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

ACTION AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

Meeting Date: June 15, 2010

Action Agenda

Item No. 8-a

SUBJECT: Triangle Regional Transit Public Involvement Plan

DEPARTMENT: Planning and Inspections

PUBLIC HEARING: (Y/N)

No

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Public Involvement Plan Committee Roles and Responsibilities
2. Program Milestones
3. Alternatives Map
4. Steering Committee Meetings and Objectives by Phase
5. Alternatives Analysis Process

INFORMATION CONTACT:

Craig Benedict, Planning Director,
245-2592

PURPOSE: To receive an update on the Triangle Regional Transit Public Involvement Plan (TRTP PIP) process and status.

BACKGROUND: The purpose of the Public Involvement Plan is to educate the public about the benefits of the Triangle Regional Transit Plan and to insure the involvement and collaboration of various regional stakeholders prior to consideration of a ½ cent sales tax referendum possibly being considered for a November 2011 ballot. Local government chairs, mayors and managers have been meeting on the subject for a few months as part of a Transit Roundtable.

Triangle Transit is the lead organization in developing the Public Involvement Plan and URS is the consultant firm retained to develop the plan and assist with public outreach tools. Some of the tools that are currently in development are: a project website, a video clip showing various transit corridors and meeting materials for the first round of public meetings.

A Steering Committee was created to assist with implementation of the Public Involvement Plan. The Committee consists of local government representatives and transit providers. Planning Director Craig Benedict is representing the County on the Committee. Over the next 10 months the Public Involvement Plan will be refined and implemented. The Committee has met twice the last meeting occurring on May 25, 2010. Currently, the Committee is working on refining the message that will be used to promote the plan to the public. The message will include three key elements:

1. Why Triangle Transit is implementing the Transit Vision?
2. What is Triangle Transit doing?
3. How is Triangle Transit implementing the Vision?

In addition to the Public Involvement Plan Steering Committee, two or more Technical Advisory Committees will be created to focus on Alternatives Analysis details within identified transit corridors.

On July 7, 2010 one of several outreach meetings will be coordinated at the Chapel Hill Main Library between 5:30 pm and 8:00 pm. The meeting will be hosted by the TRTP PIP group of Triangle Transit Authority/URS. Orange County will be participating with its local and regional partners.

Staff will continue to provide regular updates on the work of the Steering Committee. Additional information related to the Public Involvement Plan will be available on the website: www.ourtransitfuture.com. The website is currently under construction and will become available in mid-June. It will be updated regularly to provide information about the public involvement process. In addition, the public will be able to use this site to submit comments related to the project.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: There is no financial impact with receiving the update. The financial impact associated with the implementation of the Public Involvement Plan is to be determined.

RECOMMENDATION(S): The Manager recommends the Board receive the update.

Attachment 1:
Public Involvement Plan Committee Roles and Responsibilities

Public Involvement Steering Committee
Meeting #2 – May 25, 2010

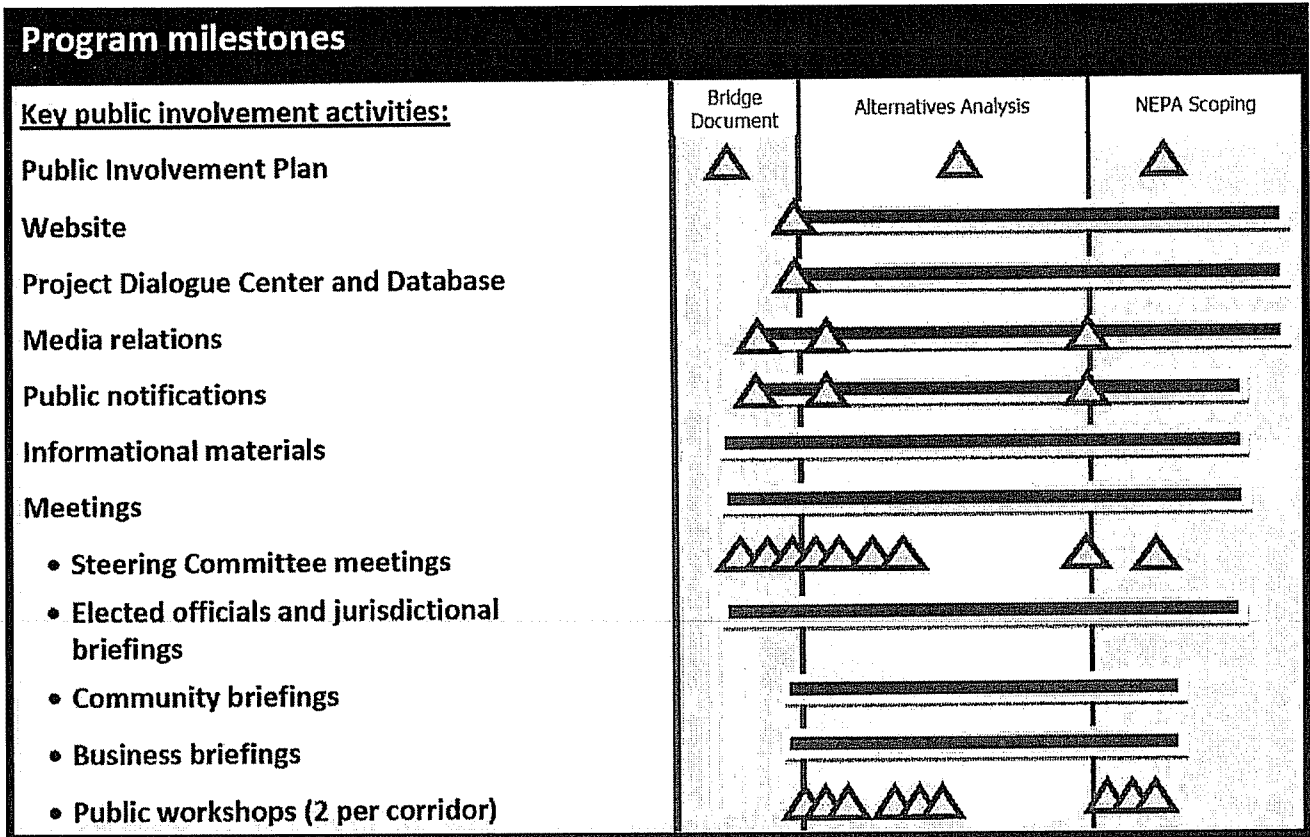
ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Public Involvement Steering Committee meetings will be held throughout the Triangle Regional Transit Program. The Steering Committee will help refine the Public Involvement Plan and oversee the implementation and analysis of plan elements. The Steering Committee's lead responsibilities will be to:

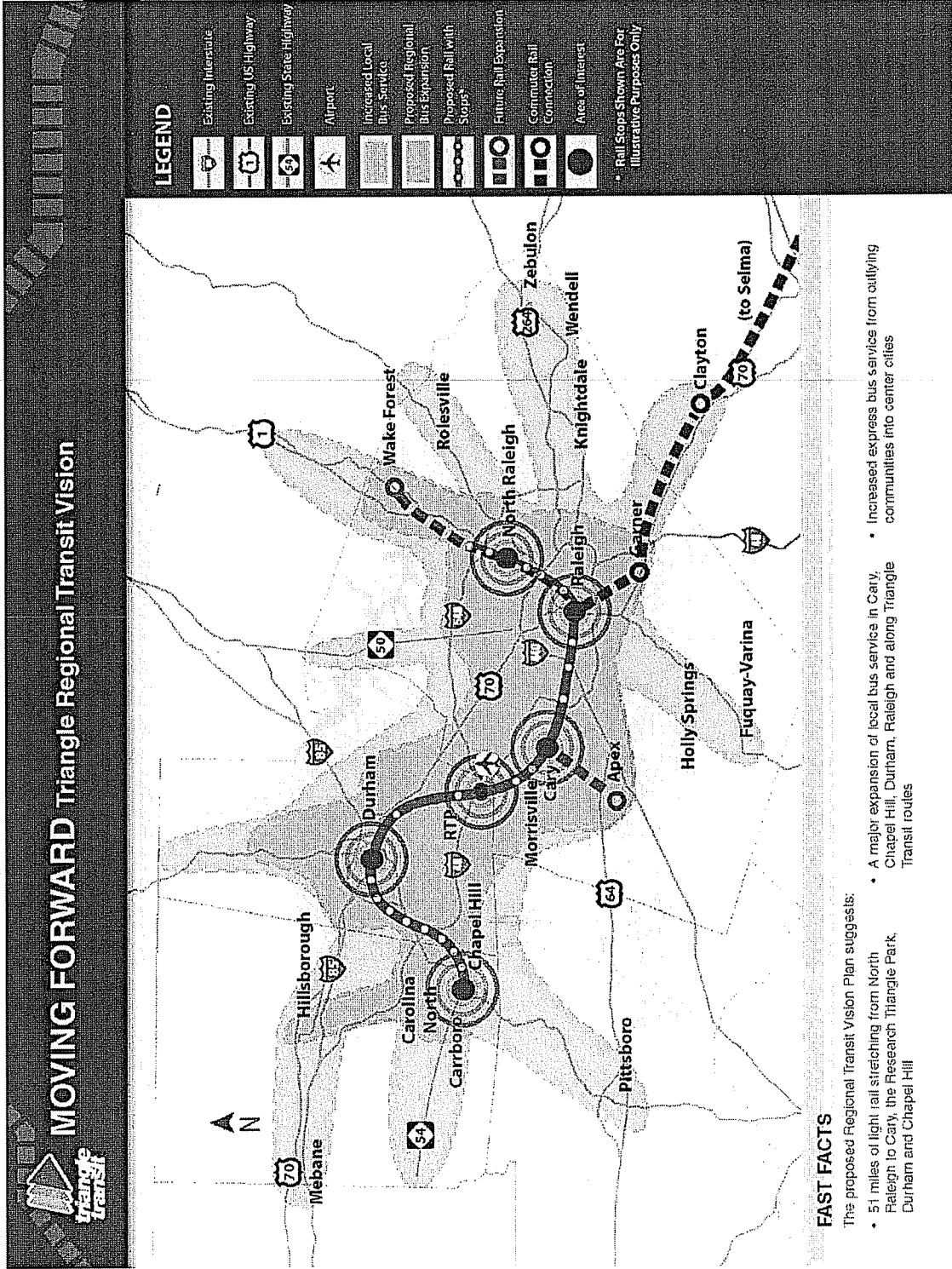
- Participate in monthly Public Involvement Steering Committee meetings.
- Refine public involvement tools and techniques for use during the public involvement program.
- Review public involvement materials, including notifications, collateral materials and Web site content.
- Share program information using updates to the program web pages, e-mail updates, news releases, informational displays and collateral materials.
- Serve as a program liaison at public meetings.
- Distribute program materials through existing contact channels and facilities.

Public involvement activities will include ongoing program-wide outreach, as well as project-specific outreach tied to the release of technical project information. The purpose, objectives and expected outcomes of each Steering Committee meeting will be further refined and defined through the PIP process and initial Steering Committee meetings.

**Attachment 2:
Program Milestones**



**Attachment 3:
Alternatives Map**



Attachment 4: Steering Committee Meetings and Objectives by Phase

Bridge Document Phase

Meeting #1

- Develop the Steering Committee (including role, vision, goals/objectives, process and outcomes).
- Obtain input on program schedule and milestones.
- Review and discuss preliminary Public Involvement Plan.
- Discuss the existing transit vision plan, including the major urban transit investment corridors, commuter rail corridors, regional express bus corridors/services and circulator projects.

Meeting #2

- Obtain input on specific project alternatives for each of the three corridor projects.
- Discuss corridor limits, potential technologies, potential station locations and access definitions.

Meeting #3

- Review corridor project information, including maps showing limits, facilities and access points.
- Discuss evaluation measures, including ridership, travel benefits, land use considerations and capital and operating costs.

Alternatives Analysis Phase

Meeting #4

- Review and obtain feedback on the draft Bridge Document.
- Discuss process for evaluating alternatives.
- Discuss recommendations for the implementation plan.
- Prepare for the first series of public workshops.

PUBLIC MEETING #1

Meeting #5

- Review input received at the first public workshop series.
- Review existing conditions information.

Meeting #6

- Review a range of alternatives, including no-build, baseline and build alternatives.
- Prepare for the second series of public workshops.

PUBLIC MEETING #2

Meeting #7

- Review input received during the second public workshop series.
- Refine screening criteria for evaluation of project alternatives.

NEPA Scoping Phase

Meeting #8

- Review results of the environmental screening.

- Review draft Purpose and Need, draft goals and objectives, preliminary study area and impact topics to be evaluated during environmental review.
- Prepare for the third series of public workshops (public scoping meetings).

PUBLIC MEETING #3

Meeting #9

- Review input received during the public scoping meetings.
- Refine the project alternatives based on input received.
- Discuss land use, economic development, traffic and other considerations.
- Begin discussing aspects of the Alternatives Analysis document.

**Attachment 5:
Alternatives Analysis Process**

