



**Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization
of the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission**
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CHART Advisory Committee Meeting
June 4, 2008 Minutes

Present

Members

Stephen Bach
James Currie, Chair
Marc Evans
Jay Gauldin
Mac Lafferty
Jeff Monroe
John Pfaltz, Vice Chair
Linda Seaman
Bill Wuensch

Representing

MPO, Bicycling
Albemarle County, Environment
MPO
MPO
Albemarle County
Albemarle County
City At-Large
City At-Large
MPO

Not Attending:

Bobby Burke MPO, Pedestrian
James Burton City At-Large
Cal Morris Albemarle County, Planning Commission

Staff:

Cory Anderson TJPDC
Melissa Barlow TJPDC
Ann Whitham TJPDC

Matters from the Public

There were no matters from the public.

Welcome to New Members

Mr. Currie introduced himself and welcomed everyone to do the same. The Committee welcomed new members Mac Lafferty and Jeff Monroe, both Albemarle County members.

Approval of the Minutes

Upon a motion by Mr. Pfaltz, seconded by Ms. Seaman, the April 2008 meeting minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

Car Sharing Presentation and Discussion

Mr. Zachary Shahan, Executive Director of the Alliance for Community Choice in Transportation, and Mr. Mike Goddard, a University Transit Service TDM Professional, gave a presentation about the possibility of a car sharing service in Charlottesville. The presentation specifically focused on the ZipCar car sharing programs that allows members to use a car from

an hour to an entire day. Currently a Charlottesville-area version of this program is being implemented at the University of Virginia. Mr. Shahan and Mr. Goddard discussed the ZipCar phenomenon, the specifics of the program, and the program's feasibility for the city of Charlottesville.

Mr. Pfaltz added that the ZipCar format is synergistic with other modes of public transit like commuter rail from Crozet. He mentioned that he talked to Mayor Dave Norris, who is supportive of the idea. Mr. Shahan agreed that it is a great compliment to public transit.

Ms. Seaman asked if ZipCar tends to locate their cars at bus or rail terminals. Mr. Goddard answered that yes this was typically the case, but maybe not in Charlottesville. Cars might later be located near the Downtown Transit Center, but the first priority location for ZipCar placement is near the University of Virginia.

Mr. Evans asked about the distribution of the length of trips. Mr. Goddard replied that most ZipCar trips are for lunchtime excursions, for people in carpool situations, or for people who need to run errands midday. For the location of the ZipCars, the City, County or UVA would have to designate the spots, particularly spots that are heavily branded. Some cities even have electric cars/kiosk set-up.

Ms. Barlow asked how the number of cars at the University will be determined. Mr. Goddard stated that the number of cars will be based on the student population. Also, Mr. Goddard explained that the cars will be located near first-year dorms, but only on central grounds. Ms. Barlow asked if the UVA staff members who carpool go through the University or RideShare. Mr. Goddard responded that right now it's RideShare, but the University is working out a policy of incentives for ridesharing. If University employees want ridematching and guaranteed ride home they must still register through RideShare. Ms. Barlow than asked if the number of participants in RideShare were part of the calculation for the number of ZipCars.

Mr. Goddard also explained that when a ZipCar is checked-out for over 40% of the time over an 18 hour period that the ZipCar program will make another car available for use.

Mr. Gauldin asked if there are bike racks on the kiosks or cars. There are not.

Mr. Goddard also explained that the University Hospital staff population was taken into account, even if no ZipCars will be located in that area upon the initial implementation of the program.

Mr. Currie thanked them.

UnJAM 2035 Regional Summit Review and Next Steps Discussion

Ms. Whitham gave a presentation about the recent UnJAM 2035 Regional Summit, which took place on May 10th at Monticello High School. The Summit was an opportunity for the public to participate in a planning workshop that would help shape the framework for the UnJAM 2035 plan, a long-range transportation plan for the Thomas Jefferson Planning District. The summit was a success, but there is still more outreach necessary, particularly for the rural areas.

The Committee noted that there have been significant changes in the cost of energy and transportation since last year.

Ms. Seaman noted that few business have accounted for the cost of fuel increasing as sharply as it has, and specifically mentioned school districts.

Mr. Monroe agreed and noted that Diantha McKeel stated that the Albemarle County school buses travel 12,000 miles a day.

Draft FY09 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) Review

Ms. Barlow introduced the new format for the FY09 TIP, noting changes in the amount of detail and information as compared to the FY06 TIP. She explained how the new TIP will interact with the new STIP grouping process. She noted that she presented this information to the Policy Board and requested their decision about how to present information in the TIP.

Mr. Bach asked if there will be appendices in the TIP that show the breakouts within the groups. Ms. Barlow agreed that this is a key question and added that the Policy Board has asked for a format similar to the past TIP with the detailed information, followed by grouped projects, then the appendix with the ungrouped projects, plus an appendix with the six year plan.

Mr. Lafferty asked for a recap of the STIP grouping process, which Ms. Barlow provided, adding that the process makes sense, but met with conflict locally because citizens and elected officials desired more detail.

Mr. Pfaltz would like CHART to send a message to the MPO Policy Board about certain projects listed in the TIP. Specifically dealing with projects that will be grouped but that he thinks should be ungrouped. For example, the listed Old Ivy Road project, which he does not think should be under safety, or on the list at all. Ms. Seaman asked if the Old Ivy Road project involved widening the underpass. It does not and the bridge will remain two-lane. Ms. Barlow suggested contacting Albemarle County about whether the project should be in the SYP.

Mr. Gauldin asked what direction CHART should take. Ms. Barlow responded that she would like feedback about the new format of the TIP and whether they agree with the VDOT proposed format, or do they think that we should provide the same amount of detail as in the old TIP.

Mr. Gauldin agreed that the public should see the dollar values for each project. Mr. Pfaltz does not think that the maps and descriptions need to be included. Mr. Gauldin feels that the lack of written description and map is not good. Mr. Lafferty agreed that he would not know a road solely by its route number. Mr. Gauldin suggested a single map showing the projects with a list of Universal Project Codes.

Ms. Seaman noted that a good deal of the TIPs work is front-end work, and that at least the previous TIP's data could be reused.

Other Business

Policy Board: Mr. Pfaltz reported that he attended the May Policy Board meeting where David Slutzky brought up the Berkmar Bridge. Mr. Slutzky believes that the Berkmar Bridge can be built for much less than the estimated \$30 million, even from a private developer. Mr. Pfaltz thinks we should be building bridges at the choke points and letting developers build the roads in between. Mr. Pfaltz also noted that Mr. Slutzky recommended bringing the topic up at CHART to build enthusiasm. Furthermore, Mr. Pfaltz noted that Mr. Slutzky too is bothered by the

earmarking of funds for projects like Old Ivy Road and believes that those funds should be used to construct the Berkmar Bridge.

Mr. Wuensch commented that Stonehaus has a development proposal for a parcel along Berkmar Drive and is interested in making a monetary proffer that could be applied towards the long term goals of Places29, namely something that would help get the new bridge and road constructed. As of now, the County would rather not collect money for future improvements but would rather see the developer construct something directly.

Mr. Pfaltz just wants CHART to make a statement about the importance of the bridge as a project.

Mr. Pfaltz brought a motion that the Committee vote to send a memo to the Policy Board and the Board of Supervisors about the high priority of the Berkmar Bridge project. There was no second.

Mr. Monroe noted his concern about the subsequent effects on his Hessian Hills neighborhood.

Mr. Gauldin commented that the County has had Georgetown Road on the books for quite awhile, but there is a lack of funds.

Mr. Lafferty asked Mr. Pfaltz which projects he wants to send to the MPO as a list. Mr. Currie suggested making Mr. Pfaltz's point in the UnJAM 2035 plan.

Executive Director Search: Mr. Bach requested details about finding a new Executive Director. Ms. Barlow noted that the Commission is likely to hire an independent firm to conduct the recruitment effort. The firm should be chosen by fall 2008

Bike Sharing: Mr. Wuensch shared that he saw a bike sharing system in Paris and noted that a similar program is coming to D.C. He would like to see this come to Charlottesville

Chairmanship of the Committee: Mr. Currie noted that he has served as the Chair and representative to the MPO for 1.5 years and welcomed other members to consider nominating someone else or run themselves. He would like to open up both roles to an election at the next meeting.

Upon a motion by Mr. Pfaltz, seconded by Ms. Seaman, the CHART Committee unanimously passed a motion of appreciation for Harrison Rue.

Additional Matters from the Public:

There were no additional matters from the public.

The meeting was adjourned.