



Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization
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CHART Advisory Committee Meeting
December 2nd, 2009 Minutes

Present

Members

Bobby Burke
Tom Loach
Jeff Monroe
Bruce Odell
John Pfaltz
Linda Seaman, Chair
Peggy Westfall

Representing

MPO, Pedestrian
County Planning Commission
Albemarle County At-Large
City-At-Large
City-At-Large
City-At-Large
City-At-Large

Not Attending

Stephen Bach
Jim Currie
Mac Lafferty, Vice Chair
Bill Wuensch

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

Staff:

Sarah Eissler TJPDC
Chuck Proctor VDOT
Steve Williams TJPDC

Ms. Seaman called the meeting to order.

Matters from the Public

Peter Kleeman: Mr. Kleeman stated that he was extremely pleased with the CHART Committee’s public participation efforts and encouraged the committee to not just seek public comment but actively educate the public.

Discussion of the New Format for Meeting Minutes

Ms. Eissler explained that from this meeting forward, with the committee’s permission, the CHART committee’s meeting minutes will be presented in a summary format. Ms. Seaman stated that important items should be presented in appropriate detail.

Approval of the Minutes

Upon a motion from Mr. Burke, seconded by Mr. Westfall, the November 4, 2009 meeting minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

Discussion of the Draft Public Participation Presentation

Ms. Eissler presented on the second draft of the public participation presentation, specifically highlighting changes that the committee members had requested. Ms. Eissler emphasized that most of the major edits to the presentation focused on funding transportation in the Commonwealth. The committee members mentioned only minor typos and small edits in the early portion of the presentation. The committee members requested that the funding information become simplified. Furthermore, committee members

requested that the total annual funding amount be broken down by program to easier see how the funding is allocated, specifically how much money is going to maintenance.

Further concerns about the presentation focused on the Alternative Strategies slide. Mr. Odell was concerned that these strategies and the funding portions of the presentation focused primarily on roadways. Mr. Odell continued that he thought transit and the RTA should be better represented. Committee members felt that the funding discussion and alternatives discussion had been framed to be accessible to the average citizen outside of transportation planning. Mr. Williams stated that given the 20-minute time limit of this presentation it would be difficult to fully discuss the complexities and purposes of a Regional Transit Authority. Mr. Odell continued that because the presentation touches on transit topics that we should at least briefly explain an RTA.

Mr. Loach expressed concern that the Alternative Strategies slide mentioned a bypass to Route 29 North. Mr. Loach was concerned because the County has stated repeatedly that a Western Bypass is not a viable alternative for improving route 29 north and that they will not support this project. Mr. Williams stated that while the County Board of Supervisors does not support this project, numerous citizens still feel that a Western Bypass is the only option for improving route 29 north. Ms. Eissler agreed with Mr. Williams, stating that during the RLRP public outreach process numerous citizens in Albemarle County and Greene County thought a Western Bypass was the best way to improve transportation problems in the region. Mr. Loach stated that in this presentation the Western Bypass is being portrayed as a single answer to problems on Route 29 North and that this is not the case. Mr. Williams stated that the public sees the Western Bypass as a viable improvement and to not include the bypass in the alternatives strategies list would overlook a significant debate in our region. Mr. Williams also clarified that the purpose of this presentation is not validate or invalidate and County or City policies, but to better understand the public's perception of transportation planning in our region.

Other Business

Mr. Odell mentioned that CHART has been hoping to have Bill Watterson, of CTS, come to a committee meeting and discuss transit in the region. Mr. Odell was hoping staff could ask Mr. Watterson again now that his semester commitments are ending. Ms. Eissler stated that she would check with Mr. Watterson about his future availability.

Mr. Williams stated that MPO staff will need to cancel the January meeting due the holiday schedule.

Mr. Pfaltz stated that the JPA Extended Bridge Replacement project will cause significant congestion through this portion of the City. Mr. Pfaltz stated that he proposed to City Council that the City close the major thoroughfare into this neighborhood, Old Lynchburg Road at Azalea Park, to all vehicles except transit to see if the planned transit improvements and other alternative strategies are viable. Ms. Seaman suggested presenting this idea to the MPO Policy Board as the Policy Board would be a better forum for this issue.

Additional Matters from the Public

There were no additional matters from the public.