



Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization
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CHART Advisory Committee Meeting
February 3rd 2010 Minutes

Present

Members

Stephen Bach
Mac Lafferty, Vice Chair
John Pfaltz
Linda Seaman, Chair

Representing

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

Not Attending

Bobby Burke
Jeff Monroe
Bruce Odell
Peggy Westfall
Bill Wuensch

Pedestrian
Albemarle County At-Large
City At-Large
City At-Large
MPO

Staff:

Sarah Eissler TJPDC
Chuck Proctor VDOT
Steve Williams TJPDC

Ms. Seaman called the meeting to order.

Matters from the Public

There were no matters from the public.

Approval of the Minutes

Upon a motion from Mr. Pfaltz, seconded by Mr. Bach, December 2, 2009 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

TJPDC Staffing Update

Mr. Williams stated that Johnny Han was recently hired as the new transportation planner and will be taking the lead on the new regional travel demand modeling project from the TJPDC.

Updates for all MPO Committees

Mr. Williams stated that the November 2009 elections changed the membership of the MPO Policy Board. Specifically, Mr. Rodney Thomas from the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors and Ms. Kristin Szakos from the Charlottesville City Council have been added to the MPO Policy Board. In the MPO Policy Board's officer elections Mr. Satyendra Huja was elected Chair, while Mr. Rooker was elected Vice Chair.

Mr. Williams also stated that the MPO Technical Committee has two new members, Kurt Keesecker from the City of Charlottesville Planning Commission and Duane Zobrist from the Albemarle County Planning Commission.

Mr. Williams also mentioned that both Tom Loach and Jim Currie recently resigned from CHART and that the County is currently advertising to fill these positions. The MPO has also been advertising to fill two positions. Ms. Eissler stated that Mr. Lafferty has been appointed as the Albemarle County Planning Commission representative for the CHART Committee.

Draft Public Participation Presentation

Ms. Eissler presented on the new additions to the Public Participation Powerpoint Draft. Committee members offered input on improving these new slides. All of the slides presented, except the alternatives strategies slide, were extra slides that could be added to the presentation. Ms. Eissler stated that she would make the committee's requested corrections and then email out the final draft of the presentation for a final review by committee members.

Mr. Williams stated that this presentation would be considered by the MPO Policy Board at their March meeting.

Process for Establishing Community Outreach

Ms. Eissler asked the committee about possible groups and organizations that would be amenable to hearing this presentation and participating in our public input process. Committee members made numerous suggestions regarding possible groups. Beyond the already mentioned groups committee members also included, the Neighborhood Alliance, the Charlottesville Business Association, the Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis Clubs, the League of Women Voters, Real Estate Groups, the Piedmont Environmental Council and numerous other organizations.

Ms. Seaman suggested researching groups that were predominately low-income or minority in order to better represent those demographics.

Ms. Eissler stated that she would research all of these suggestions and return with a list of the initial organizations. Ms. Eissler also stated that the TJPDC should be the main contact for this public participation presentation process, simply to keep the process more organized.

CHART Committee Schedule

At the Committee's request Ms. Eissler inquired about scheduling Bill Watterson of CTS to attend a CHART meeting. The typical meeting time for CHART conflicts with one of Mr. Watterson's regular commitments and in order to plan a meeting with Mr. Watterson CHART will have to meet at another time. CHART committee members suggested Thursday, March 11th 2010 as an alternative date.

Information Items

Route 29 Corridor Study: Mr. Williams stated that the Commonwealth Transportation Board, at their December meeting, were directed to add back in the three project recommendations for the Charlottesville/Albemarle area that had been previously removed due to opposition from the public. Mr. Williams continued that the Route 29 Study was expected to be completed in late 2009, but is being continued into 2010.

State Acquisition of Biscuit Run: Mr. Williams stated that the State of Virginia bought the Biscuit Run tracks with the intention of turning this property into a state park. Mr. Williams continued that this property was purchased using Transportation Enhancement Grant funding, which is a funding source that must be vetted through the MPO Policy Board and included in the TIP, as a TIP amendment. This process was not executed appropriately. Because of this process failure Mr. Williams has written letters to the Virginia Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration, outlining this process failure and emphasizing that the MPO is a necessary and important entity regarding transportation funding in the City of Charlottesville and the urban area of Albemarle County.

Other Business

Ms. Seaman mentioned a transportation funding article she recently read and suggested that other CHART committee members read it. The article is by Ray Pathtel and can be found in the January 2010 issue of *The Virginia News Letter*.

Mr. Pfaltz stated that he thought the CHART Committee should pursue urging the MPO Policy Board to add the Southern Connector Project back into the Long Range Transportation Plan. Because of the change in Biscuit Run's status a roadway planned for the Biscuit Run Development will not be built. This road was intended to provide better connectivity in the southern portion of the City of Charlottesville and the urban area of Albemarle County. Mr. Pfaltz emphasized that this connectivity is particularly important because it would provide better mobility for emergency services in this area. Mr. Pfaltz suggested putting this issue on the agenda of the April CHART Committee meeting and before the April meeting asking emergency services officials in the area if this lack of connectivity is a significant issue. Ms. Seaman requested adding this item to the April agenda and requested that Mr. Pfaltz and Mr. Proctor bring in maps regarding the Southern Connector. Ms. Eissler stated it could be added.

Mr. Lafferty mentioned that there is currently an effort to try and unite all bike interests under one voice. Mr. Lafferty also mentioned that he would keep the committee updated on this process.

Additional Matters from the Public

There were no additional matters from the public.