



**Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization
of the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission**
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CHART Advisory Committee Meeting
January 9th, 2008 Minutes

Present

Members

Stephen Bach
Steve Bolton
James Burton
Bobby Burke
Jim Currie
Jay Gauldin
Ann Mallek
Linda Seaman

Representing

MPO, Bicycling
City At-Large
City At-Large
MPO, Pedestrian
County At-Large, Environment
MPO
County, Agriculture
City At-Large

Not Attending:

Stan Binsted	Count At-Large, Small Business
Marc Evans	MPO
Cal Morris	County, Planning Commission
John Pfaltz, Vice Chair	City At-Large

Staff:

Cory Anderson	TJPDC
Melissa Barlow	TJPDC
John Giometti	VDOT
Jeanette Janiczek	City of Charlottesville
Harrison Rue	TJPDC
Juan Wade	Albemarle County
Ann Whitham	TJPDC

Matters from the Public:

There were no matters from the public.

Approval of the January meeting minutes:

Upon a motion by Mr. Burton, seconded by Ms. Seaman, the December 2007 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

UnJAM 2035 Public Participation

Ms. Barlow introduced the draft public participation process to the Committee, including the regional summit and outreach strategy. She highlighted the possibility of using the Neighborhood America public involvement and communication service to support web-enabled participation. She requested feedback from the Committee.

Mr. Wade suggested including advertising in *The Light* as well as *The Tribune* in order to reach the African American community. He also suggested obtaining a list of neighborhood associations from the City and the County in order to mail flyers to these groups. He suggested that City and County staff could attend the neighborhood association meetings to encourage attendance, especially with traditionally under-represented communities. He also wants to see churches tapped as places that can get the word out.

Ms. Mallek added the Crozet Gazette to the list of area publication in which to advertize.

Mr. Rue asked the Committee for feedback about the suggested process for the Regional Summit. Mr. Currie noted that although he was not present, he thought that the previous process worked fairly well. He questioned whether hosting a Summit will increase participation. Mr. Rue noted the TJPDC elected officials' desire to have a more regional conversation.

Ms. Mallek suggested holding the meeting someplace on the fringe of Charlottesville, instead of having it in the heart of downtown. Mr. Currie feels that the local meetings truly draw people in.

Ms. Barlow noted the relative time constraints of the long range plan update vs. a full-blown long range plan and stressed the importance of web-enabled functionality for the pre- and post-workshop solicitation of public comment. The full long range planning process will include a full suite of regional and local workshops. Mr. Wade agreed.

Ms. Seaman noted that April is a very busy month in Charlottesville. Mr. Rue responded that an evening session might still be workable. Mr. Gauldin agreed.

Mr. Bach noted the possibility of a streaming broadcast too, people could at least observe, listen in, even if they can't participate via web-cam. Mr. Rue agrees and finds this to be more manageable for people at home. Ms. Mallek noted that Charlottesville Tomorrow would provide the web coverage.

Green Infrastructure

Ms. Whitham distributed a summary memo. Rochelle Garwood, Senior Environmental Planner at TJPDC, gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Committee about the Green Infrastructure Plan that she is developing under a grant from the Virginia Department of Forestry. With the help of a technical advisory committee, Ms. Garwood has identified areas in the TJPDC worth of protection because of their habitat, water resources and recreational values. Ms. Garwood went on to explain that she has also applied for a Federal Highways Administration "Eco-Logic" grant that will allow TJPDC to take the Green Infrastructure Plan to the next level and unite environmental and transportation planning efforts in the region. TJPDC is a finalist for the nationally-competitive grant. The presentation has been posted on TJPDC's website.

Mr. Burton asked about the focus of the Plan and whether it will address urbanized Charlottesville. Ms. Garwood responded that the Plan will work at different scales and that she is working with City staff to develop a plan for the urban area. She added that the document would likely guide decisions about cluster development.

Mr. Currie asked what will happen if TJPDC does not receive the Eco-Logic grant. Mr. Rue responded that the plan will proceed without the in-depth modeling.

Mr. Gauldin asked how the plan might guide VDOT's decisions in the more rural counties. Mr. Rue responded that if the Eco-Logic plan comes to fruition, then it will provide VDOT with good information and allow VDOT protracted environmental review because the issues will have already been addressed.

UnJAM 2035 Update: MPO Connectivity

Mr. Rue introduced the agenda item, noting Mr. Pfaltz's previously suggested list of roads that in his opinion would increase connectivity in the MPO. Mr. Rue addressed Mr. Pfaltz's proposed connections in the context of the Places 29 transportation network, noting that future connections in the parallel road network must function for pedestrians, but not overly affect surrounding neighborhoods. Mr. Rue gave the example of two area neighborhoods that opposed a multi-purpose trail connecting them to Albemarle Square. He explained that one of Places 29's goals is to construct new roads without public opposition using private developer dollars. The revised concept looks for connections closer to Route 29, rather than reaching farther back toward neighborhoods.

Mr. Rue noted VDOT's new secondary roads acceptance requirements, which include a connectivity index. Mr. Gauldin asked how this would affect a new development trying to connect to an older development. Mr. Rue responded that the intent of the requirements is to force the connections, but the roads are to be at a small-enough scale that high-speed traffic cannot fly through. Ms. Seaman agreed that connecting new developments to new developments or new to old is fine, but the issues of connecting existing developments to existing may not be worth the effort given the public opposition. Mr. Rue agreed, but noted that if the Places 29 model gets built, then perhaps the connectivity can happen without affecting the surrounding neighborhoods.

Ms. Mallek supported the long-view of connecting for bikes, pedestrians and emergency vehicles first, and gauging neighborhood support for a more formal connection later on. Ms. Seaman agreed.

Mr. Rue concluded that connectivity will be reviewed as part of the UnJAM update process and asked the Committee how to move forward with this topic and suggested that the correct role for CHART is to design an effective public process for facilitating agreement on connectivity with residents. Ms. Mallek suggested posing the question "would you like choice in getting around and out of your neighborhood?" She also hopes that CHART will keep the Free State Bridge project on the project list.

Mr. Currie felt that Mr. Pfaltz's belief was that his suggestions could be built more quickly for a fraction of the cost of Place 29.

Mr. Currie asked about getting the cost estimates. Mr. Giometti stated that in addition to having to do site visits to come up with estimates, these projects are so small that the unit cost would be very great for construction and recommended a qualitative approach, such as "low," "medium," and "high."

The Committee agreed not to push the item further.

Other Business:

TJPDC Staff: Ms. Barlow introduced Cory Anderson from TJPDC and Fania Gordon, a UVA graduate planning student who is participating in an externship at TJPDC.

CHART Membership: Mr. Currie thanked Ms. Mallek for service to the Committee and wished her luck in her new role as a County Supervisor. Mr. Rue thanked her especially for helping make the round-about at the airport a reality.

Matters from the Public:

There were no matters from the public.

The meeting was adjourned.