



Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization
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DRAFT
CHART Advisory Committee Meeting
July 7th 2010 Minutes

Present

Members

Stephen Bach
Dan Freudberg
Mac Lafferty, Vice Chair
Jeff Monroe
Bruce Odell
Brad Sheffield
David Shreve
Linda Seaman, Chair
Bill Wuensch

Representing

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

Not Attending

Bobby Burke MPO, Pedestrian
Alec Gosse MPO
Peggy Westfall City At-Large

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 May 5th, 2010 Meeting Minutes

On a motion from Mr. Lafferty, seconded by Mr. Monroe, the May 5th 2010 meeting meetings were approved.

Introduction of Committee Members

Ms. Seaman welcomed new member Brad Sheffield and asked Committee members to introduce themselves.

Discussion for the First Presentation Event for the JAUNT Board

Mr. Williams stated that MPO staff took the Public Participation Presentation to the MPO Technical Committee and the MPO Policy Board, and both groups were very pleased with the results. Mr. Williams also stated that Donna Shaunesey, executive director for JAUNT, invited the CHART Committee to present to the JAUNT board at one of the board's future meetings.

Mr. Williams stated that this presentation is scheduled for July 14th at 10am at the JAUNT offices and encouraged committee members to attend.

Future Role of CHART Citizen Advisory Committee

Mr. Williams stated that the MPO Policy Board approved the Long Range Transportation Plan (UnJAM 2035) for the MPO in May 2009. The Long Range Transportation Plan is the major project for the CHART Committee. Mr. Williams continued stating that the UnJAM 2035 document is a transportation policy document, which focuses on the needs in the community. Mr. Williams stated that he would like to augment UnJAM 2035 by focusing on modal-specific long range plans. Specific plans would include a bicycle and pedestrian plan, a transit plan, and a roads and highways plan.

Mr. Williams also stated that he believed that the Charlottesville-Albemarle MPO is likely to become a non-attainment area in the next few years, which will greatly change the requirements for long range transportation planning.

Mr. Williams concluded stating that the MPO is going to see a significant amount of transportation planning in the next few years and that the CHART committee will be involved in this planning process.

Ms. Seaman asked if these modal-specific transportation plans, due to the area's impending non-attainment status, would focus on reducing the area's transportation carbon footprint. Mr. Williams stated he would like to incorporate the topic of sustainability in all the future modal plans.

Mr. Odell asked Mr. Williams if he could give a recent example of modal plan. Mr. Williams stated federal regulations expect MPOs to plan across all transportation modes, and that MPOs all across the country have drafted numerous modal-specific plans pertinent to their planning area.

Mr. Shreve asked if the MPO was concerned about the lack of integration when creating modal-specific plans. Mr. Williams stated that lack of integration was a concern and that he hoped to begin the planning initiative with a general overview of the entire transportation system.

Mr. Odell asked how the Public Participation Initiative would inform the modal-specific planning process. Mr. Williams stated that he hoped the Public Participation Initiative would give an overview of the public's priorities for transportation planning in the region. These elements would then help guide the modal-specific planning process.

Mr. Shreve asked if these planning documents should and could focus on funding and implementation. Mr. Williams stated that the long range plan and the modal-specific plans typically include a fiscal element, but because of the way state and local governments interact in Virginia, the MPO and regional localities have very little control regarding transportation funding. Mr. Williams also mentioned that many transportation projects would require an increase in available revenues, which is difficult to promote in the recent economic climate.

Mr. Odell stated that to his knowledge Intelligent Transportation Systems are a viable way to improve transportation, without incurring much costs. Mr. Odell continued stating that he would like to learn more about Intelligent Transportation Systems.

Mr. Williams also stated that with both the MPO Policy Board and the MPO Technical Committee meeting on a bimonthly schedule that it is easier for MPO staff to have the CHART Committee on a bimonthly schedule as well. Mr. Williams continued stating that with the public participation project is complete, moving to a bimonthly schedule is more reasonable.

Mr. Lafferty stated that while he understood that moving to a bimonthly schedule was better for MPO staff, he was concerned that less meeting time might result in a less effective committee. Mr. Lafferty purposed having informal meetings on the off months. Mr. Williams stated that informal meetings would be reasonable, but that the MPO staff would not be involved. Ms. Seaman stated that she thought the committee should think on these informal meetings a bit more and determine the best way to handle these meetings with regards public meeting rules and regulations.

Report: Bike Charlottesville

Mr. Lafferty gave a brief history of Bike Charlottesville, a newly formed bicycling organization focused on creating a united voice for bicycling issues in the Charlottesville region. The organization's main focuses are bike safety, bicyclist and driver education, volunteer resource sharing, and better bicycling planning coordination. Mr. Lafferty also mentioned that Bike Charlottesville recently hosted a bike summit. Discussions from this summit were reviewed and resulted in a web survey to determine how members of the public would improve bicycling facilities in the region. Mr. Lafferty stated that he is hopeful that Bike Charlottesville will result in better coordinated bicycling and pedestrian planning in the area.

Ms. Seaman stated that she very impressed and pleased that the bicycling community has worked toward better coordination.

Other Business

Ms. Eissler stated that the information flyers meant for distribution at Public Participation Presentation's are complete. Ms. Eissler also mentioned that the MPO is also developing an e-card with this contact information.

Ms. Seaman asked when the Route 29 study would continue. Mr. Proctor stated that future subcommittee meetings are planned, but the process is currently uncertain.

Additional Matters from the Public

There were no additional matters from the public.