

**TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
February 21, 2008**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Heidi Perry, Chair
Dave Deming, Vice Chair
Tom High
John O'Leary
Katie Schwing
Daniel Amoni
Charlie Hileman

STAFF

Adena Messinger

GUESTS

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I. Call to Order

Heidi Perry called the meeting to order at approximately 7:35 PM.

II. Approval of February 7th minutes.

The minutes from February 7th were amended to include Daniel Amoni's request for a neighborhood meeting to discuss sidewalks along S. Greensboro Street. There was a motion to approve the minutes as appended.

Move: Tom High

Second: Dave Deming

Vote: Ayes – 7; Nays – 0

III. Continuation Transit Forum/Chapel Hill Transit discussion

TAB members emphasized their frustration with the lack of follow up by Chapel Hill Transit (CHT) to the public comment from the 2007 transit forum as well as those held in previous years. If the cost of making improvements to the system is the barrier, then that needs to be addressed. Charlie Hileman expressed that with the development of Carolina North there should be an opportunity to redesign the system.

Still, the transit forum serves the purpose of giving the public an opportunity to publicly share their comments with CHT.

TAB members discussed 'what could Carrboro do to get the message to CHT that there is a very serious and strong desire to see improvements to the system (better evening and weekend service, for example)'. Some ideas included: requesting the Board of Aldermen to have a work session on transit; prepare a letter to Steve Spade and David Bonk detailing the TAB's concerns.

The discussion concluded with Heidi offering to draft a letter for the TAB's review at the March 6th meeting.

IV. Complete Streets discussion

At the request of TAB member Daniel Amoni, the TAB began a discussion of the Complete Streets movement. Staff shared some information taken from the Complete Streets web site, including examples of policies that other states/municipalities have adopted. The underlying premise of the movement is to make streets safe and accessible to all modes of traffic. John added that in addition to physical measures to meet that goal, there is a need to educate the users or all modes as to the rules of the road. [This led to brief discussion about bicyclist behaviors as observed on the streets of Carrboro.] Daniel commented that his interest in the Complete Streets movement is to have it associated with the Town of Carrboro, as a way to raise awareness of the issues.

In trying to figure out how this movement could be applied in Carrboro, it was suggested that a good place to start would be through the current bicycle planning process, as the bicycle plan will include a review of policies, recommendations of policies that the Town could consider adopting, and recommendations for education strategies. Charlie Hileman, TAB liaison to the bicycle plan steering committee agreed to bring this up.

V. Parking Study Update

Staff provided an update on the parking study that UNC masters students are conducting for Downtown Carrboro. TAB members discussed the concept of paid parking with some members expressing a strong desire to maintain free parking downtown and others looking at a compromise where short-term parking would be free, but long term (> 3 hours perhaps) would have some sort of cost. Staff will continue to update the TAB as the study progresses.

VI. Regional Pedestrian and Bicycle meeting

TAB Chair, Heidi Perry, attended the annual regional bicycle and pedestrian meeting. Representatives from around the Triangle as well as NCDOT gathered to share and discuss updates from across the region. Of note, Heidi shared that Complete Streets were brought up and that this year's Smart Commute Challenge will be held in conjunction with bike to Work week (May 11- 17). If Carrboro would like to hold any bike to work week events, need to let TTA know by the end of March (in order to get any help/give aways). Katie Schwing offered to look into possible cooperation from Performance Bikes or the Recyclery.

As an aside, there was a question about the Blue Urban Bikes program and how it is faring.

VII. Approval of January 17th minutes.

There was motion to approve the minutes from the January 17th meeting.

Moved: John O'Leary

Second: Tom High

Vote: Ayes – 7; Nays – 0

VIII. Other Business

Staff requested assistance from TAB members with providing information for a book on living car-free in the U.S., with Carrboro as a potential location to do so. Members agree to help as they could.

John O'Leary brought up two items: 1) bus advertising on the outside of the CHT buses as a possible means of finding additional revenue, and 2) how does the Town address intersections that do not provide a clear view of incoming traffic (i.e., requiring vehicles to inch out into the intersection to see if there is oncoming traffic). In response to item #2, staff responded that they would check with Public Works.

Tom High asked if staff had received any updates regarding the Smith Level Road project. Staff responded that no updates have been received to date; however, a request was made to NCDOT as to the status of the project. The response was that they (NCDOT) are working on a summary of the public workshop and that the environmental studies are on-going.

IX. Meeting was adjourned at 9:22 PM