

MINUTES
BURLINGTON-GRAHAM URBAN AREA
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY MARCH 21, 2017
5PM

STAFF PRESENT

Mike Nunn, Director of Transportation
Wannetta Mallette, BGMPO
Transportation Planner

MEMBERS PRESENT

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Lee Kimrey, Graham
Bob Ward, Burlington
Leonard Williams, Gibsonville
Ed Hooks, Mebane
Mark Marcoplos, Orange County
Steve Buff, Elon
Don Tichy, Village of Alamance
Eddie Boswell, Alamance County
Ken Jacobs, Whitsett
Carissa Graves, Green Level

GUESTS PRESENT

Theo Letman, Orange County
Peter Murphy, Orange County
Geoff Green, GoTriangle
Scott Rhine, PART
Hemang Surti, NCDOT TPB
Mike Mills, NCDOT Div 7
Nolan Kirkman, Burlington

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Scott Rhine, PART→

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Call to Order

Chairman Williams called the March 21, 2017 TAC meeting to order and introduced all members and guests. Chairman Williams asked if there were any corrections or additions to the agenda. There were none. Chairman Williams asked for any speakers from the floor to limit comments to 3 minutes per speaker. No public comments were made. Mike Nunn read aloud the Conflict of Interest statement provided by the NC Ethics Commission. No conflicts were stated and the meeting proceeded.

Resolution of Appreciation

Mr. Nunn informed the TAC that Cheryl McQueary was not reappointed to the NCDOT Board. Mr. Nunn read allowed a resolution acknowledging Board Member McQueary for her service to the TAC and appreciation for addressing BGMPO transportation needs. **Eddie Boswell made a motion to approve the resolution and Alan Branson seconded. All TAC voted to approve,**

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Staff Introduction

Mr. Nunn introduced Wannetta Mallette. Ms. Mallette is the new BGMPO Transportation Planner and will be assuming Mr. Nunn’s duties with the BGMPO. Mr. Nunn became the Director of Transportation for the City of Burlington in February 2016. Ms. Mallette has over 20 years of experience in transportation planning having worked for SCDOT, the City of Orlando and most recently as Special Projects Manager for the City of North Charleston.

Approval of Minutes / Changes to Agenda

Chairman Williams asked for any comments or corrections to the minutes from the February 21, 2017 meeting. Alan Branson made a motion to approve the minutes and Eddie Boswell seconded. All TAC approved the minutes as written.

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GoTriangle/Wake County Transit Plan Update

BGMPO endorsed the Wake County Transit Plan in August of 2016. The plan was adopted and passed voter referendum for the revenue and financing tools in November 2016. Geoffrey Green, GoTriangle Transit/GIS Planner, provided an overview of the GoTriangle/Wake County transit operations and capital improvements financing. GoTriangle is a regional transit provider that operates regional bus, paratransit services and commuter services throughout the Cary, Raleigh, and Research Triangle Park service area. GoTriangle works with Wake, Durham and Orange Counties to develop long range transit plans by interlocal agreements with the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC-MPO) and the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO). GoTriangle is tasked with updating the transit plans every four years.

Wake Transit provides transit service within Wake County and from Garner to Durham. Future plans include dedicated lanes and stations for bus rapid transit and commuter rail. The Wake County Transit Planning Advisory Committee (TPAC) is tasked with implementation and administration of the transit plan. Wake Transit budget recommendations are developed by the TPAC Administrator and submitted to CAMPO for approval. Existing operations are financed by three dedicated sources of revenue: an \$8 Regional Transit Authority Registration tax; a \$7 Wake County Vehicle Registration Tax; and, a one-half percent local sales and use tax.

Orange County Public Transit (OPT) Update

Peter Murphy, OPT Transportation Administrator and Theo Letman, OPT Director, provided an update on current and future operations. OPT operates two fixed routes and paratransit service throughout Hillsborough with connecting service to Chapel Hill. The

Hillsborough Circulator operates hourly service Monday - Friday, 8:00am - 5:00pm. The Orange-Chapel Hill Midday Connector provides service to destinations in Hillsborough, Chapel Hill, and Cedar Grove Monday - Friday, 9:45 am - 3:50 pm. The Chapel Hill route provides transit peak service to the UNC Chapel Hill park and ride lot. Paratransit service is provided within ¼-mile of OPT's fixed routes. OPT also provides service for its senior population. Senior Center Transportation is provided Monday through Friday from Orange County Senior Centers. The Senior Centers are being used as a transfer center for fixed route service.

OPT has experienced a 12% increase in ridership over the previous year. Plans include expanding services to senior centers and three new routes: the Efland-Hillsborough Commuter peak service route, the Orange-Alamance Connector providing mid-day service from Hillsborough to Durham, and the US 70 midday service route. A new zonal rural route will begin summer 2017 and provide connectivity and consistent transit service the fixed route system.

OPT is in the Orange and Triangle County Tax Districts and its operations are funded by various sources that include the Bus/Rail Investment Plan ½ sales tax; Section 5211 FTA funding, a Community Development Block Grant with the Department of Aging for senior transit services, a CMAC grant for mid-day transit service; a \$10 vehicle registration fee, and a car rental fee. The BGMPO has set-aside over in 5307 FTA funding for OPT operations within its jurisdiction. OPT limits the use of transit funds to the service areas in which they derive their funds. Under the Bus and Rail Investment Plan, OPT will expand services and ridership amenities to include sidewalks, greenways, a new transfer center and park and ride lots.

NCDOT Board Member Update

Mr. Nunn reported that Mike Fox was appointed by Governor Cooper as one of the new state NCDOT Representatives. Mr. Nunn relayed Mr. Fox's sentiments that he looks forward to serving on the TAC and due to a schedule conflict he was unable to attend the March TAC meeting. The TAC welcomed Mr. Fox on his return as the BGMPO TAC representative. Mr. Fox was also elected Chairman of the NCDOT Board of Transportation at its February meeting.

Division Engineer Report

Mike Mills provided a report with a handout on projects within the BGMPO area and reviewed them with TAC members. TAC reviewed and discussed status of on-going projects in the BGMPO area. The NC 119 Design/Build contract will be let in May and provide contractor incentives to complete the work within 10 months. A NC 62 Public

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Workshop is scheduled on May 15, 2017 at the Grove Park Baptist Church. Mr. Mills discussed the University Drive safety concerns and roadway operations and committed to getting NCDOT involved to review the accidents and roadway conditions in the area.

Other Items

Scott Rhine, PART Executive Director, provided the update on the Alamance County funding for public transportation and the Route 4 report. The Alamance Commissioners voted on March 20, 2017 in favor of a five percent rental car fee to generate operational funds for PART service expansion. Route 4 is experiencing a significant increase in ridership. Overall PART ridership is diverse with a 65/35 split of transit dependent riders (college students, rural, urban, etc.) and choice riders (commuters). Mr. Rhine expects that trend to change as PART will be providing service comparable to funding it receives from the jurisdictions.

| Lee Kimrey requested the BGMPO work with the City of Graham staff to develop Southern Loop alternative routes. Once Graham approves the preferred alignment, it will be brought to the TAC for final approval. Mr. Nunn estimated the approval process to take approximately 6 - 12 months.

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Adjournment

| Chairman Williams adjourned the TAC at approximately 6:25 p.m.

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