

Orange County Comprehensive Transportation Plan
Steering Committee Meeting
June 17, 2009

Present at meeting: Scott Walston, NCDOT; Sarah Ezzell, NCDOT; Paul Black, Triangle J Cog; Andy Henry, DCHC;; Karen Lincoln, Orange County Planning; Karen Markovics, Orange County Planning; Nancy Baker, OUTBoard; Randy Marshall, OUTBoard; Paul Guthrie, OUTBoard; Tina Love, Orange County Planning

The group discussed the road classifications, connectors, and the roads to be added to the study. Paul Black to add New Hope Church to the MPO, Rocky Ridge Rd. and the stand in piece on Frazier Rd. to map. In determining the deficiency data as much multi-modal as possible should included in the studies, including bicycle crashes if available data is present. Scott noted that he envisioned looking at past trends and the models to see what those indicate for the roads, and then, as a committee, determine deficiencies and needs based on local information beyond what is shown in the data, including judgment calls. Karen Lincoln will get a copy of Slade's bicycle plan supplement to Scott and Sarah. Scott noted that there could be another type of map based on lane width used by bicycles to show need for improvement. The Survey will be edited to include bicycle questions. Remote video could be used to count bicycle traffic.

The group discussed the timeline and Scott Walston noted that the endorsement of the final plan by all applicable agencies will probably take about four months. Orange County and DCHC will adopt/endorse and may be able to do it within a month but TARPO does not have a monthly schedule. Paul Black noted that if TARPO had it by mid to mid-late May, it could be included in the RTCC agenda packet for June. Scott added that it will have to be approved by all the agencies before it gets put on the NCDOT agenda. Andy Henry noted it should go to the Boards as a presentation for suggestions/changes in May and then put on the agenda the next month for adoption/endorsement. Scott requested that the presentation to the Board of County Commissioners be a combined presentation by all the agencies (DCHC and TARPO as well as NCDOT) and their respective pieces. It shows a unified cooperative effort. He also noted that Orange County will adopt the RPO portion and endorse the MPO portions. If Burlington/Graham gets onboard the County can endorse that part of the plan as well. It was the consensus that the County should 'adopt' a 'County' plan for planning purposes even though DCHC is the authority that makes the planning decisions. Karen Lincoln will be contacting Burlington/Graham. Scott volunteered that NCDOT would be willing to attend one of their meetings if it would help matters. Paul Black will be handling the GIS and NCDOT may do the final maps at the end.

Karen Lincoln let the group know the Board of County Commissioners approved the resolution endorsing the Comprehensive Transportation Planning study for Orange County at the June 16, 2009 meeting.

The committee discussed the public outreach and the liked the idea of doing it in the same manner as the rail station outreach had been presented. There was a lot of advance publicity spread out into the community. It will be announced after the presentation to the Board of County Commissioners in August or thereabouts. If a mailing is planned the staff will attempt to format a postcard to save postage costs. Multiple maps will be used.

The next topic was the survey and Nancy Baker pointed out that the OUTBoard should be on the list of agencies listed. Multiple suggestions were made and Sarah Ezell made the changes as the committee suggested and will email the revised version to the staff. The survey changes will be presented to the OUTBoard meeting to be held that evening, June 17, 2009. Committee will take survey and record time it took to complete. Also would like others to take the survey to determine if it is understandable from a citizen's point of view. Pick up and drop off locations were discussed including the library, manager's office, etc.

The committee asked Scott Walston about getting information on freight and talked at length about trucks and rail.

The next meeting will be July 15, 2009 at the Planning Department at 10 a.m. Principles will discuss whether or not a July meeting is warranted the week prior.

Items for next meeting:

Slade bicycle plan supplement for NCDOT

The committee asked about getting information on freight from NCDOT

Work with Sarah on maps for survey