



Planning and Zoning Board May 10, 2018 at 6:30 pm

MINUTES

Attendance

Board members present for the meeting were:

Chairman Peter Prichard

Vice Chairwoman Harlean Botha

Member Lee Langston

Member Rob Taylor

Member Tim Toterhi

Member Catherine Willis, Alternate (arrived shortly after meeting was called to order)

Board members absent for the meeting:

Member Sanjay Acharya, Alternate

Town Council member:

Michael Schlink, Councilman

Staff members present for the meeting were:

Martha Paige, Town Manager

Courtney Tanner, Planning Director

Benjamin Howell, Long Range Planning Manager

Marty Saunders, Secretary to the Board

1. Call to Order

Chairman Peter Prichard called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

2. Invocation

Chairman Prichard opened the meeting with the invocation.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as written.

4. Adoption of Minutes

Vice-Chairwoman Botha made a motion to approve the April 12, 2018 meeting minutes. *Member Toterhi* seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

5. Presentations

None

6. **Old Business – Public Comment**

Draft Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) Update

Benjamin Howell, Long Range Planning Manager, provided a brief overview of the agency comments received on the February draft of the CTP Update, the proposed modifications to the draft plan, and the schedule of public input opportunities.

Staff sent out requests for agency comments to Town of Cary Transportation Planning, City of Durham Transportation Planning, the Research Triangle Park (RTP) senior planner, RDU, and NCDOT division engineer. There was no response from RDU, and the responses from the other agencies are found in Attachment 5.

Town of Cary commented on their Kitt Creek Greenway, which will now run through a portion of Morrisville's jurisdiction if the County approves the ETJ request. The staff's response is that section of Kitts Creek Greenway will be incorporated in the next draft CTP Update.

The City of Durham provided several comments regarding Davis Drive, NC 54 widening and pedestrian/bicycle pathways along Davis Drive. Their model showed that no widening was needed to Davis Drive. Staff response is that Morrisville used a different version of the model. Therefore some of the travel data was based on the Town's use of a 2010 base year model. Durham had a more advance model since their base year was 2015. Our recommendations did include sidepaths along Davis Drive which was consistent with Cary's community plan. Our plan does show a different alignment on Davis Drive and a 10' sidepath along the east side of NC 54.

The RTP commented on the 147 Extension, since it would go through one of their undeveloped sites, that they were in general agreement with the revised alignment. However, they did acknowledge that this alignment is conceptual. They were also in general agreement with the Millicent Way Extension, whether it is a road or greenway connection. It would require NCDOT and RTP approval prior to construction. Our staff did specifically request their input on an extension of Town Hall Drive, north of McCrimmon Parkway, to provide secondary access to neighborhoods along the west side of Church Street up to 540. RTP was open to that conceptual alignment as well.

The comments from NCDOT were more technical in nature. They wanted clarification on the widening of a section of I-40 that lies between Morrisville and RDU. They recommended that the Airport Boulevard interchange project be included in the table of committed projects. NCDOT also had questions about the Modeled Congestion Year for Figure 3.1. They felt there was some confusion about the roadway hierarchy. It was also noted that Street Cross-Section 3A implied sharrows could be used on 45 MPH roadways. NCDOT questioned why the CTP showed Davis Drive being widened north, when there is a figure in the Plan that shows that it may be above capacity south of Morrisville-Carpenter Road. Town staff responded that the I-40 widening project and Airport Boulevard interchange would be added to Table 3.1 in the Draft CTP Update. The Modeled Congestion Year will be 2040. Morrisville will follow NCDOT guidance on the installation of sharrows. Staff explained that the Town's recommendation for Davis Drive matches Cary's Community Plan for a 4-lane cross section on Davis Drive south of Morrisville-Carpenter Road.

Member Willis asked if the Airport Boulevard interchange at I-40 would be enlarged. *Mr. Howell* explained that it is a funded project to replace the existing interchange and re-design it. It would be what is called a diversion diamond interchange, which would look like an X.

Member Langston commented on the fact that Morrisville is using older data than Durham. Would this mean that new data indicates less traffic? *Mr. Howell* answered by explaining that their model may show less traffic, but that is due the fact that the location of traffic may differ and affect traffic projections.

Mr. Howell then gave an overview of the recommended modifications that were made to the CTP Update. Specifically, there were changes made to Chapters 3, 4, and 5 as well as the Appendices.

Several chapters were modified to include the addition to the Town Hall Drive Extension. In addition, several Figures were updated, including Figure 5-3 regarding the Crabtree Crossing Parkway Extension and revisions to several figures to properly depict Crabtree Hatcher Creek Greenway.

In Chapter 4, revisions were made to a number of figures to show the multiuse paths recently installed at the Lake Crabtree apartment development.

There were modifications made to the Prioritized Roadway Improvements and Recommended Policies or Programs in Chapter 5. The Prioritized Roadway Improvements list was revised to reflect changes made to Short-Term, Mid-Term, and Long-Term roadway improvements. The following intersections were added to the Short-Term list: NC 54 and Keybridge Drive, and Davis Drive and Parkside Valley Drive. The Recommended Policies or Programs section was revised to add an item to develop an Intersection Safety Improvements Study Program for all intersections.

Lastly, staff recommended that the right-of-way widths for cross-sections in Appendix B be revised. Project sheets for Marcom Drive Extension, Morrisville East Connector and Southport Drive Extension will be added to Appendix C.

Mr. Howell also summarized the Planning and Zoning Board recommended modifications in Chapters 3 and 5. Specifically, Figure 3-3 and Figure 5-2 would be revised to reflect that the alignment of NC 147 in the Draft Plan does not match the alignment in the project funded by NCDOT.

There were a number of revisions made to the roadway prioritization found in Chapter 5. These included changing the prioritization of the Airport Boulevard Grade Separation (NC 54 to Church Street) to Short-Term and Airport Boulevard Extension (from west of Town Hall Drive to Church Street) to Mid-Term.

The Town Council recommended modifications were also summarized. The Council specifically requested that the greenway proposed on the east side of Church Street be extended north to connect to Church Street and Shiloh Community Park. The Council also requested that connections be added between the McCrimmon Parkway Extension (Phase II) and the proposed Stirrup Iron Creek Greenway.

Mr. Howell then reminded the Planning and Zoning Board of the schedule as of the May meeting. A public comment session would be opened and then closed, followed by discussion and questions from the Board. Final changes would then be made to the Draft CTP Update and then released to the Planning and Zoning Board prior to the June meeting. There will still be a number of public engagement opportunities during the month of May.

The Public Comment session was then opened:

1. *Michael Schlink, 416 Willingham Road, Morrisville*, came forward as a citizen and resident of the Breckenridge subdivision. He thanked the Board for their service to the Town. He wanted to share his perspective on the Plan Update process since he participated on the citizen committee for the 2008-09 Transportation Plan. Various connection issues were discussed with that committee, which sent a recommendation to the Planning & Zoning Board, and then on to the Town Council. The public citizens were vetted with the Town staff and consultants over those connection issues. He specifically addressed connection points: Green Drive, Millicent, and Crabtree Crossing Extension, which he believes will now be called Town Hall Extension. These were hotly debated issues. Green was the only one that made it in the final Plan. He believed that Green may be removed from the current CTP and are debating on whether to leave the other two in the Plan. He stated that he was a proponent of the Millicent greenway connection. He believes that there are other options for Crabtree Crossing. He thinks it should be left off since it may not be built for another 25 years. Citizens have voiced their concerns.
2. *Eric Lytle, 127 Scoggins Avenue, Morrisville*, explained that the downtown traffic affects him since he lives off Church Street. It is often difficult to exit from Church Street to Morrisville-Carpenter Road. He doesn't agree with Mr. Schlink's comments regarding Crabtree Crossing. He referred to past Bond referendums being passed. He believes most of the traffic is from Cary residents. People are driving through Morrisville. Church Street is a cut through street.

MOTION: *Vice Chairwoman Botha* made a motion to close the public comment session. *Member Langston* seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chairman Prichard then opened the floor to questions or comments from the members of the Board.

Member Willis felt that it was a well put together document. Her comments were regarding her concern for bicycling. She felt it was better integrated in this plan. She felt the sidewalks along major thoroughfares were not wide enough to accommodate pedestrians and cyclists as depicted on Figure 4.4. She would like to see sidepaths on both sides of most streets, like McCrimmon Parkway and Town Hall Drive. She thinks the pathway should be at least 8' wide. *Mr. Howell* explained in Figure 4.6, standard sidepaths will be 10 feet wide. Some will be 8 feet wide, in addition to a 5 foot sidewalk. *Member Willis* also referenced safety issues associated with the pathways.

Chairman Prichard identified that Davis Drive shows multi-use paths on both sides and Airport Boulevard shows none as shown on Figure 4.6. These roadways do extend outside Morrisville Town limits to Cary. This referenced the orphan section of Airport Boulevard from Davis to Town Hall Commons. *Mr. Howell* stated that the gaps will ultimately connect with the areas found in Cary. He stated that multi-use paths on Airport Boulevard could possibly be better shown on the Plan.

Member Toterhi asked about the adjustment or clarification to Town Hall Drive. *Mr. Howell* explained that Town Hall Drive Extension North of McCrimmon Parkway would provide access to Stockton Gorge and a new subdivision at Providence Place. Its purpose would be to provide better access to McCrimmon, instead of having to use Church Street.

Member Langston acknowledges that Crabtree Crossing was in the Plan before. He is still in favor of the Crabtree Crossing Extension.

Vice Chairwoman Botha wanted to know when a paper copy of the new Draft would be available. *Mr. Howell* informed the Planning and Zoning Board that the goal is to have paper copies available one week before the meeting.

Member Taylor reviewed all the recent public comments. He believed that many compromises have been made. He is happy with this product right now.

Chairman Prichard wanted an update regarding the outreach events. *Mr. Howell* said that attendance has been on average 5-10 per event. However, he felt that the overall feedback was been positive, and many productive discussions took place.

Director Tanner informed the Planning and Zoning Board that the postcard helped trigger interest in the CTP. There have been more social media hits. There has been a lot more feedback from cyclists.

Member Langston pointed out that Crabtree Crossing does not cross Crabtree Creek until the extension has been put in.

Chairman Prichard expects to have a new draft before the June meeting and with a goal to send a recommendation to Town Council. *Director Tanner* stated that the board could take an additional month to review the Plan, if they felt the time period proposed was inadequate.

Members will be emailed when the draft is available, and paper copies will be made.

7. Old Business

None

8. New Business

None

9. New Business – Public Comment

None

10. Staff Comments

11. a. Planning and Zoning Board Handbook

Due to *Current Planning Manager Stegall's* absence, *Director Tanner* reviewed the items that were discussed at the May meeting. Specifically, two items were updated: the order of the vote was clarified to be a voice vote combined with the raising of the hand and clarified that the time limit for each meeting would be 11:00 pm. She also asked that each member sign the Planning and Zoning Board Handbook Acknowledgement Form, which confirms that you understand and accept the terms of the handbook.

11. b. April Planning Newsletter

Director Tanner stated that there were no new development applications submitted nor administrative approvals granted during the month of April. It is not uncommon that submittals slow down during this time of year.

Town Council has recommended moving forward the process with Wake County to expand the Town's Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ). It is an estimated 6 month time frame. Related to this, *Director Tanner* is scheduled to meet with Town of Cary to discuss ETJ boundaries.

As part of the Land Use Plan Outreach, *Director Tanner* introduced a DIY kit. This new approach would allow small groups of people to fill out information that allows citizens to give honest feedback without staff's presence. The instructions are in the kit and the whole process takes about one hour. Input from groups, young and old, work or social situations can cooperate.

11. Planning and Zoning Board Comments

In response to questions about the kit, *Director Tanner* explained that there will soon be other options available that will be introduced at Springfest.

12. Upcoming Term Expirations

None

14. Upcoming Events

None

15. Adjournment

Member Langston made a motion to adjourn the meeting. *Member Taylor* seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 pm

Peter Prichard,
Planning and Zoning Board Chair

Marty Saunders,
Secretary to the Board

Date

Date