

# **Advisory Committee on Transportation - Minutes**

**Meeting Place: Department of Public Safety, Staff Development Room**

**Date: March 17, 2015**

**Time: 3:00 pm**

Meeting chaired by: Cheryl Stout, Director of Transportation and Parking

Members in attendance: Dr. Chris Payne, Karen Jenkins for Jackie Overton, Prof. Peter Gilligan, Jesse Cohn, Sam Pranikoff, Than Austin, Lisa Terry and Jeff Watson

*Absent: Tom Thornburg, Richie Grimsley, Brian Litchfield, Rob Kark, John Tallmadge, and Mel Hurston*

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## 1. **Student Fee Schedule (Stout)**

Student transit fees are approved through 2016/17. September 2016 is when we will submit fee request for 2017/18 and 2018/19. The next 5 Year Plan should be developed in time to inform that request. The CHT Financial Sustainability Study will help us understand the future financial needs for transit. In terms of student representation we anticipate working with the student body president and treasurer and other representatives for those two years spanning development of the new 5 Year Plan..

## 2. **EV Charging Station Update (Stout)**

The student group RESPC has some funding from fees received from renewable energy projects and they have chosen to install several EV charging stations – Craige Deck and a location on a Stadium Drive. We are currently working up the quote for the cost of these installations. Once RESPC receives the quotes they will take a final vote hopefully in April. Prof. Gilligan asked how the electricity for EV charging stations is paid for. The Chair stated the individual users pay for the fee. There are already fees associated in the ordinance that cover the electrical charge. Jeff Watson asked how many charging stations we are going to potentially add. The Chair stated we are looking at installing in the decks (Craige and Dogwood). Jeff also asked about whether we get usage data on the charging stations to which the Chair replied ‘yes’. Lisa Terry asked can anyone use the charging station. The Chair replied that users register with Charge Point who manages the credit card transactions which allows them to use charging stations anywhere they are located. If you are an employee then you will need to request an uplift permit to use the charging station (unlimited for the year) or they just pay the .75 per hour rate daily.

## 3. **Light Rail (Austin)**

- It was reported that currently informational public meetings are ongoing.
- TT is currently working on a draft detailing environmental impact statement to be submitted to the federal government this fall. There are several major issues we are working on: (1) The project runs by electricity and there are three stations proposed on UNC campus that need electricity and the questions are how is it going to be provided and who is going to pay for it (behind Dogwood Deck; Mason Farm Road near Dean Smith and Friday Center); (2) Alignment impact near Finley Golf Course around holes

16, 17 and potentially hole 3 resulting in possibly adding sound barriers, vegetative buffers, etc.; (3) There are two different alignment options around Hwy 54 corridor near the Friday Center toward Finley Golf course. We are working with the Town to figure out which option is the most agreeable (i.e., one runs in front of Hwy 54 and the other runs behind the Exchange); (4) TT wants to use UNC Friday Center park n ride; (5) Looking at other environmental impacts from the light rail – extreme noise, vibration, etc. The Chair stated the light rail link ([ourtransitfuture.com](http://ourtransitfuture.com)) will be added to our website for information.

- There will be a joint work session with the Town of Chapel Hill and Carrboro in May that UNC will participate in. Once the draft has been submitted we will be able to comment and bring back any info. Prof. Gilligan asked how long the process will be. Than stated we are looking at ~10 years until the project opens. If the federal government approves TT to move on to the next step, which would be next spring, then they would go through a two year process of design and engineering followed by right-of-way acquisition.

#### 4. **Project Updates (Austin)**

- Craige Deck – construction is on schedule and concrete pours are almost complete for an additional 900 spaces for employees this fall. Upon completion there will be ~1300 spaces back online including the 400 lost during construction.
- Dogwood Deck Lighting/Electrical – There will be a complete overhaul of the lighting/electrical wiring within the Deck. The Contractor will begin in April and the work will be done in phases (no more than 80 spaces will come off line at a time).
- Skipper Bowles Drive Project – The Contractor will be selected today and begin work mid-April for the repaving project. Jeff Watson asked if notices have been posted as of yet. The Chair stated Facilities will usually send out notices approximately two weeks prior to the project.

#### 5. **Members Round Table**

- Transportation Planning (Austin) – P2P Working Group is coming to an end with recommendations for route modification, new fleet and technology. Also, in April we will be in discussion with PART about their new routes through Greensboro, Burlington, Mebane and Hillsborough coming to UNC, and about subsidizing the fare similar to the “GoPass” for our employees.
- Student Government (Pranikoff) – Sam announced that he has been in contact with an undergraduate student at the University of Maryland at College Park discussing transportation strategies on different campuses. Once the research project is complete a list will be sent to Sam that he will share.
- UNC Hospitals (Terry) – none
- UNC Hospitals (Watson) - none
- Employee Forum (Jenkins) – none
- Faculty Council (Gilligan) - Prof. Gilligan asked the following questions: (1) Pertaining to the upcoming Chatham development how are we going to reach out to them in terms

of transportation? Than stated that we currently have two express routes in Pittsboro and north of Pittsboro (park n ride). TT is interested in transportation options in Chatham County however there is some reluctance on the part of Chatham County and Pittsboro about funding, however the partners are currently in discussion; (2) What is the status on Southern Village park n ride lot? Than reported that the lot is owned by the Town of Chapel Hill but they have promised to provide additional land if they redevelop the current location; and (3) Where are we with the purchase of new buses? The Chair responded that we are still in the middle of the sustainability study so no information as of yet is available. Than interjected that this spring we will have results from the study.

- Student Affairs (Payne) – Dr. Payne asked for confirmation on the ordinance changes. The Chair reported they will be presented at the BOT March meeting. Dr. Payne also asked about whether 2016/17 student fees had gone through the Fee Committee and been approved. The Chair confirmed they had gone through the Fee Committee however not sure about BOG approval but will follow up.
- GPSF (Cohn) – none

<b>Next meeting date(s): Wednesday, April 15, 2015</b>
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