



**Multi-Modal Transportation Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 25, 2015
3:00-5:00 PM
1st Floor Conference Room -
City Hall**

Commission Members Attending: Jim Grode, Bruce Emory, Julie Mayfield, Till Dohse, Terri March, , Mary Weber, Bob Roepnack, Steven Obremski, Kristy Carter, Don Kostelec.

Commission Members Absent: Josh O'Connor, John Ridout

Council Liaison: Gwen Wisler

COA Staff Members: Mariate Echeverry, Janet GeorgeMurr, Gregg Godwin, Martha McGlohon, Barb Mee, Chad Bandy.

Community Members: David Wilson

▪ **February 25, 2015 Agenda:** Bruce stated that he will have an announcement later in the meeting. Steven moved to approve the agenda Bruce seconded; carried unanimously.

▪ **January 28, 2014 Minutes:** Bruce moved to approve the minutes with minor edits; Steven seconded; carried unanimously.

● **Public Comment:** None

● **New Business:**

◆ **E-Cigarettes** - City Attorney, Martha McGlohon requested an endorsement by MMTC to approve the ordinance amending Chapter 11 of the Code of Ordinances pertaining to Smoking. Following a number of complaints from riders of the City's transit buses, pertaining to secondhand exposure to vapors released from e-cigarettes, the City's Transit Committee requested that the City's Smoking Ordinance be amended to include e-cigarettes; Safety Committee also approved the amended ordinance. Martha presented the staff report and the revised Ordinance for MMTC review. After a group discussion, -Julie moved to approve the endorsement to amend the Chapter 11 Ordinance Pertaining to Smoking; Bruce seconded; carried unanimously.

● **Closure of Right-of-Way Bradley Street** – Chad Bandy, Manager, City of Asheville Street Division stated that MMTC had approved this closure before, but the survey metes and bounds needed to change. After a group discussion, -Steven moved to approve the closure with the change; Mary seconded; carried unanimously.

● **MMTC approval of two Transit Committee Members:** – After MMTC reviewed the applications and group discussion, Julie moved to approve Brooke German and Ed Johnson as Transit Committee members; Bruce seconded; carried unanimously.

● **Greenway Feasibility Study Endorsement:** Mary recommends MMTC to move forward with the feasibility study with a ranking system. It is desirable to always having greenways in the pipeline and the feasibility study would identify the greenway to prevent delays; and to set aside CIP funds (as operational budget) as a placeholder as recommended by Mariate. The ranking by the Greenway Committee as follows:

1. Swannanoa River Road, Amboy to Tunnel Road
2. Reed Creek Connection South to Downtown to Clingman;
3. French Broad River West from New Belgium to Richmond Hill

Julie stated that Swannanoa River Road to Tunnel is also in the 10 year STIP DOT list. After a group discussion, Julie moved to have a full analysis of the Swannanoa River Road if there is sufficient funding for the Swannanoa River Road; Bruce seconded and carried unanimously.

●**Neighborhood Festival Participation** – Bob announced the 2015 Asheville Festival of Neighborhood on Sunday, March 15 at the AB Tech in the Ferguson Building. An agenda was provided to MMTC and the Neighborhood Policy. B Outline Proposal for review. The Greenway Committee will have table at the festival to have this benefit sidewalks and infield. Barb Mee will have surveys for the participants to complete regarding sidewalks. Bob encouraged MMTC representation.

●**City Council Retreat:** Julie stated that the good news is that City Council is focusing on multimodal transportation, UDO and development

●**ANNOUNCEMENT:** Bruce announced that NCDOT drafted a State rail plan which includes passenger service from Asheville to Salisbury in the 2020-2035 year plan. Bruce recommended going to the website nbytrain.org NCDOT for further information. Comments are due by March 21st.

OLD BUSINESS

●**Retreat Update:** Terri will be sending to MMTC a Retreat Poll requesting date preferences, availability and rank topics to discuss.

●**Sidewalk Planning Committee Update:** Mariate stated that a policy draft and priorities to bring to Council when policy is ready. Also, recommending going to the neighborhoods for input as to what are the most important criteria.

1. To have a program established and produce a list of priorities; and
2. The Committee met in November and discussed sidewalks at Tunnel Road and New Haw Creek.
3. CIP drew the cost estimates for FY15/16 in the amount of \$218,000; and
4. Mariate recommended MMTC to move forward on the design around the right-of-way issues; bridges.
5. Developing a CIP list by April and ways to increase sidewalk funding to reallocate funds.

Other MMTC recommendations:

1. Bond issue;
2. Sidewalk utility fee;

Steven move to support this project and keeping in mind the accessibility issue and ADA pedestrian sign accessibility, Julie seconded; carried unanimously.

General Committee Updates:

●**Transit Committee:** Julie announced the ADA public meeting on 2/26/15.

●**Greenway Committee:** Mary reported:

1. Duke has granted permission to enter land for engineering. Design phase will be done by end of September.
2. Parks update on Beaucatcher community and considering alternatives to reduce ROW impact. Construction drawings completed; and a meeting on 2/26 was cancelled due to weather and to be rescheduled.
3. Rhododendron Greenway – resident on Davenport would like access to Hominy Creek trail which ends at the Amory property and needs permission to use City of Asheville parking lot.
4. Smith Mill Creek Greenway – found walk through study from 2011; not full feasibility study. Need to identify routes in advance of I-26 connector; a lot of constraints; recommends feasibility study

●**Bike/Ped Task Force:** Terri reported that a pilot effort for Grove Park neighborhood speed reduction program called “PACE car.” Neighborhood would make a pledge to go the speed limit; and a parallel program on safe route initiative; a Walk Friendly Route meeting on 3/11/15.

●**P&Z:** Kristy reported that March 19th is the next meeting to discuss planning issues.

●**Neighborhood Advisory Committee:** Bob reported on the 3/15/15 Neighborhood Festival; and in May to go to different quadrants of neighborhoods to involve each neighbor.

STAFF UPDATES:

◆**Project updates:** Mariate stated that the updates are in the List of Projects document. Announced the Asheville in Motion (AIM) Charrette 3/11-14/15; Mariate will send MMTC schedule.

●**Public Comment:** None

●**Agenda Items:** East of Riverway endorsement; sidewalks-CIP list from last year project.

4:40pm – Jim adjourned the meeting