



## Multimodal Transportation Commission Minutes

Regular Meeting  
March 23, 2016

### Attending:

Commission Members: Bruce Emory, Chair, Terri March, Vice-Chair; Philip Lenowitz, Till Dohse, Mary Weber, Don Kostelec, Jim Grode, Kim Roney, Rich Lee, and John Ridout.

Commission Members Absent: Kristy Carter.

Council Liaison: Gwen Wisler.

Staff Members: Mariate Echeverry, Kelly Whitlock, Roderick Simmons, Lucy Crown, Jackie Behoriam, Monica Prysock.

Community Members: Geoff Kemmish, Shannon Sumrall, and David Nutter.

Called Meeting To Order: Bruce Emory opened the meeting and welcomed members, staff, and public. Bruce also introduced the Commission's newest member, Kim Roney, and the Commission members and staff proceeded to introduce themselves.

### Approval of Agenda and Minutes:

March 23, 2016 – Agenda: Commission chair Bruce Emory requested to add the I-26 report in Unfinished Business. Commission member Bruce Emory motioned to approve; Commission member Till Dohse second and carried unanimously.

February 24, 2016 – Regular Meeting Minutes: Commission member Till Dohse motioned to approve, Commission Member Don Kostelec second.

Public Comment I: Geoff Kemmish addressed the issue of Beaucatcher, questioning whether the support shown was specifically for the current Beaucatcher plans or for the Greenway in general. He also posed the question of caveats.

Shannon Sumrall also addressed the issue of Beaucatcher, stating that she was familiar with the arguments. While she is supportive of the Greenway, she is against the 5 ft. wide retaining walls and sidewalks that she believes would be necessary due to the issues with non-permeable surfaces.

### Presentations: None

### Unfinished Business:

- Management Company RFP: Mariate Echeverry stated that the Proposals have been received by Amy Patterson, and are currently under review. A meeting will be held on April 4<sup>th</sup>, in which they will assess the proposals. They will also discuss terms for interview, and proceed with the evaluation process - approximately one month. Mariate added that while they are a week behind schedule, they are still on schedule for July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- AIM update: Mariate revealed that the first version of the AIM Visualization Tool is complete. It was created by the Communications Consultants, and will be ready in the coming month. Mariate proceeded to show the AIM Visualization Tool (consistent with above), opening the floor to the Commission members' opinions. The video provided a more comprehensive look at the plan as a whole, addressing both the smaller components, and emphasizing the process itself. The video will be shown in conjunction to the Report, so that the public will have the written piece as well as a visual. In addition, public comments will be received through the "Open City Hall" comments portal until April 18<sup>th</sup>, following the publication of the report and visualization tool. The comments will then be reviewed, and the Consultants will make the appropriate revisions. The Commission members had several suggestions for the visualization tool; among them was concern for the cost estimate, which will be provided by the Consultants. Commission Member Jim Grode also was concerned that the section on Prioritization did not fully explain how the projects are prioritized, despite it being in the report. In addition, there was a suggestion for clearer visuals, to maintain a positive connotation.
- Neighborhood Sidewalk: Mariate Echeverry gave an update to the Commission stating that the Capital Improvements Team is currently working on Haw Creek sidewalk, and they have also received authorization for pre-engineering for future sidewalk projects. They are currently working on analyzing ten roads to determine a short list for this.
- I-26 Report: Commission member Bruce Emory reported an update from Ken Putnam regarding the Raleigh meeting about public comments regarding I-26. A group of City and NCDOT members has been created to analyze various design issues. Commission Chair Bruce Emory is a member of the group. The first of these meetings will be held on March 24.

### New Business:

- Beaucatcher Greenway Update: Roderick Simmons presented on Beaucatcher Greenway, providing the progression of the project, from its inception to the issues it currently faces. In addition, Roderick stated that Greenway Committee's intention is to provide as much information to the public about the project as possible, without providing incomplete plans. The presentation will go to Council before it is put out to bid, and must have public support to move forward. Roderick informed the Commission that the Greenway Committee has requested feedback from MMTC regarding the project. After much discussion the commissioners passed a resolution stating that "The MMTC supports the dual greenway-sidewalk design of the Beaucatcher Greenway that combines a traditional

greenway path through wooded areas and transitions to an urban pathway and sidewalk when the route approaches residential areas. The Commission encourage city staff and consultants to continue to seek ways to minimize impacts and address concerns of the community". Commission member Till Dohse motioned to endorse the statement and Commission chair Bruce Emory seconded with unanimous vote.

2. **Rules and Procedures:** After formally introducing herself, Kelly Whitlock provided her findings on the Rules and Procedures, stating that the ordinance from 2014 affected the membership composition. She met with several Commission and staff members to address this, and made tentative changes to the document. After some discussion, Commission Member Bruce Emory requested that the following changes be made:

- Article III, Membership- Section 1 should read as follows: *Composition:* Membership on the Commission shall be governed by Ordinance No. 4190, as amended by Ordinance No. 4314, adopted by the Asheville City Council on June 24, 2014.
- Article VIII, Appointment of Committees, Section 2: should read as follows: Membership of the standing committees shall be as follows:
  - a. The Transit Committee shall have no fewer than 7 and no more than 11 members. Provided however that this cap shall not apply when a member of the Commission is automatically appointed to the Transit Committee by the Commission and the Transit Committee consists of 11 members at the time of the appointment.
  - b. The Greenway Committee shall have no fewer than 7 and no more than 11 members. Provided however that this cap shall not apply when a member of the Commission is automatically appointed to the Greenway Committee by the Commission and the Greenway Committee consists of 11 members at the time of the appointment.

3. **Transit Priorities:** Mariate Echeverry provided an update on the Transit Priorities, stating that City Council had a work session to develop transit priorities using hypothetical funding in the amount of \$600,000.00. Council Liaison Gwen Wisler stressed that being that it was a work session, no decision was made. The plan reiterated the enhancements that were already implemented within the last 5 years, and outlined proposed future improvement priorities. Such priorities included: the addition of one bus on route S3, an extension of S4, extended service hours, the addition of a City Transportation Planner, and the Transit Master Plan Update (which is already being funded). Some of the Commission members revealed that they were surprised that the extended hours were not higher in the priorities, given the amount of public feedback and requests advocating for it. Mariate stressed that at least six months are needed to implement any kind of change, which often limits the changes you can implement, despite the public outcry. Lastly, although there was some discussion of night service, the Commission agreed that it should be sent to the Transit Committee to review.

4. **Transit Service to A.B. Tech:** Mariate Echeverry informed the Commission that she had a conversation with A.B. Tech on Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, as to whether they wanted to add a route. Commission Bruce Emory commented that it is not clear who takes precedent, S3 or S4.

**Announcements: None**

**General Committee Updates:**

1. **Transit Committee** – Kim Roney was recommended for the open transit-interests seat on the MMTC.
2. **Greenway Committee** – Had their retreat. They discussed the committee's role, past goals, and set future ones.
3. **Bike/Ped Task Force** – Spent the majority of the meeting discussing Greenways, and ultimately passed a resolution to keep the floor open for comments and discussion. They also had a route discussion, and looked at resident engagement regarding this.
4. **Planning and Zoning Commission** – Discussed sidewalks and parking issues.
5. **Neighborhood Advisory Committee** – None.

**Staff Updates:** There were two public meetings regarding the French Broad West and Beaucatcher Greenways, both of which had a strong turnout. The Pedestrian Road Safety Audit was completed in mid-March. Yuri Koslen, the Transportation Planner is leaving.

**Review of MMTC Goals: None**

**Public Comment II: None**

**Agenda Items for Next Meeting: None**

**Meeting Adjourned: 4:57pm**