



**Multi-Modal Transportation Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 23, 2014
3:00-4:30 PM
1st Floor North Conference Room
City Hall**

Commission Members Attending: Jim Grode, Mary Weber, Marcia Bromberg, Don Kostelec, Terri March, Bruce Emory and Bob Roepnack.

Commission Members Absence: Julie Mayfield, Lael Gray, Kristy Carter and Itiyopiya Ewart, Till Dohse.

Council Liaison: Gwen Wisler

COA Staff Members: Mariate Echeverry, Martha McGlohon, Blake Esselstyn/ and Janet GeorgeMurr,

Community Members: David Allen Wilson.

- Jim Grode opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to MMTC Meeting.
- April 23, 2014 Agenda: Add under New Business: I26 discussion-Bruce Emory. All MMTC members approved agenda.
- March 26, 2014 Minutes: Marcia moved to approve the minutes; Bruce second; carried unanimously.

Public Comment: Council Liaison, Gwen Wisler announced at the first Council preliminary budget review a proposal of additional funding for Sunday transit limited/holiday service in the approximate amount of \$321,000.

New Business:

•Overview of draft report “Potential Funding Methods for Multi-Modal Transportation in Asheville:”

Don Kostelec gave a brief overview and comments from MMTC:

- Meetings started in 2010 when the Long Transportation Plan update and in combination with the change in the State Legislation allowing for County wide referendum for transit.
- This was after Greensboro passed \$75-80M dollar Multi-modal Transportation Bond.
- Marc Hunt’s idea of taking the different modal plans and combining them which is now the MMTC
- Julie interest is asking MMTC for approval to bring the document to Council.-Marcia asked if additional property taxes could be used to service debt.
- Per Martha, Cathy Ball is working with Bond Council in Charlotte on municipal service districts and the City will be working with Municipal Service Districts as it relates to service debt. .
- Mariate stated that COA is developing the strategies for the economic development capital improvement program (EDCIP) that the tax increase is currently happening and leverage funding to be able to incur debt. A strategic plan is developing to make good investments and to phase them in the short and long term.
- Bruce stated as one of the authors of the report it is distinguished between capital and operations for each of the potential funding sources.
- Marcia stated TIF (Tax Increment Financing) anticipates future revenues that could be used.
- Don stated that the County bonding capacity with TIF for downtown Woodfin was \$21M. The Buncombe County collects \$9M in vehicle property taxes of which 1/3 would be from the City. For the Long Range Transportation Plan the amounts from Haywood, Henderson and Buncombe Counties is about \$16M combined that shows as transportation revenues but does not show as transportation expenditures. Because the City’s is collecting \$600,000 a year ½ goes to transit and the other ½ goes to other transportation functions that is transportation revenue in this region that should be reflected in the planning.

-Jim asked where does the document go from here; does it become a document for the MMTC; is it relevant/helpful to COA/Council/staff or should MMTC be the champions or some other group; is it part of the MMTC plan process that whatever if relevant gets folded into that.

-Marcia suggests having a request on the MMT Plan to focus with City and County to pursue new ways of looking at capital funding; and to include MMTC priorities as discussed today.

-Marcia suggests to have a resolution about the direction that MMTC hopes that the City/County to pursue capital funding possibilities.

-Terri stated that the document is a resource MMTC that outlines; and asked how to move the draft form to a final form.

- Don stated that it is not ready for final form and sees it as a starting point. If Council allows MMTC to focus on this document will be a good foundation to work from and determine if it is the MMT Plan or all of the other things are considered.

-Bruce stated that the tax revenues in the report need to be updated.

-Gwen asked to update the report with the City's CIP that relates to Transportation.

-Mary suggested researching other NC cities that have a good greenway system and what is feasible.

-Don stated that the options are limited unless you have a favorable legislature and ask if COA can get special permission to exact a sidewalk utility.

-Mariate stated that the MMT Plan will have some funding analysis.

-Jim stated this report could inform the people on the advisory committee for the MMT Plan. -Don stated that it could prompt Work of the Citizens Committee for Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP.) The history of MPO based planning in this stage just take whatever DOT wants to project what is federal revenue and does not consider a lot of the other underlining elements. If the true purpose of a MMT Plan is to consider all of these things, this should be a part of it and it would serve as a function for Henderson, Haywood and other counties to get a handle on what that is.

-Jim asked if the report should be mentioned when it he presents to City Council presentation next month. One of the key aspects of the presentation will be dedicated funding. To inform Council that the document exists and MMTC is reviewing it which is informative and educational to MMTC as a useful tool.

-Jim suggested having MMTC review the report and to discuss the uses at the May MMTC meeting.

-Jim will refer to the report at the Council presentation and will discuss further at next month's meeting on the final presentation.

● **Assessment of MMTC's first year of operations:** Mariate stated that when MMTC began there was a provision that staff would report to Council after one year with an assessment of how the MMTC has worked and what needs to be revised (if any). Mariate wanted to bring this conversation to MMTC to see what they think. City Clerk, Maggie Burleson made us aware that generally the commissioners are appointed by Council and in this particular Commission even when the commissioners are appointed by Council, the MMTC was appointed by their respective commissions and now committees.

After a group discussion:

-Gwen suggested bringing this subject up to Marc Hunt, Vice Mayor and is the Chair of the B&C.

-Martha pointed out that Ordinance 4190 that created the MMTC sets forth how the 9 voting members are to be appointed. MMTC has the Rules of Procedure and MMTC specify that those commission members shall be from the various committees but that does not bind Council.

-Mariate suggests MMTC to plan a retreat to discuss mission/vision and goals for the whole group.

-Jim stated that some of the discussion today will be the focus of his presentation to Council.

● **I-26 Update:** Bruce stated:

1. DOT will have a public meeting on 5/12/14 from 4-7pm at the Renaissance Hotel presenting the plans of all of the alternatives including the new alternative (3C) as well as modified versions of the other alternatives. DOT representatives will be standing in front of the plans explaining the alternatives.

2. DOT released results of their prioritization exercise with two parts of the I26 project ranked high enough to get funding of Section C which is I40/I26 interchange; and Section B the new bridge and new location for I26. The calculations that DOT did was on the assumption that alternative 3C would be used for Section B because that was the lowest cost alternative; and the thinking that it would allow to have a higher ranking. Asheville Design Center has been advocating the alternative 4 or 4B – took a look at those calculations and asked what if DOT had used 4 or 4B instead of C3 how would the project stack up. The result was the same ranking as #37 state-wide.
3. Jim will send DOT a thank you note for having the public meeting in the location for bicyclists and pedestrian to re-enforce this for next public meeting.

General Committee Updates:

- **Transit Committee:** appointed a subcommittee to look at ways of improving Route C; Nextbus – AVL automated vehicle locator; appointed new officers: Julie Mayfield remains as Chair, Itiyopiya Ewart as Vice-Chair; and Dave Erb as Secretary. The election was deferred until the new members were on board.
- **Greenway Committee:** Stephen Lee Johnson of Siteworks Studio updated on Clingman Forest and Town Branch Greenway plans in describing the whole process from the community participation to the major constraints and opportunities of the site. On 5/8 GC meeting will have a site visit to the greenway around Burton Street Community, Canie and Hominy Creek greenways. The mission of the Greenway Committee is concerned that there is not a relationship with Parks & Recreation which is important.
- **Bike/Ped Task Force:** Discussion on two important items:
 1. Potential for applying for a “Walk for Me” Campaign funding-State level initiative that’s been piloted in the Triangle Area with emphasis on pedestrian/bicycle safety and with the intent to reduce the number of crashes. The local issue with APD there is a difference of opinion of how individuals are cited when running crosswalks; and violations. The decision was to wait until next year.
 2. Discussions about the opportunity with Hilliard Avenue being repaved for bike plan and re-stripping to include crossings and other pedestrian features.
- **Ex-Officio members’ updates:** on P&Z Commission; Member not present to report; Sustainable Advisory Committee; Member not present to report.
- **Neighborhood Advisory Commission** has not met since the last MMTC meeting. Two functions forthcoming:
 1. On 4/28/14 presentation on short term rentals that people have homes that would like to do short term rentals and how that will relate and what changes may occur and how that effects neighborhoods.
 2. On 5/2/14 a breakfast with the entire neighborhood leaders from the different associations to provide input on greenways; transit related issues; and park related issues such as paving, keeping the roads nice; access. The City needs to come together with our MMTC plan so that we can actually have an impact and perhaps making changes to this community for greenways, more multi-modal functions on the roads and make a difference to get around the City.

STAFF UPDATES:

- **Project updates** – attached: Mariate updated certain projects as follows:
 1. RADTIP contract has been signed; the aerial view is complete; data collection is underway;
 2. East of the Riverway- at this time the Transportation Network Plan final report has not been received.
 3. JARC signal contract – the consultant finalized all of the crossings and intersection design was forwarded to NCDOT for approval before moving to construction.
 4. MMT Plan contractor was approved at Council on 4/22/14. The consultant is Kimley-Horn and Associates: a lot of experience in creating multi-modal transportation plans; they are developing something similar in Washington DC and Madison Wisconsin. The team consists of Don Kostelec Planning, Tool Design Group, Janet Barlow. K-H is the project manager for the Eagle Street Project.

The MMT Plan will take approximately 14 months after the contract is signed.

4. The French Broad River Greenway and Amboy Bridge Connection- the Duke Energy property. The RFQ evaluation is ongoing in selecting a consultant; negotiations of Scope and Fee an approximate one month to see some results.

5. NextBus Project is AVL went live today. Launch will be next Monday; the vendor is installing 650 signs of the stop # to text and find and create alerts. Hard launch is anticipated at the end of May. Go to www.nextbus.com.

6. ISO14000 Certification – in progress quotes from consultants and anticipate having on board before end of this FY. The final process will take approximately 8 to 10 months to be finalized.

7. COA is applying for a Tiger VI grant. Tiger II funding was used for the East of the Riverway project. With the Tiger VI: some of the projects part of the East of the Riverway including the RADTIP to ask for funding for construction. COA will be in a good place when applying since construction documents are ready for; Clingman Forest; Town Branch; the round-a-about; some of the complete streets projects that were developed in the Transportation Network Plan. All of these projects will be in the Tiger VI application in the amount of \$25M. A consultant was hired to develop the application.

8. Mariate is requesting from MMTC an endorsement for the application of Tiger VI. Mariate will prepare a letter for Jim Grode to sign.

-Marcia moved that MMTC endorse to COA application of Tiger VI grants; Bruce second; carried unanimously.

9. Haywood Road multimodal improvements. There is a correction on the attached list that the easement was not given to the City. Martha stated that property at 51 Haywood Road to obtain a sidewalk easement but is on hold out with the owner and son. After much negotiation, but, to no avail, a 30 day notice was sent to the owners. After the 30 days the City's appraisers will be able to go on to the property to obtain a fair market value; then to Council and ask permission to follow through with the condemnation. Martha is hoping that the owner and owner's son will come to a reasonable price.

9. Hendersonville Road is continuing to move forward.

• **Additional updates:**

1. On 4/22/14, Mariate presented to Council a request for a Fare-Free day during Strive Not to Drive week which will be on Monday, May 19 and will be part of the Riders Appreciation Day.

2. COA has an opportunity to apply for JARC (Job Access and Reverse Commute) grant for Sunday Service which will help with the operations expenses in the amount of \$120,000 to \$140,000. The funds will be available around January, 2015 when the new Sunday service will be implemented, if approved by Council. Mariate is asking MMTC for an endorsement on proceeding with the JARC application:

-Jim Grode moved to proceed with the JARC application for funding of Sunday Service; Don so moved; Marcia second and carried unanimously.

3. Analysis for Route C could be reformatted and reconstructed to downtown:

a. Work with the constraints that we have now which is 1 hr 15 minutes long; or,

b. Divide Route C into parts: one being one leg to Emma neighborhood; and the other one going to the Oakley area – we estimated that we will require about \$100,00 to \$120,000 more funds.

c. Also looking at routes that are not performing very efficiently on Saturdays and that do not have ridership on Saturdays, i.e. S2.

d. Looking at alternatives to present to Council.

• **Blake update:**

Judy Daniels is retiring and no announcement as far as [aan](#) interim Planning Director.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

• **Next Meeting Agenda Items:**

1. Greg Shuler to speak about prioritization of potholes in the City;
2. Harry Brown on parking services

4:45pm-Jim adjourned the meeting.