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Lincoln County
Mecklenburg County
Cabarrus County

Meeting Minutes May 14, 2009 Huntersville Town Hall

Attendees: Ryan McDaniels (Cabarrus EDC), Jonathan Marshall (Cabarrus County), Karen Floyd (Cornelius), Hemal Shah (Cornelius), Lauren Blackburn (Davidson), Kris Krider (Davidson), Bill Coxe (Huntersville), Zac Gordon (Huntersville), Jack Simoneau (Huntersville), Erika Martin (Kannapolis), Dick Winters (Mecklenburg County), Andrew Bryant (Lincoln County), Bjorn Hansen (Centralina), Bill Duston (Centralina).

Welcome and Introductions: Jack Simoneau opened the meeting at 2:00 p.m. with a quorum present. Everyone present introduced themselves.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Approval of the Agenda: Andrew Bryant made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Jonathan Marshall seconded and the agenda was approved.

Minutes: Andrew Bryant made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 13, 2009 meeting with one correction to correct Jason Abernethy's name in the minutes. Jonathan Marshall seconded and the minutes were approved.

OLD ISSUES

Corridor Access Tracking System: Bjorn Hansen presented accident history analysis for different sections of the corridor, based on NCDOT-provided accident data. He presented methodology on how the NCDOT accesses and analyzes crash history for segments of roads. He also showed trends along the corridor. The group then discussed how to best utilize the information. The COP members asked for more analysis on the impact of left-hand turns of accident rates, residential curb cut frequency, comparison of the accident rates to statewide averages for similar roads, and best practices from the TEAAS office. There was no action taken.

NEW ISSUES

Annual Meeting Review: Bjorn Hansen asked for feedback on the January 2009 annual meeting, and lessons for future meetings. The COP members praised the location, agenda, facility, opportunity for tours, speakers, and food. They said the lack of alcohol was not an issue. Having the meeting in late January did cause some

COP members to not be able to attend due to board retreats, as well as state legislature representatives. Having the meeting in early January would help. There was no action taken.

Corridor Development Regulations and Benchmarking: Bill Duston presented the results of a survey of all COP members regarding their development regulations along the corridor. The COP members asked for additional information on actual right-of-way along the corridor, and the effects of setbacks on development review. There was no action taken.

NCDOT NC 73 Preferred Alignment and Agreement with Corridor Plan: Bill Coxe presented the current designs for the section of NC 73 from I-77 to NC 115 that has been supported by the Town of Huntersville. He stated that many of the recommendations of the corridor plan are not compatible with NCDOT design standards for Strategic Highway Corridors, namely the 11' wide travel lanes and 35 mph speed limit for this section of the corridor. The difficulty in getting a "design exception" for 11' travel lanes is that the road is proceeding as a "design-build" project, which means a non-NCDOT engineer is heading the project. Getting a design exception would be more difficult under this situation. The NCDOT-Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation (DBPT) supports the NCDOT decision for wide outside lanes on this facility instead of dedicated bicycle lanes. The DBPT did support 6' paved shoulders on the eastern edge of the project, as well as 6' sidewalks along the facility. Bill Coxe has concluded that the section cannot be built as described in the Corridor Plan.

Lauren Blackburn asked COG staff to write a letter to the NCDOT office to ask them to note the differences between the ultimate design and the approved plan, and to remind them of the MOU that asked all participating agencies of their responsibilities to uphold the plan wherever possible. She also asked for Jim Trogdon from the NCDOT to be invited to the next COP meeting. Bjorn Hansen said he would work with Huntersville and Davidson staff to develop such a letter.

ROUNDTABLE

Due to a lack of time there was no discussion, although Bjorn Hansen did note that the COG should only expend approximately 60 percent of the COP budget for the year.

Next Meeting:

The next regular meeting was not set, but will be in mid-August. Bjorn Hansen will contact COP members to set a date, but it will be at 2 p.m. in Huntersville.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:10 p.m.

Stay current. Visit the NC 73 COP website at <http://www.nc73.net/>

