

Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee Draft Meeting Minutes: November 20, 2019

Committee – Voting Members

Chair Travis Pietila – Present
Vice Chair Mike Smith (Charlottesville) – Absent
Tristan Fessell (Albemarle County) – Present
Donna Chen (MPO) – Present
Marty Meth (Albemarle) – Present
Adam Moore (Charlottesville) – Present
Gary Heaton (Charlottesville PC) – Present
Fran Hooper – Present
Mac Lafferty – Absent
Stuart Gardner (MPO) – Absent
Mike Dunn – Absent
Tim Keller (Albemarle Planning Commission) – Absent
Ray Heron – Absent

Staff

Jessica Hersh-Ballering (MPO)

Call to Order

Mr. Pietila called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Approval of September 17th Meeting Minutes

Mr. Meth motioned to approve the September meeting minutes. Mr. Moore seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Matters from the Public

There were no matters from the public.

Appointments and Bylaws by Jessica Hersh-Ballering and Travis Pietela

Ms. Hersh-Ballering reminded committee members to share their appointment letters with her to improve record-keeping of appointment dates.

The committee members present reviewed numerous aspects of the published bylaws and made recommendations for changes to some of the wording in sections 2.A. and 2.B. Despite discussion of potential changes to section 3.B., the committee determined to leave the section as it is currently written. The committee determined that section 3.D. should be amended to include an additional nonvoting CTAC member from the University of Virginia.

All amendments recommended by the committee will be identified on a draft copy of the amended bylaws, which will be included in the January 2020 packet. All amendments must be passed by a 2/3 vote of the committee membership.

Off-site Meeting Planning Discussion by Jessica Hersh-Ballering and Travis Pietela

Committee members reiterated their request that TJPDC staff add to their website a feature that would allow members of the public to offer comments and concerns regarding transportation. Other members queried who would respond to these comments (TJPDC staff or CTAC members?) and whether or not the comments and/or responses would remain publicly available on the website. Ms. Hersh-Ballering agreed to talk with Chip to determine whether or not such a feature could be added to the website and whether or not CTAC members could respond to submitted comments.

Committee members generally agreed that there was a desire to inform and gather information from the public on topics other than the Long Range Transportation Plan only. They felt that, historically, CTAC and the public have been shown plans late in the LRTP process, when it is too late for committee members and the public to suggest any significant changes to project plans. This led to feelings that the LRTP process was top-down and included the public too late. Furthermore, CTAC members were concerned that the rapid pace of change in transportation technology would render the 20+ year long range plan useless.

Of the two options TJPDC staff presented to CTAC members (in the full packet), CTAC members felt that “Option #1- Pop-up Outreach” was “do-able.” The annual Tom Tom Summit and Festival was discussed as a promising location for pop-up outreach. Committee members voiced skepticism that members of the public would be interested/willing to complete surveys regarding the LRTP process; Ms. Hersh-Ballering reminded the committee that any outreach done by CTAC at this time could be used to test out new and innovative outreach methods to ensure that outreach done in the coming years in relation to the Long Range plan reaches a wide variety of demographic groups and effectively gathers the public’s opinions and experiences.

CTAC members discussed having a fun theme for their pop-up outreach. Ms. Chen expressed a willingness to bring her virtual reality set-up to encourage people to stop by the outreach table and promote her lab’s work. CTAC members also asked about the availability of the One Map for outreach. Ms. Hersh-Ballering said One Map would not be ready by spring, but a draft version should be ready by summer.

CTAC members added that they would like a handout describing CTAC’s purpose to distribute during outreach.

CTAC members agreed that they would revisit “Option #2 – Meeting-in-a-box pilot project” in May, but wanted to focus efforts on Option #1 for now.

Staff Reports

Mr. Boyles was at the Governor’s Conference on Transportation and could not join CTAC. Ms. Hersh-Ballering briefly described how gas tax revenue – which makes up a share (although not the entirety) of transportation funding – has been declining despite an increase in the number of miles being traveled by vehicles on our roads each year. This is likely due to increasing fuel efficiencies in new vehicles and the increasing adoption of hybrid and electric vehicles.

Ms. Chen described some research done by her lab that used vehicle registration data. She added that there is a geographic equity issue to the gas tax. Drivers in rural areas tend to use older, less

fuel-efficient vehicles. As such, they pay more gas tax per capita than urban areas, while receiving less federal transportation funding as compared to urban areas.

Committee members also noted that there taxes and fees should help to promote (or at least not disincentivize) hybrid and electric vehicle purchases.

CTAC members suggested that TJPDC staff investigate transportation funding options other than the gas tax. CTAC members also asked what the personal property tax owners pay on their vehicles is used for. Ms. Hersh-Ballering stated that she would look into it and report back to the group.

Additional Matters from the Public:

There were no matters from the public.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.