

TO: Planning Advisory Group
FROM: Robert Palombo, Lead, Transportation Project
DATE: February 9, 2009

Minutes, P.A.G. Transportation Meetings

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS FOR THE PLANNING BOARD &/OR TOWN COUNCIL

None at this time.

ORGANIZATION: Robert Palombo called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. Planning Board Members Nancy Wendt, Mike Florez, Robert Palombo, Dave Peckens, Alternate Sam Williams, Councilmember Kevin Stroud, and Police Chief David Kole were present.

MINUTES: The minutes from the February 3 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved, with a motion from Mike Florez and second from David Kole.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment

Nancy Wendt presented the idea of referring to all P.A.G. working groups as “projects,” not “committees,” since the activities involved have finite start and finish dates in a 90-day time period. The members of the P.A.G. Transportation team agreed that this would be a more appropriate name for the working groups, so now we are the P.A.G. Transportation Project.

The Transportation Project will not be committing to any deliverables over 90 days. If the activity in question takes longer than 90 days, it will be separated from the main work of the project in order to meet the reporting deadline for the project. This project is committed to deliver the following:

1. Define the transportation issues and priorities
2. Create a map of all TOSS roads to illustrate where these issues are occurring
3. Assess traffic data for local roads
4. Draft a road classification system for Town roads
5. Link all of the above elements together and recommending an integrated transportation strategy for storm water issues, road repairs, traffic controls, pedestrian/bicycle safety, and EMS response time factors.

The Transportation Project’s findings and recommendations will be presented to Council by June 2009, possibly earlier. It will be Council’s choice to adopt or reject the recommendations. The Transportation Project’s work will be completed once the report has been made to Council.

As we work through this project, opportunities for public involvement will be provided at the Monday evening P.A.G. workshop designated time. Prior announcement will be given through the appropriate channels to inform the public that the meetings are being held. The Transportation Project is committed to public outreach in order to involve as many people as possible in the review of the findings of this project.

In an effort to ensure that all neighborhood groups as well as individuals who are not directly associated with neighborhood groups have an opportunity to participate in this project, Robert Palombo presented information to the project members about methods of communication with the public. (See attachment to these minutes.) This project has a communications list which includes those who have previously expressed an interest in knowing about the working of this project and others in town. That list will be used in addition to the required methods of notification about upcoming meetings. One concern is how to reach the out-of-town owners who definitely have a stake in the work of this project. One suggestion was made to use postcards; another to obtain email addresses.

TRAFFIC ISSUES

Kevin Stroud reviewed his pending proposal regarding controlling traffic traveling through TOSS. His intention is to have an ordinance presented and approved by Council prior to this year's tourist season. This ordinance would direct traffic control on South Dogwood, specifically where traffic turns from Rt 158 onto South Dogwood. The intent is to stop cut-through traffic from using Dogwood to access NC 12. This ordinance would represent a first effort to prevent cut-through traffic, and additional controls could follow as appropriate. Kevin explained that the ordinance addresses cut-through traffic for seasonal as well as year-round travel through town. Residents conducting business, seasonal renters, and emergency vehicles will not be impacted by the ordinance. There are questions about enforcement and suggested solutions involve stationing an empty police vehicle or a police vehicle with flashing lights at the entrance to South Dogwood. Police Chief Kole reminded us that drivers cannot be pulled over just because they have out-of-state plates; there must be probable cause to stop someone. It is hoped that NCDOT will be influenced by the fact that TOSS is doing something to prevent cut-through traffic. If these procedures do not work, perhaps NCDOT will respond with more effective tools since they control traffic movement on Rt. 158. Sam Williams added that the ordinance on weight limits for vehicles traveling through TOSS needs to be added to the implementation items in the proposed ordinance.

GIS MAPPING

Dave Peckens presented copies of a few roads in TOSS showing how far off the roads are when you look at the rights of way. For example, any type of pedestrian/bicycle path constructed on Hickory Trail would have to be placed on the west side of the road based on the rights of way. Police Chief Kole indicated that East and South Dogwood, Sea Oats, Hickory Trail, and Hillcrest are roads he has identified as needing pedestrian/bicycle paths. Mike Florez and Dave Peckens will work on getting the GIS mapping for all TOSS roads.

Mike Florez will ask Quible about layering the existing map to indicate the primary through streets and connecting streets (mainly the Dogwoods, Hickory Trail, Juniper, Sea Oats, and Hillcrest). Mike will check with Pat Forrester in Code Enforcement about getting a basic map to use, and he will determine the most effective way to use the map for this project in order to illustrate all roads in town and what road changes would look like. This map would also be useful if the recommendations are approved and engineering is ordered to move the recommendations forward.

MOTOR VEHICLE DATA

Police Chief Kole presented motor vehicle accident data for 2008 (see attached maps) which included speeding violations on primary roads in TOSS. He recommended that the NC 12 crosswalks in TOSS be better marked, and suggested that a new device which embeds LED lighting in the crosswalk strips would be something to consider.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The next meeting will be on February 23 from 3:00–5:00 p.m.

AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY 23

1. Police Chief Kole will provide data from off season traffic counts
2. Mike Florez will provide updated GIS mapping marked with rights of way
3. Kevin Stroud will provide an update on the Cut-Through Ordinance and the effects (if any) on Powell Bill monies.
4. Police Chief Kole will provide a report of his findings about having a lighted letter board placed near the entrance to South Dogwood indicating no left turns for through traffic.

NOTE: The March 2, 2009 P.A.G. workshop meeting has been cancelled. Please mark your calendars accordingly.