

Blue Ridge Road
District Study
Implementation



Advisory Group Implementation Meeting
One Exchange Plaza, Room 809
September 26, 2013, 12:00pm – 2:00pm

Notes

Attendees: Stuart Levin; Gene Bressler, NCSU; Lindsey Dougherty, NCMA; Wally Bowman, NCDOT; Trisha Hasch, RUDC; Kenneth Withrow, CAMPO; Eric Lamb, COR Transportation Planning; Ken Bowers, COR Department of Planning; Chad Lefteris, Rex Healthcare; Deborah Ross, TTA; Tom Skolnicki, NCSU, Joy Wayman, NCDOA; Ralph Recchie, NCSU Real Estate; Karen Rindge, WakeUP Wake County; Kent Yelverton, NCDA; David King, TTA; Preeth Pati, Sri Gurudev Latta LLC; Jeffrey Bandini, Parker Poe; Charles Yelton, Prairie Ridge EcoStation

Next Implementation Meeting: NOVEMBER 21, 2013

Raleigh Urban Design Center, 220 Fayetteville Street (2nd floor of Briggs Building), Suite 200, 12-2 PM. Feel free to bring your lunch.

Next Steps:

- Members are encouraged to attend the 'Transit Makes Sense' event (Attached).
- Stuart will confirm Executive Level Summit to be held in February.
- Members will invite Leadership to the Summit when the date/location is confirmed in the near future.
- Vote early. Transportation Bond on the ballot. Downtown location in-and-out in 5 minutes.
- Send Trisha updates to the BRC Implementation Action Matrix (Attached).
- Let Stuart know if you are interested in participating on the BRC Task Force under the auspices of the Hillsborough Street Community Service Corporation.
- www.NCStateFair.org OCT 17-27! Tickets on sale now.
- Stop in at the Ramada Inn that currently is under renovation.

Chair Report—Stuart Levin, Chair

- Hillsborough/BRC Subcommittee
 - Endeavoring to form a broader regional alliance with Hillsborough Street organization. If the board confirms, BRC will be a task force of the Hillsborough Street Community Service Corporation. Activities on BRC are 1-2 years in the future.
 - Ralph Recchie – Merge / Share personnel, expertise. Will not be one identity. Task force will work on BRC issues specifically.

- Executive-level summit – February 2014
 - Stuart will be in contact with you to follow up with supporting information. Highest level of support needed. Move process forward, show benefits. Hopefully, Secretaries Daughtridge and Tata will be available to attend as well as Commissioner Troxler. 1.5 hour-show plan; ½ hour facilitated session; ½ hour open discussion. Charles suggests: ID expected outcomes and next steps, including interest of the development community.
- HIA Meeting
 - The final report will be shared with BRC Advisory Group when it is available (year's end).

Priority Projects/Policy Changes Update-

- Rex UNC Healthcare Development—Chad Lefteris
 - \$225M Heart and Vascular Health North Tower; break ground around Thanksgiving; anticipate completion in 2016.
- State Fairgrounds Development—Ken Yelverton
 - Hillsborough/BRC. Renovating parking lot and working towards mass transit model. Trend is no available parking as density increases. After the fair staff will plan additional projects.
- NCSU Update-Tom Skolnicki
 - Planning to construct an indoor practice facility near Carter-Finley. Plan will reflect BRC plan priorities to maintain pedestrian connections. College of Veterinary medicine planning a new education building. Corner of Trinity will become ceremonial entrance (130,000 sq ft). No schedule yet.
- NCDOT Update-Wally Bowman
 - Beryl Road/Hillsborough/BRC previously funded through NCDOT mobility formula. Now will go through scoring process which they are plugging new projects in. Will know which projects will get funding in May/June timeframe. Think about tying it to development.
 - Staff at NCDOT estimate that a 5' sidewalk on the east side of Wade Ave bridge will be in range of \$260K-\$300K and require another girder, but if width of lanes are modified could be less. If the goal is an 8' – 10' sidewalk will need an additional girder (increase costs).
- CAMPO-Kenneth Withrow
 - 2014 awards for project funding of \$11M (60% roads; 20% bike/ped; 15% transit). If members want to advocate (e.g. increase \$s for bike ped to 30%-40%) express interest to the Technical Advisory Committee (of State Mayors) of which Mayor McFarlane is a member.
- Transportation Planning – Eric Lamb
 - CAMPO has an open call for funding projects through a competitive process. Going through corridor studies. BRR submitted 1. Widening bridge for \$\$s for design. Funding for construction would come later. 2. Pursuing \$\$s for sidewalks throughout the BRC. May look at a separate pedestrian bridge.
- Ramada Inn upgrade-Preeth Patil-Improvements include facelift, roof, restaurant, landscaping, repaving. Hiring additional staff. Looking at gaining access to property from another side of the building.

- City Update-Zoning Case Z-21-2013 Approved by Planning Commission/Nov 5 Public Hearing (first under the new UDO)— Trisha Hasch. Ken Bowers discussed the Landmarks Apartment rezoning.

1:15-1:30pm Community Transit Forum—Karen Rindge

- WakeUp Wake County established in 2006. Mission: public education and engagement in the issues around growth including drinking water schools and, currently, transit. With the event, expanding from grassroots organizing to engaging the business community. Top speakers will present, broad experience will be on display and help the Raleigh community continue to formulate strategies and accomplish goals.

1:30pm Open Forum/Round Robin

- Eric Lamb – Transportation Bond, Hillsborough Street Phase II included. Also Design Study of District Drive/West Chase to Trinity Road (N/S street).
- Ralph Recchie - Kmart Site is up for sale. Advisory group will research ownership. In very preliminary relocation discussions regarding the Hwy Patrol. Will break ground this year on new lab space (55,000 square feet) ½ for private research; aim for public/private partnerships reflecting the BRR Study recommendations.
- Ken Bowers – Landmark Apartments Rezoning. Urban Mixed use project. Nov 5 public hearing. Affordable rents could become unaffordable for the current tenants, many of whom work at nearby Rex. This is a trend when older developments are upgraded. Possibly need to bring public sector \$\$\$ to preserve, gain affordable, workforce housing. Discuss affordable housing policy issues with Ken.
- Charles Yelton – Prairie Ridge ecostation – former NCSU property. With construction of Edwards Mill, Downtown Natural Sciences museum established field location. It is a research site for all local universities. Access to 15,000 acres of green space (Schenk Forest, Umstead, Airport, etc.). Biodiversity is some of the most extensive in the US (e.g. 40 species of dragon flies). We need to consider continual support of wildlife populations and maintain green space and connections between green spaces (green corridors). It doesn't matter if you have thousands of acres of green spaces that wildlife cannot access because space is not connected. So we need to take an ecological perspective and minimize the breakup of space so wildlife can move back and forth.
- Preeth Patil – Local investment group has taken ownership of the Ramada Inn, turning accommodations into Suites Hotel style.
- Deborah Ross – ½ cent sales tax is a boon for Orange and Durham. Planning for rail and many great ideas coming forward.
- David King – Affordable housing around stations. Orange and Durham Counties 15%. Suggested inviting your State Employees Credit Union (he is board member and they are located in Corridor. Interesting if we could make BRC a key bus thru way.
 - I-40 – Wade Aug 19 bus on shoulder program expands. Currently measuring effectiveness of bus on shoulder in Durham. It has worked really well. Problems had been worked out in other cities, benefiting the program in NC.