

# **New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee**

## **Minutes of Meeting of July 14, 2011**

(Present: Fowler, Edeburn, Healy, Kent, Goebel, Welch, Will Wilson, Jonathan Howes, Brendan Moore, Ed Harrison, Jane Korest, Helen Youngblood)

- (1) Sandy Creek Park Update. Goebel said that college interns working for Blue Cross-Blue Shield had worked with him and Rosetta Radtke earlier in the week to install three wooden benches along the trail. Pavers have been laid in front of one and will be placed in front of the others very soon. Two or more additional benches will be built. Materials are only a few dollars per bench and hundreds of pavers are available free.

Goebel and Radtke have suggested formation of a new organization, Friends of Sandy Creek Park, to undertake various projects in the park. Goebel said he estimates about 50 people per day visit the park, so there is a considerable pool from which to recruit Friends. Healy said that we might enlist residents at the Forest at Duke and have the first meeting there. Korest said that lots of people want a meaningful, tangible connection to the parks. Goebel noted that there is an Adopt-a-Park program in Durham. He said there is a Friends of the Eno and (in Chapel Hill) a Friends of Bolin Creek.

With regard to the condition of Sandy Creek, Goebel said that 90 percent of the trees planted on March 19 have survived, but that flooding after a recent heavy rain has killed most of the butterfly garden. It will have to be moved further upslope. The second mailbox we installed has also been blown up by vandals. They tried to drive a Mercedes through the (supposedly unlocked) bollard that blocks the trail—it had been secured and the Mercedes lost its oil pan!

Goebel said that State Parks has made a \$5000 grant toward repairs of the large bridge over Sandy Creek. Moore said that a company in Morrisville that builds wooden bridges recently had fire and has two bridges, each 60 ft. long and 12 ft. wide, that it would be willing to sell for \$5000 each. Moore is investigating whether one or both might be usable in Sandy Creek—as a replacement for the current large bridge (it is now 45 ft. long), as part of a bike trail along 15-501 sewer easement (bridging Sandy Creek at the existing culvert) or on the east side of the park. There are questions of whether FEMA permits will be required for crossing any body of water, though in some cases the existence of a current span (e.g. 15-501) would mean that any bridge at the same height would have no effect.

- (2) Hollow Rock Park. Korest said Orange County board will not consider Pickett Rd. closing until Fall. Durham City and County have voted closure, but the road is itself in Orange County. There is need to see if a turnaround area will be required where Pickett intersects Erwin Rd. There was discussion of exactly where the closure barrier should be placed. Korest will bring a map to the next meeting so we can discuss in detail.
- (3) Composition of NHCCAC. According to its mandate from the governing bodies, the NHCCAC is to be composed of members representing various jurisdictions and other advisory bodies.

Duke Forest—Jud Edeburn

Durham Open Space and Trails Comm.—John Goebel

Friends of New Hope Creek—Bob Healy, John Kent

Chapel Hill Greenways—Chris Berndt

Orange Co Parks and Recreation—Floyd Bridgwater

Durham County landowners—Charlie Welch, Wendy Jacobs

Orange County landowners—Bill Olive, Walter Fowler

- (4) Comments on TTA “preferred alternative” transit route between South Square and Patterson Place. Harrison said the main public hearing on the preferred alternative, by Durham-Chapel Hill Transportation Committee, will be Sept. 14, at 9 am at Durham City Hall. Healy will try to keep the NHCCAC informed of any other public hearings and will send links to the TTA sites that have detail on the planning effort. [See below]

In discussing the substance of the route, Harrison observed that development around stations would not be in a uniform circle, but would be limited in some directions by environmental concerns. Healy responded that this was the desired situation, but that developers would try to get exceptions to usual rules if very near a station. Kent suggested that we clarify our comments into three categories: (1) the route through the New Hope bottomlands and Sandy Creek (2) damage to resources during construction and (3) location of stations and effects of induced growth. Healy said he understood an archeological study was done at the time Jordan Lake was flooded and wondered if it

identified resources in the “preferred route” area. Among suggestions made were making explicit reference to Natural Resources Inventory, introducing concepts of habitat fragmentation as well as migration blockage, and being more explicit about alternative routes along 15-501 and Rt. 54.

Kent will continue his research on impacts, particularly considering the TTA background documents when they are released. He will revise the earlier NHCCAC draft comments in light of the above, as well as new information from TTA, and will bring the revised document to the July NHCCAC meeting for action. Korest and Youngblood will bring any detailed maps available to them.

Information regarding TTA plans and public hearings:

From: Henry, Andrew

Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2011 9:14 AM

Subject: Alternatives Analysis (proposed regional rail projects)  
released for public comment

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO) has released for public comment the Alternatives Analysis Reports for the Triangle Regional Transit Program. The Alternatives Analysis provides information and recommendations on proposed transit projects for Durham, Orange and Wake counties in a multi-volume set of reports.

The Detailed Definition of Alternatives Technical Report, the first volume of each corridor report, summarizes the overall findings and identifies the most viable alignments, transit technologies and station locations for major transit system investments over the next 24 years.

The reports are available for download as PDF files at the project web site: [www.ourtransitfuture.com](http://www.ourtransitfuture.com). The Web site also lists the location of libraries where printed and discs copies of the reports are available, and information on how to order copies.

The DCHC MPO will hold workshops on the Alternatives Analysis and is requesting comments from the public until September 7, 2001. The MPO board, the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), will conduct a public hearing on the Alternatives Analysis at their meeting on September 14, 2001. See the following MPO Web page for additional information:

[http://www.dchcmpo.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=85&Itemid=35](http://www.dchcmpo.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=85&Itemid=35)

While not an specific component of the Alternatives Analysis, there are bus investment plans for Durham and Orange counties that are coordinated with the regional transit services proposed in the Alternatives Analysis. See the following MPO Web page for more:

[http://www.dchcmpo.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=83&Itemid=35](http://www.dchcmpo.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=83&Itemid=35)

Please contact Andy Henry, [andrew.henry@durhamnc.gov](mailto:andrew.henry@durhamnc.gov), (919) 5604366, x-36419, with any questions.

THE FOLLOWING EMAIL WAS RECEIVED JULY 29

From: Henry, Andrew  
Sent: Friday, July 29, 2011 2:56 PM  
Subject: CORRECTION: Public Workshops for Alternatives Analysis (proposed regional rail projects)

In a previous email, the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO) announced that the agency will conduct two public workshops to review the Alternatives Analysis Reports for the Triangle Regional Transit Program. Please note that the September 1st workshop at the Southwest Branch of the Durham Public Library has been cancelled, and a workshop in the Chapel Hill Town Council Chambers has been added.

The workshops are:

- \* Chapel Hill Town Council Chambers: August 29th, 4pm to 7pm, 405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Chapel Hill.
- \* August 30th at the Durham Station Transportation Center (515 W. Pettigrew St., Durham), 4pm to 7pm.

See the MPO's Web page for additional information:

[http://www.dchcmpo.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=85&Itemid=35](http://www.dchcmpo.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=85&Itemid=35)

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