

**TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES  
June 18, 2009**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Charlie Hileman, Chair  
Heidi Perry  
Austin Brown  
Seth LaJeunesse  
Daniel Amoni  
Katie Schwing

**STAFF**

Thelma Paylor, AA

- I. Call to Order** - Charlie Hileman, Chair, called meeting to order at 7:30 PM.
- II. Monitoring pedestrian activity on N. Greensboro St.** - Brown spoke on this issue; which led to a discussion regarding tapes, length of tapes and the need for electricity in the event the batteries failed. To process the tapes afterwards, he suggested starting to record on top of Fitch Lumber and how best to process. Perry suggested alternative processing with no overlap; but you will probably miss something: ad hoc crosswalk is what they are looking for. Hileman noted it is possible to put two images together, and try to get some characterization going on. All work must be done ahead of time to get quantitative analysis. Dealing with what this intersection is like, the question was raised, if the TAB could convey it in a video and does it make sense to try and make it something better by changing the traffic situation. Perry suggested doing anecdotal kinds of things that would be useful. Brown questioned, why not just provide the footage if you have it and get the average wait time a person stands there? Perry and Hileman suggested that it should not look like a report and there is no need to turn the cameras on at a certain period of time as they are looking for a way to characterize the intersection.

A word of caution was noted for coming onto the roof due to a *rubber membrane (cannot tear that)*. There were sometimes that you could not capture the traffic with a camera and it will be a good idea to have two people up there. Hileman suggested if you can't get power up there, bring it down below and the easiest thing to do is to get extra batteries. There is a four hour time block with two hour shifts. With Weaver Street traffic on Thursday night, they thought that would be a good time. Dates for monitoring are: 7/2 and 7/9; 7/11 and 7/18. The volunteer schedule for filming pedestrian crossing behavior at the North Greensboro corridor between Harris Teeter and Fitch Lumber follows:

| Thursday filming schedule  | Shift             |                   |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                            | 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm | 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm |
| Thursday, 7/2              | 1. Daniel         | 1. Heidi          |
|                            | 2. Charlie        | 2. Seth           |
| Thursday back up date, 7/9 | 1. Katie          | 1. Heidi          |
|                            | 2. Austin         | 2. Seth           |

| Saturday filming schedule   | Shift              |                     |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
|                             | 9:00 am – 10:30 am | 10:30 am – 12:00 pm |
| Saturday, 7/11              | 1. Katie           | 1. Charlie          |
|                             | 2. Austin          | 2. Austin           |
| Saturday back up date, 7/18 | 1. Katie           | 1. Austin           |
|                             | 2. Seth            | 2. Charlie          |

Perry and Hileman will supply two video cameras, tripods and tapes. Brown will call Mr. Fitch to confirm the Saturday filming date works for TAB to access the roof. He will also ask about having access to an electrical outlet so the cameras will have a constant power source. Other TAB members will work on the tapes, batteries, tripods and remote. (Hold onto receipts for reimbursement from the town).

- III. Update on ARRA-funded projects** – It was noted that Chapel Hill is way ahead of Carrboro on identification of funds. There was a discussion of what needs to take place to get bike detectors (magnet-like that you stick on the bike). Hileman suggested writing and asking for this information. Chapel Hill received money from the NPO and they put their money in there because so many of these stimulus packages were shovel-ready. Perry asked if the ARRA money is part of the stimulus package. (Yes). Was it in the Comprehensive Bicycle Plan? It was noted that it should have been.

It would be good to have a sidewalk at Lloyd Street. Amoni noted that he was informed the town could put sidewalks in on Smith Level Road if the town paid for it. The amount of funding that Chapel Hill is receiving in stimulus funds was also discussed in comparison to funds received by Carrboro. Hileman noted bicyclists that are using Carrboro facilities are more than likely using Chapel Hill facilities as well.

- IV. Update on signalization and bicycle loop detector projects** – Hileman asked how to raise the issue, specifically, by looking at the timing of the lights on Main Street in Carrboro. Perry suggested asking Jim More (Chapel Hill Councilman) when they plan to do their upgrade since he is sympathetic towards faster signals. (Paper sent to Adena re signalization and timing was mentioned by Hileman). Rosemary and Hillsborough Street lights are not on their sync in Chapel Hill and are tripped by traffic or bikes; one at the PTA is timed and pretty quick also. The other signals are on sync and if a car makes it through one light, it will probably make it through the next light. If the Carrboro lights are changed, it will increase the backup of traffic; but if they are just speeded up and remain in sync, it doesn't slow down traffic. The Lloyd Street light is frustrating and the one on Main Street is quite slow. Perry will get additional information on scheduling. (McGuire forwarded information that was distributed to the TAB electronically and one copy was available at the meeting).
- V. Pedestrian Hot spots – maps that Hileman sent out.** Hileman set up all TAB members on *Gmail* and he will add Heidi to receive information as well as she currently receives everything through her UNC email account. He showed a video on his computer with him and his daughter at one of the intersections. He is in the crosswalk and motorists were driving by; showed Main and Poplar intersection, E. Poplar and N. Greensboro St. (in the crosswalk and cars continue going by versus stopping). He demonstrated how to edit, press edit and move map around using the hand or do a path. It is basically a layer of data that runs on top of *Google*. They also discussed various ideas of sharing information such as being on *Gmail* versus other ISPs. (Can edit by adding in text or html can be used for editing and rich text formatting. HTML tags can be used for uploading into You Tube and grab the imbedded HTML tag and load). They decided to use this as one of their Carrboro maps and other Carrboro tabs can be used as well. You can just add more hot spots as time goes on as there are a lot of them. The TAB will identify the hot spots and come up with some ranking criteria or try to find solutions or funding to work through that. A lot of them will be NC DOT roads and they will not be able to do anything except make suggestions. It was suggested that they describe the problem, possible solution and also a history so it can be documented to avoid redundancy. Hileman noted that a great deal of the problems they had before, they could use something like this that was well designed and put together and they could see right away where the problem is. Hileman requested someone to work with him to get a better video (using a quick time file) process that he described. Amoni said digital cameras are good for *You Tube* and perfect for this. They are “MVT” files - Amoni puts it on his computer and transfers to *you Tube*. Brown suggested color coding the NC DOT roads to distinguish those from others. Hileman noted the main thing is they need something that is easily passed on.

- VI. Approval of Minutes - June 4, 2009 -** Paylor called to the attention of the TAB that they had not approved the June 4, 2009 minutes. Hileman requested a vote on the minutes and they were approved unanimously.
  
- VII.** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.