

**TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES  
May 15, 2008**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dave Deming, Vice Chair  
John O'Leary  
Katie Schwing  
Charlie Hileman

**STAFF**

Adena Messinger

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

Heidi Perry, Chair  
Tom High  
Daniel Amoni

**I. Call to Order**

Dave Deming, vice-chair, called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM.

**II. Pedestrian Friendly Gateway Signs**

In trying to understand how best to frame suggestions regarding language for a sign that communicates that Carrboro is a pedestrian friendly town, TAB members posed the following questions:

- Is there a pedestrian friendly award program similar to the Bicycle Friendly Community program?
- Where does Carrboro stand among its peers regarding pedestrian friendliness?
- What tools are available to evaluate the pedestrian friendliness of a community and is any of that going on now?
- What is the pedestrian accident history for Carrboro?

In discussing these questions members expressed that pedestrian friendliness is something that the Town should be working towards. Katie Schwing brought up that there is a list somewhere that ranks walkable cities in U.S. Staff offered that there are several pedestrian audit tools available.

The TAB was not sure that it could come up with language for a sign.

Charlie Hileman offered to contact Rich Bell from Active Living by Design for ideas.

Staff will work on getting the accident history.

**III. Review of the Residential Traffic Management Plan**

Staff explained that the motivation behind this agenda item was not only the recent traffic calming requests, but also that staff has noticed some weak spots in the plan and as such there was an interest in bringing it back to the TAB for review.

John O'Leary (JO) commented that education and enforcement are pretty standard components of traffic calming programs but that these elements of Carrboro's plan have essentially been dismissed as viable options.

Dave Deming (DD) expressed an interest in using speed trailers and staff will look into whether or not there is a trailer that the Town has access to. Dave also suggested that the TAB look at the last few traffic requests, see how they scored on the criteria matrix, and understand how easy it was to get stage II traffic calming.

Charlie (CH) asked why painting lines or stamped pavement were not looked to more as possible interventions. Staff explained that from a maintenance perspective painting lines is not as cheap as it sounds and that stamped pavement can be costly for both implementation and maintenance. CH also brought up the concept of completely taking away signs and marking such that vehicles and people need to slow down because there is no guidance (similar to what some communities in Europe have tried).

JO: Are we taking a “there’s nothing we can do’ attitude? Maybe we need to try to take the education piece more seriously. And what about the idea of having the requesting residents share in the cost of whatever is implemented?

CH: The RTMP document has a list of engineering solutions; however, we always seem to put in speed tables. What else is the Town willing to consider?

JO: Need to be wary of “over promising” the ability to control traffic concerns.

DD: Asking residents to share in the cost could be a default education campaign.

Katie Schwing agreed that the speed trailer idea is worth pursuing, with the idea that perhaps a lot of the concern is perception.

JO: Is there a way to have auto insurance companies support educational materials?

#### **IV. Approval of Minutes from May 1, 2008.**

A motion was made by Charlie Hileman to approve the May 1, 2008 minutes. This was seconded by John O’Leary, and approved unanimously (4-0).

#### **V. Other Business**

1. Charlie handed out the final version of the letter to CHT and the other members thanked him.
2. Staff announced several upcoming public hearing opportunities at the DCHC MPO:
  - a. June 11: Special Transit Advisory Commission report, 9 am
  - b. August 13: Long range transportation plan; evening
  - c. October 8: Long range transportation plan; evening
3. Staff reported back regarding the question about Carolina North’s transportation plan: essentially their plans are unknown at this point. JO: still concerned about what UNC is doing with their coal cars; CH: frustrated by lack of shared knowledge regarding Carolina North.

VI. Meeting was adjourned at approximately 9 pm.