



GroWNC Transportation Workgroup Notes 3/14/12

Workgroup Members Present:

Andrew Euston, Urban Design
Blake Esselstyn, City of Asheville Planner
David Johnson, Asheville Design Center
Don Kostelec, Kostelec Planning
Greg Borom, Children First
Hope Bleeker, Mountain Mobility
Julie Mayfield, WNCA
Kenneth Wilson, NCDOT
Lael Gray, WNCA/City of Asheville resident
Lenny Bernstein, BRSI
Mariate Echeverry, Asheville Transit
Michael Sorrells, Haywood County/ Land-of-Sky RPO
Paul Black, FBRMPO (facilitator)
Reuben Moore, NCDOT
Robert Eidus, Transportation Consultant
Terri March, Buncombe County Health Department

Consultant team :

Meg Nealon, Land Design-Principal
Don Bryson Martin Alexiou Bryson - Principal
Miller Cochran - Martin Alexiou Bryson

Land-of-Sky Staff

Paul Black – FBRMPO Director
Natalie Murdock- Land-of-Sky RPO Coordinator
Patrick Harper- Energy Planner
Carrie Runsner-Turner – Sustainability Coordinator

Introductions:

Workgroup members and project staff provided self-introductions

Overview and next steps

Meg Nealon provided an overview of the agenda and where we are in the current timeline of the overall project. Following review of the plan memo provided by the consultant team, during this meeting goals and issues will be identified as they relate to transportation. These draft goals and objectives will be used during public meetings referred to as “reality checks”. These public meetings will begin in May. The feedback from the first round of reality checks will be provided to the steering committee. Each work group will nominate individuals to serve on the steering committee.

Following these steps, the overarching goals and objectives will be refined, feeding into focused analysis, plan alternatives and another round of public meetings.



- Don Bryson provided an overview of the manner in which previous plans overlapped regarding goals and objectives. He highlighted the following points:
 - o Range of goals has spread beyond capacity issues
 - o Transportation goals may be direct and indirect
 - o Various topics are more interrelated
 - o Basic goals are often in conflict
 - o Some plans stem for a federal or state requirement and may lack breadth of other plans
 - o Some are DOT based plans which are not responsible for land use

A matrix was provided that further depicts overlaps. Natalie Murdock reminded the group that further detail is provided on the following pages in the larger plan summary document (goals summary pages 85-90, transportation section begins on pg 78). A summary of common themes is provided below:

Common Themes Addressed in Transportation Plans

Issues common throughout the region:

- Multimodal Travel Options
- Access to Jobs, Services, and Housing
- Walkability
- Biking
- Air & Water Quality
- Safety
- Security
- Project prioritization
- Funding
- Land Use
- Environmental & Community Sustainability
- Energy
- Topography
- Health

Common Goals

- Multimodal Transportation
- Enhance Mobility
- Safety and Security
- Promote Regional Connectivity; Multi-Jurisdictional Coordination
- Cost Prioritization / Effectiveness
- Maintenance of Existing Facilities



- Greenways; Pedestrian Infrastructure/Walkability; Bicycle Infrastructure
- Manage Congestion
- Efficient Freight Movement
- Public Transportation

Indirect Transportation Goals

- Reduce Oil Use
- Promote Livable Communities; Enhance Existing Communities; Focus on Downtown
- Additional Recreation Facilities
- Improve Health
- Air Quality
- Preserve Natural Environment
- Improve Quality of Life

A matrix is provided [here](#) that depicts final topic grouping, a summary of some discussion points for specific topics is provided below:

Access / Access to Services

- Define by people or place?
- All users all modes, traditionally excluded groups
- Prioritize communities that need to be served- populations that don't currently receive it (youth)
- Define priorities for access
- Address venerable populations
- Connecting mobility to services
- Youth /aging

Energy Efficiency

- Non-motorized transportation
- Land Use Integration
 - a. Storm water issues
- Travel options to major cities
- Multi-modal options
- Highway Capacity Improvements
 - Congestion starts with bad decisions
- Increase Choice (Options/choice) Multi-modal – does it also include automobiles?
 - Increasing choice or options
- Carpooling/ Van pooling



- Ground transportation call-center
- Transit
 - Regional Transit Connections
- Dedicated funding
 - Infrastructure management optimization
 - More with what we have
 - ITS
- Energy
 - b. Petroleum dependency
- Non-motorized options
 - Walkability
 - Bicycling/ bikes
 - greenways

General discussion

- Could transit stand alone as its own category?
- General transit then scale down?
- Access can refer to a particular community, equity right word?
 - Improve access for who? Underserved? Access for all?
 - Does it depend on geography i.e. isolated Madison county sub-division
- Energy/consumption
 - Patrick Harper – alternative fuel capacity is a topic addressed in the Energy workgroup
 - 28% of energy use is transportation related – Patrick Harper
- Meg Nealon
 - New technology, a standalone topic or implementation issue?
 - Resource protection
- Fuel dependency
 - Difficult to add as a stand alone
- Car, pooling, van pooling
 - Standalone issue?
 - Julie Mayfield– make more viable choice for more people
 - More choices than transit
- Education
 - Some members of the public don't understand transit
 - Understand choice you have
 - Implementation
 - Education issues cut across various modes and issues
- Safety/security
 - Cross-cutting
- Tools
 - Education
 - Funding
 - New technology



- Freight?
- Focus on downtown
- Aviation?
 - o Is this a focus for the group?
- Parking
 - o Compile with land-use
- Call-in center (parking lot issue)

Selection of Chair and Co-chair

- Natalie Murdock opened the floor for chair and co-chair nominations. She explained that during the February workgroup meeting, a number of workgroup members were absent during the previous round of nominations. After discussion, Julie Mayfield and Lael Gray were nominated for chair. Mayfield and Gray agreed to serve as co-chairs.

Steering Committee Representative

-Natalie Murdock opened the floor for nominations for steering committee representation. Carrie Runser-Turner explained that 3-4 nominees were needed. Julie Mayfield, Michael Sorrells, Andy Euston and Lael Gray were nominated by the group. Work group members also completed formal nomination ballots.