



Planning, Development & Inspections

TEL (PLANNING) 919 856 6310
TEL (INSPECTIONS) 919 856 6222

A Division of Community Services
P.O. Box 550 • Raleigh, NC 27602
www.wakegov.com

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Wake County Planning Board

Wednesday May 2, 2018 (1:30 p.m.)

Wake County Justice Center

300 S. Salisbury St., Room 2700

Raleigh, North Carolina

Members Present: (8) Mr. Alan Swanstrom (Chair), Mr. Thomas Wells, Mr. Donovan Amos Clark, Ms. Susan Sanford, Mr. Asa Fleming, Mr. Bill Jenkins, Ms. Tara Kreider, Mr. Phil Feagan.

Members Absent: (2) Mr. Jason Barron (Vice-chair), Mr. Ted Van Dyk

County Staff: (8) Mr. Tim Maloney, Mr. Steven Finn, Ms. Sharon Peterson, Ms. Terry Nolan, Mr. Bryan Coates, Mr. Tim Gardiner, Ms. Jenny Coats, Mrs. Loretta Alston.

Guests: (1) Mr. Joe Milazzo, Executive Director of the Regional Transportation Alliance (RTA)

County Attorney's Present: (1) Mr. Ken Murphy (Senior Assistant County Attorney)

1. **Meeting Called to Order** – Mr. Alan Swanstrom called the meeting to order at 1:33 P.M.
2. **Petitions and Amendments** – None.
3. **Motion to approve minutes** of April 4, 2018 by Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Fleming and approved unanimously.
4. **Presentation from the Regional Transportation Alliance**

Mr. Joe Milazzo, Executive Director of the Regional Transportation Alliance (RTA), gave an overview of the organization. He explained RTA's focus areas are freeways, intersections, highways, transits, air service at RDU airport along with inter-city connections. RTA consists of over 100-member companies and 23 chambers of commerce.

Mr. Milazzo talked about RTA's top 2018 priorities: (1) Accelerate I-540 extension to I-40; (2) Fund RDU master plan; (3) Push regional transit; (4) Advance congestion relief; and (5) Promote innovation and technology. Mr. Milazzo gave a brief overview on some of the major projects and major modes of transportation. The priorities are:

- **Accelerate the extension of I-40** (specifically the southern portion): *To create a resilient regional network.*
The accelerated extension and completion of the I-540/Triangle Expressway, the most advanced turnpike in America, will provide free-flow mobility across Wake County and create vital connections across the Triangle, including direct freeway linkages among U.S. 1/64, I-40, I-42 (U.S. 70 bypass), I-87 (U.S. 64-264 bypass), and I-540.

- **Fund the 25-year RDU master plan:** *To provide financial stability amidst growth.*
RDU has a scalable and effective plan for expansion, but there is a significant funding gap that will require new and innovative revenue options to resolve. A sustainable funding mechanism is required to implement the plan and complete essential improvements including reconstructing our primary runway “5L-23R”.
- **Push fast, effective regional transit and bikeshare:** *To maximize benefits and usage.*
Our region is nationally unique in having Wake, Durham and Orange Counties passing their transit referendums on their initial ballots. This is very important, as it will unlock \$1 billion over the course of a 10-year period. Mr. Milazzo also highlighted bikeshare, which has grown from zero (0) a year ago to six (6) programs in the Triangle – i.e. Durham, Chapel Hill, Raleigh – NCSU. This provides a new resource called “*last mile*” connection which fits in with many of Wake County initiatives bringing health into our policies.
- **Advance congestion relief on area freeways:** *To reduce delay and keep us connected.*
Mr. Milazzo talked about elements of congestion relief on the area freeway system. The focus areas are:
 - Fix 440
 - Northern wake portion of I-540
 - On-Ramp Signal Systems
 - Accelerate 540
 - US 70 freeway conversion
 - Interstate 40
 - Interstate 87
 - Express Shoulder Lanes

In addition, Mr. Milazzo discussed other forms of congestion relief such as a toll road as it creates and encourages carpools. He also explained that a commuter rail will be our regional guideway between Raleigh and Durham, the largest cities. This will connect Raleigh, Durham, and Cary in RTP. Major investment studies are underway. Mr. Milazzo pointed board members to goforwardNC.org/waketransit to get specifics on all the Wake transit plans, and goforwardNC.org to see all the other counties work as well. The commuter rail, in conjunction with busses on the freeway shoulder system today along with future express lanes collectively, will be our regional connection for transit. This market is building six (6) rapid lines which means every 15 minutes or better service, stations and guide ways – one (1) will be a bus rapid transit (BRT) line in Chapel Hill; four (4) will be BRT lines in Wake County, all of which serving Raleigh; and one (1), of which serving Raleigh and Cary, will be a light rail line between Durham and Chapel Hill near the University. Everything on the transit will be done by 2028.

Planning Board Discussion

Planning Board members were very engaged and had a productive Q&A Session with Mr. Milazzo. Highlights are as follows:

Q. Mr. Swanstrom asked if some of the express shoulder lanes could be designated for High Occupancy Vehicles (HOV) or energy efficient vehicles?

A. Mr. Milazzo explained the latest trend is to remove HOV lanes (VA, CA, Washington DC) as they have not proven to be as effective as once thought. Currently RTA does not support this option, but ultimately it is a policy decision.

Q. Mr. Swanstrom asked if there is a plan for the commuter rail, and more importantly the BRT, to be managed across the three (3) different transit entities?

A. Mr. Milazzo responded that this is part of the major investment study. One recommendation might be that the regional transit agency, which is called GoTriangle, may be tasked to do the regional commuter rail.

Q. Ms. Sanford asked if the BRT would run every 15 minutes?

A. Mr. Milazzo confirmed it would. The BRT will run every 15 minutes during the week day periods (at least 12 or 13 hours per day not in the middle of night). Mr. Milazzo stated not just the BRT lines but asked Board members to look at the Raleigh Cary frequent network map, every dotted line will be every 15 minutes all day by the end of 2027.

Q. Mr. Wells asked if there is a sunset on tolls on I-540 now?

A. Mr. Milazzo confirmed there is a sunset on tolls, which will be when the bonds are paid off.

Q. Ms. Sanford asked if Mr. Milazzo could talk about autonomous vehicle testing?

A. Mr. Milazzo answered there is no testing currently on it. He stated many of you know I-540 has been named as 1 of 10 automated vehicle proving ground test sites in the U.S. by USDOT. They are certainly open to it, and a number of University partners are working on this project. Our organization is in support of this testing as there are no pedestrians, traffic lights, or driveways on a turnpike/freeway.

Mr. Milazzo ended his presentation by inviting Planning Board members to RTA's website letsgetmoving.org. He also suggested future presentations from representatives at GoTriangle, NCDOT, and the NC Turnpike Authority. Note: The Wake Transit Plan also has a new website, goforwardnc.org.

For more information, visit website for letsgetmoving.org

5. Update on Wake County Comprehensive Plan (Mr. Maloney and Mr. Gardiner)

Mr. Tim Maloney and Mr. Tim Gardiner gave the board members an update on the Comprehensive Plan. Clarion & Associates have been selected as the County consultants.

The Comprehensive Plan is a strategic compilation of Wake County's high-level community development policies that guide community actions and decision-making. The scope of work will include reviewing existing growth and development policies and tools; developing key questions, scenarios with metrics based on trade-off input, and a draft comprehensive plan policy book; and engaging the public throughout the process. The final product will be an online, user friendly listing of policies tied to goals and metrics, with clear connection/recommendations for further ordinance and regulation changes and updates.

Working Schedule

- Start – April 2018
- Kick Off – July 2018
- Key Questions Document – December 2018
- Scenarios Document – July 2019
- Draft Policy Book – December 2019

The Planning Board members will be active participants during the process. A general outline of the planning board member's involvement is as follows:

- **One on one interviews (April – May 2018)**
Schedule time with Planning Board members and consulting team to get an idea of what your concerns are and what you have seen, not just in your role as a planning board member but as a citizen.
- **Participation with the Advisory Committee (Summer 2018, Summer 2019)**
The Advisory Committee will be a sounding board. There will be spots for the Planning Board (not all).
- **Review of policy book (December 2018)**
Once the process is complete, will work with Mr. Maloney on how we want to review the documentation before it becomes our official document.
- **Assist/Encourage public engagement (Length of study)**
Lastly, we will make an ask to you all to reach out and engage members of the community.

Planning Board Discussion

Planning Board members were very engaged and had a productive Q&A Session with Mr. Gardiner. Highlights are as follows:

Q. Mr. Wells asked for clarification on when to get involved being that the process is already underway.

A. Mr. Gardiner stated as far as talking with the public, start now. As far as the Advisory Committee is concerned, involvement will be around key questions, scenarios timeframe of December 2018 and July 2019.

Q. Mr. Swanstrom asked whether a subset or the full Planning Board needed to be involved.

A. Mr. Gardiner confirmed the consulting team would like to interview all members. The consultants will be flexible with board members' schedules. They will ask three (3) times if available then move on.

Mr. Swanstrom is anxious to see how this process rolls out and stated his expectation is full participation from the Planning Board members. He asked for members to make time to speak to consultants over the next month.

Mr. Gardiner indicated questions will be distributed before the interviews. The preparation phase will entail a discovery including: What are your perspectives; your role as a planning board member; what you have seen; what do you think are the big challenges; as well as some exercises.

In conclusion, Mr. Swanstrom gave the following two (2) "To Do" items: (1) If you get a call, make time; and (2) Think about whether you want to be involved or not with the Advisory Committee.

6. Committee Reports

Mr. Wells reported that the Code and Operations met and discussed recommendations on modifications on the UDO text. Those recommendations were approved and will come before the full board at next month's meeting.

7. Planning, Development, and Inspections Report

Ms. Peterson gave updates on two (2) transportation items:

- ADA is a component of the Transit Plan that is underserved at this moment.
 - For example, at a recent GoCary Transit presentation, senior citizens asked multiple questions about the GoCary program and were unaware of this benefit.

- CAMPO Southwest Study is underway.
 - A couple of Planning Board members are participating on the Oversight Team. If interested, they are still open to other participants for the three (3) remaining meetings.
 - Mr. Swanstrom asked Ms. Peterson to send an email to Board members reminding us what we have to do to get on that process as well as meeting locations.

Ms. Peterson also gave an update on the Land Use Committee. She stated Morrisville Town Council last week approved a resolution to petition the County to expand their ETJ. She stated we have not received that officially. We were asked to provide two (2) dates for the Land Use Committee. They are considering amending their approved parcels. Mr. Swanstrom suggested we might have better participation in June.

Mr. Finn had a couple updates and one item with detail intended to benefit new Board members. He advised the regional Planning Board member training on 4/5/18 was sold out, was well received and heard positive feedback from the UNC School of Government. He noted development applications remain steady as well as the Board of Adjustment docket. Mr. Finn identified the high volume of Special Use Permit applications with 27 in FY 2017 and still trending to date. He explained how the UDO provides a "Use Table" that identifies uses permitted by right, having the Special Use Permit option or the use is not allowed. The intent of providing the Special Use Permit option is to allow non-residential uses in certain instances that support residential areas that can meet the development standards such as buffers and landscape to minimize adverse impacts on adjacent properties. Given the volume of these applications, Mr. Finn emphasized this trend as following the continued growth in Wake County with neighborhood serving retail and support services.

Mr. Maloney discussed ideas for the July meeting due to July 4th (holiday closing). The Board was in favor of mid-July timeframe; therefore, Mr. Maloney officially cancelled the July 4th meeting. Action required: Mr. Maloney will confirm with staff that the rezoning meeting will take place in July and will schedule July's meeting. Space is already reserved on July 18, 2018.

8. Chairman's Report – Mr. Alan Swanstrom

Mr. Swanstrom announced the Land Use Chair is retiring, and a new chair is needed. Mr. Amos Clark volunteered. Motion was made by acclamation.

9. Having no further announcements, the meeting was adjourned at 3:06 p.m.

Attachment:

1) Committee Rosters (Land Use & Subdivision, Code & Operations, and Transportation)

Wake County Planning Board

Committee Assignments

Appointed April 2018

CODE AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Responsibility: To review all issues referred to it by the full Board that concern proposed amendments to the text or maps in the County's Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) and the Board's administrative procedures and policies, and to submit a recommendation for action on those matters to the full Board.

Committee Members:

Tom Wells – Chair

Jason Barron

Amos Clark

Phil Feagan

Ted Van Dyk

Alan Swanstrom

Susan Sanford

LAND USE AND SUBDIVISION COMMITTEE

Responsibility: To review all issues referred to it by the full Board that concern either subdivisions or the Land Use Plan, to submit a recommendation for action on those matters to the full Board, and to review land use policy and recommend changes it deems appropriate.

Committee Members:

Amos Clark – Chair

Jason Barron

Asa Fleming

Bill Jenkins

Tara Kreider

Alan Swanstrom

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Responsibility: To review all issues referred to it by the full Board that concern the issue of Transportation in Wake County, and to submit a recommendation for action on those matters to the full Board.

Committee Members:

Phil Feagan – Chair

Asa Fleming

Tara Kreider

Ted Van Dyk

Tom Wells

Alan Swanstrom

Bill Jenkins

Susan Sanford

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REGULAR MEETING
WAKE COUNTY PLANNING BOARD
May 2, 2018

Alan Swanstrom declared the regular meeting
of the Wake County Planning Board for
Wednesday, May 2, 2018 adjourned at 3:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Swanstrom". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and a long, sweeping underline.

Alan Swanstrom
Wake County Planning Board