

**HIGH POINT CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
March 4, 2019 – 3:30 P.M.
3RD FLOOR LOBBY CONFERENCE ROOM**

MINUTES

Present:

Mayor Jay Wagner, Mayor Pro Tem Jason Ewing (Ward 6); Council Member Britt Moore (At Large); Council Member Don Scarborough (At Large); Council Member Jeffrey Golden (Ward 1); Council Member Chris Williams (Ward 2); Council Member Monica Peters (Ward 3); Council Member Wesley Hudson (Ward 4); and Council Member Victor Jones (Ward 5)

Staff Present:

Greg Demko, City Manager; Randy McCaslin, Deputy City Manager; Randy Hemann, Assistant City Manager; JoAnne Carlyle, City Attorney; Mike McNair, Director of Community Development & Housing; Loren Hill, President- High Point Economic Development Corporation; Eric Olmedo, Managing Director; Jeron Hollis, Director of Communication & Public Engagement; Terry Houk, Director of Public Services; Mark McDonald, Director of Transportation; Greg Venable, Transportation Planning Administrator; Andrew Edmonds, Transportation Planner; and Lisa Vierling, City Clerk

Others Present:

Matt Hayes, Principal with Alta Planning + Design
Bruce Ashley, Attorney, Fox Rothschild LLP
Judy Stalder, TREBIC

News Media Present:

None present

Note: The following documents will be attached in Legistar as a permanent part of these proceedings.

- ✓ High Point MPO Regional Bike Plan

Mayor Wagner called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

High Point MPO Regional Bike Plan

Andrew Edmonds, Transportation Planner with the High Point MPO and the City of High Point Transportation Department, advised that the planning process for the regional bike plan started about a year ago with the purpose of creating a safe regional bike network across all jurisdictions within the High Point MPO. This plan includes four counties, as well as 6-7 cities that are in the High Point MPO. The plan is merely a set of recommendations for a jumping off point to start building infrastructure and to set up some policy recommendations, and to set a vision for moving forward. Mr. Edmonds explained the action for adopting the plan would actually come from the High Point

MPO and they welcomed any feedback throughout the planning process. He then introduced Matt Hayes with Alta Planning + Design, consultants assisting with the project.

Matt Hayes, Principal with Alta Planning + Design, based out of Durham with an office in Charlotte as well, provided an overview of the High Point MPO Regional Bike Plan and the process that was used to draft the plan. He shared that bicycle plans are trending statewide and noted that NCDOT has provided funding for some regional bicycle plans. The purpose for doing this type of planning is to:

- ✓ Enhance Connectivity;
- ✓ Create a More Positive Economic Impact;
- ✓ Protect the Environment;
- ✓ Promote Equity;
- ✓ Enhance Health;
- ✓ Increase Safety; and
- ✓ Increase Livability.

Representatives from all the municipalities in the study area, and from NCDOT served on the Project Steering Committee throughout the project. He pointed out the study area actually crosses three NCDOT divisions (Division 7, 8, and 9). There was a lot of good involvement, good active participation and interest in the study.

Public involvement was a big part of the process. To engage the most people, twelve community events were held across the region over the past year with over 500 participants turning in public comment forms that contained a good cross-section of questions. The information was also put on the MPO website and the city's website. Mr. Hayes noted that the full results for the Draft Plan and responses to the questions posed could be found on the website. The comments received indicated that most people want to have greenways to connect with some sort of separation from traffic.

One of the questions posed was: "What is the likelihood that the following types of bicycling facilities would influence you to bike more often?" The results were as follows:

INFRASTRUCTURE (Bicycling Facilities)	%
Separated bike lanes (physically separated from traffic)	86%
Greenways	83%
Buffered bike lanes	77%
Intersection improvements for bicyclists	72%
Striped bike lanes	72%
Shared-use paths	68%
Paved shoulders	52%
Bike parking	51%
Directional and wayfinding signage for bicyclists	46%

The Project Steering Committee met four times throughout the process and looked at regional connections on a regional level and focused on municipalities having the population centers. They wanted to make sure that they were making logical connections and destinations and connecting where there are existing trails. Additionally, they analysed and looked at previously existing plans, then worked with the Project Steering Committee to determine how to prioritize and move projects forward.

The Plan features detailed recommendations for 15 priority projects across the region and establishes a vision for long-term projects realizing that dollars are not always on the table to do these projects right away. There are future roadway widenings, roadway resurfacing, and those types of opportunities that could be taken advantage of in the future. Each jurisdiction decides what works best for them; the Plan provides suggestions for consideration. Some examples were:

- ✓ Complete Streets;
- ✓ Accommodating bicycle facilities and parking with new development;
- ✓ Street connectivity in new developments;
- ✓ Bicycle-friendly rumble strips.

There were several priority projects in High Point:

- ✓ The Southwest High Point Greenway;
- ✓ Elm Street and the development around the stadium. Two alternatives were recommended for this area: standard stiped bike lanes, or a two-way separated bikeway.
- ✓ Centennial (another opportunity to bring connectivity to High Point University)
- ✓ Montlieu Avenue side paths.

Mr. Hayes stressed the importance of Programs and shared the following recommendations:

- ✓ Education
- ✓ Enforcement
- ✓ Encouragement
- ✓ Evaluation

They will be looking at developing bicycle/brochure maps which will be detailed for the whole region, but will zoom in for each of the cities and counties that will give people ideas of locations they can go riding.

Mr. Hayes reiterated that this is a draft plan and pointed out the comment period would be open through March to receive public feedback. He explained the Plan could be used for:

1. Helping inform decision-making for roadway projects;
2. Project sheets and cost estimates inform specific projects;
3. Ideas for programs, policies, funding, and design;
4. Citing the plan in grant applications and funding requests; and
5. Using the brochure maps to promote bicycling and tourism.

Following the conclusion of the presentation, Mr. Hayes entertained questions and/or comments.

Council Member Moore asked how they were getting the word out to citizens about completing the questions or responding to the survey. Mr. Edmonds replied that they put notices in papers, utilized social media, developed a project website, and posted information on the High Point MPO website, which is a division of the Transportation Department. Council Member Peters added that they go to events and have tables with the information and surveys available so people can fill them out. Council Member Williams suggested they also post the information on the NextDoor app.

Council Member Moore asked if Alta Planning + Design has worked with other cities that have incorporated a stadium, Amphitheatre, or something within the synergy of the city and that tied in with bike plans such as this. Mr. Hayes mentioned a new Minor League team that would be coming to Madison, Alabama and noted they are actually doing a regional trail project that will connect to the ballpark there.

There being no further questions/comments, the Mayor thanked Mr. Hayes for coming and providing an overview of the High Point MPO Regional Bike Plan.

Closed Session

Mayor Wagner announced the need to go into closed session pursuant to N.C. General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3) to preserve attorney-client privilege.

Upon reconvening into open session at 4:50 p.m., the Mayor announced there was no action taken as a result of the closed session.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m. upon motion duly made by Council Member Moore and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ewing.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jay W. Wagner, Mayor

Attest:

Lisa B. Vierling, City Clerk