

Crozet Community Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes from March 9, 2022

***Note: This meeting was held pursuant to and in compliance with Ordinance No. 20-A (16); An Ordinance to Ensure the Continuity of Government During the Covid-19 Disaster.**

Members Present

Allie Pesch – Chair
Joe Fore – Vice Chair
Valerie Long – Secretary
Mike Kunkel
Michael Monaco
Brian Day
Kostas Alibertis
Mark McKenney
Shawn Bird
Jim Duncan
Sandra Hausman

Ann Mallek – Board of Supervisors
Jennie More – Planning Commission

County Staff

Carolyn Shaffer – Clerk
Rachel Falkenstein, Planning Manager – Long Range Planning, Community Development Department
Kevin McDermott, Planning Manager - Transportation, Community Development Department
Jessica Hersch-Ballering, Transportation Planner, Community Development Department
Lance Stewart – Director of Facilities & Environmental Services
Kelly Fomenko - JAUNT

Chair Allie Pesch called the meeting to order at 7:02

The members of the Committee introduced themselves.

Noting that a quorum was present, the Committee approved the February, 2022 minutes following a motion to approve by Brian Day, and a second by Kostas Alibertis.

The Committee welcomed new member Jim Duncan

Presentation: Transportation Planning Overview & Crozet Project Updates:

Kevin McDermott, the Planning Manager for Transportation provided a presentation that covered the following transportation planning topics:

- The early planning process
- Project prioritization based on specific metrics
- Funding mechanisms/sources:
 - o Smart Scale – primary funding mechanism, applications scored and ranked. Very competitive
 - o Revenue Sharing Program – less competitive, but requires 50% funding match by the County, up to \$10 million total

- Transportation Alternatives – Federal funding for projects that expand non-motorized transportation projects (bike, ped typically). Requires 20% local match
- Secondary Six Year Plan – annual allocation of State funds mostly to pave unpaved roads
- State of Good Repair – primarily for bridge and road rehabilitation and replacement projects. Projects are identified by VDOT, not the County
- Highway Safety Improvement Program – road/bike/pedestrian improvements related to safety. Identified by VDOT, scored and ranked
- Other Federal/State Funding Opportunities – RAISE, LWCF, Federal Lands Access Programs, Economic Development Access Programs, etc.
- Local Funding Mechanisms:
 - Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funds, which can be used to locally fund a project, or applied to a Smart Scale application to increase its score and ranking
 - Developer Funded/Constructed Improvements – via proffers or conditioned improvements and/or funding to address impacts of their development, or improvements constructed by developers as part of their development
- Project Implementation –
 - Locally funded projects can be constructed relatively faster (3-5 years) compared to State or Federal Funds. Smart Scale projects take approximately 8-11 years.

Crozet Project Updates:

Eastern Avenue South Extension –

- Will connect Eastern Avenue through Corey Farm to Route 250
- Submitted for revenue sharing grant; will find out in April if funded
- Project is significantly expensive -- ~ \$25 million

Route 240/250 Roundabout

- State administered project
- Delays have occurred, but construction estimated to start by the end of 2022

Old Trail Drive/WAHS/US 250 Roundabout

- Learned during Crozet Master Plan that this was the worst-performing intersection in Crozet
- Will be submitted as a Smart Scale project in this round
- Will find out in 2023 if it is funded

Break for Q&A:

There was a question about the process for construction when there is a need to acquire land from a private landowner. Kevin provided a brief explanation of the process, noting the effort to negotiate a fair and equitable agreement on the compensation amount.

- Supervisor Mallek noted that the boundaries of the Eastern Avenue connection have been established for many years, and signs have been posted to make the public aware that the road will be extended/connected in the future once funded.
- Kevin noted that this is expected to be a VDOT-administered project

There was a question about whether there will be a signal where Eastern Avenue will intersect with Route 250. Kevin provided several responses and comments:

- When it was initially studied, the study did not show a signal was needed, so most likely one will not be installed when the road is completed.
- But they will monitor it just as they do with every other intersection, and when VDOT determines it is needed it could be installed then.
- The signal would be prioritized if shown to be a documented safety issue

- There was a comment about how Corey Farm residents already have a hard time turning left out of Corey Farm
- Supervisor Mallek encouraged the intersection to be pre-wired for a signal for easier installation when authorized.

There was a question about how cost estimates are calculated and managed given expected price increases in the future

- Kevin explained that their cost estimates factor in expected cost increases; the estimate is the estimated cost to construct it at the time construction would start. But recent cost increases are more significant and challenging, which could require additional funding, either from the State or the County.

Projects Constructed by the County Facilities & Environmental Services Department – presentation by Lance Stewart

US 250 West Sidewalks

- Rt 250 in front of Harris Teeter, Corey Farm, and Clover Lawn
- Sidewalks and mid-block crosswalks planned
- Schedule: estimated to be complete by August 2022
- There will be some road closures weekdays during approximately 9 am – 4 pm

Crozet Square and Oak Street Improvements

- Improvements to the Square in front of Fardowner's and to Oak Street
- Full build-out of Oak Street, including with formal parking.
- Project includes: new sidewalks, ADA compliant parking lot, drainage structures
- New traffic flow at the signal at Crozet Ave.
- Design is still preliminary, at 60% stage now, it will continue
- Schedule estimate: 6-8 months to get to point of issuing bids, then 2-3 months for that process, then award contract. Estimate of one year to construct from contract award date.
- Sidewalks and bike infrastructure will be part of the next phase of design

Barnes Lumber Redesign:

- No formal parking at first, just road network.
- Multi-use path would be included eventually
- Status: nearing 60% design, which is major threshold point
- Numerous utility lines must be relocated

Questions and Comments:

- A member of the public commented on long-range planning and coordination of development and road, bike, and pedestrian infrastructure
- Another member of the public asked whether a pedestrian tunnel would be part of the proposed 250/Old Trail Drive/WAHS roundabout.
 - o Kevin noted that pedestrian safety will be a critical safety component of the design
 - o But an underground tunnel is challenging due to grade differences and cost.
 - o He reminded the group that because cost is one of the factors that are scored, the higher the cost of a project, the less likely it is to be funded; so there is a delicate balancing of goals.
- There was a question about estimated future population numbers.
 - o Kevin notes it was part of the research at the start of the Crozet Master Plan
 - o The development dashboard historically has tracked this, but staff shortages have not enabled it to be maintained, but that the data is tracked by staff
 - o Kevin noted that the data was included in the traffic Study that was part of the Master Plan update. The traffic study is an appendix to the Master Plan.
- Kevin provided an additional explanation about the traffic signal approval process

- A member of the public commented on the County GIS system

Crozet CONNECT update & discussion – Presented by Kelly Fomenko of Jaunt

- Provided a history of, and an update on the service
- Service continues to be fare-free, no current plans to resume charging fees
- JAUNT is looking for feedback on bus stop locations, schedules, and procedures to identify ridership needs and to improve existing service
- The survey is looking for updates on:
 - o Telecommuting status
 - o Safety concerns
 - o Changes in work schedules
 - o Location and employment changes
 - o General familiarity with the service
- Survey runs through March 25
- The schedule is located at: <https://findyourconnection.org/crozet-connect/>
- A few minor changes to the schedule were explained, which are noted on the Jaunt website
- The survey is accessible here: <https://findyourconnection.org/crozet-connect-survey/>

There was a question about the status of the former TONY autonomous trolley. Kevin explained the County owns the trolley, but funding challenges limit required software updates needed to operate it.

There was a question about service in the northern part of the County. Kelly noted there is service, but funding technicalities may result in changes, and Charlottesville Area Transit is planning for future service.

Upcoming CAC Topics – Rachel Falkenstein

- Rachel shared a tentative 2022 meeting schedule, which is posted below
- Alternating specific topics every other month, and in the off-months use the meeting for community meetings for development projects as needed.
- If a development project community meeting is not scheduled, the CAC meeting would be cancelled
- This will also allow for CAC participation in the County-wide Comprehensive Plan update

Tentative 2022 Schedule

March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Transportation	Development Review Community meeting (if needed)	Climate Action Planning & Budget Overview	CAC choose their own meeting topic or Development Review Community Meeting	Summer Recess No CAC Meetings	CAC choose their own meeting topic or Development Review Community Meeting	Parks & Green Systems	Development Review Community Meeting (if needed)	Economic Dev & Strategic Plan	Development Review Community Meeting (if needed)
Phase 1 Comp Plan workshop: Existing Conditions & Projected Growth			Phase 1 Comp Plan Workshop: Policy Options		Phase 1 Comp Plan Workshop: Draft Growth Management Policy		Phase 2 Comp Plan opportunities: TBD		

- A community meeting will likely be held at the April meeting, based on a Special Use Permit that was just submitted.
- The draft County budget includes funding for two new staff positions to support the CACs
- There was a discussion about the ability to have meetings without staff support if desired.

Committee Business:

Supervisor Mallek provided an update on the status of in-person meetings :

- The Board and Planning Commission will resume in-person meetings in April, but a virtual option will be available as well
- In-person CCAC meetings *may* be able to proceed sometime after April, but it is unclear.

There was a brief discussion about potential nominations for officer positions at next month's meeting.

Supervisor Mallek noted that Ken Thacker was also appointed to the Committee.

Carolyn Shaffer reported that Kostas Alibertis, Joe Fore, and Valerie Long were reappointed.

CCAC Positions Available: There are still several openings on the Committee. Anyone who is interested in serving on the Committee is encouraged to apply, using the on-line application process here:

<https://albemarle.granicus.com/boards/w/74d9847a67cffd67/boards/29558>

(click the "Apply" button at the top right corner).

Closing Statements:

Next meeting: scheduled for April 13, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

The meeting will be held virtually, and details will be posted on the County calendar on the website.

<https://www.albemarle.org/community/county-calendar>

Allie read the closing statement, reminding all that the meeting was held pursuant to and in compliance with Ordinance No. 20-A (16); An Ordinance to Ensure the Continuity of Government During the Covid-19 Disaster

Allie adjourned the meeting at 8:58 pm

A recording of this meeting will be posted on the County Calendar webpage.