



Executive Committee

Minutes

Wednesday, September 6, 2023

Hybrid Attendance (In Person and ZOOM)

Members Present:

Councilwoman Marikay Abuzuaiter, City of Greensboro (Z)
Mayor Kelly Allen, Town of Haw River
Mayor Pro Tem Renee Bryant, City of Randleman
Council Member Jane Cole, City of King
Mayor Alvin Foster, Town of Yanceyville
Chairman Darrell Frye, Randolph County
Commissioner Ethel Gwynn, Caswell County
Chairman Mark Jones, Davie County (Z)
Council Member Dwight Lake, Town of Mayodan
Councilman John Larson, City of Winston-Salem
Chairman Fred McClure, Davidson County
Commissioner Rick Morris, Stokes County (Z)
Commissioner Damon Prince, Town of Troy (Z)
Commissioner Mark Richardson, Rockingham County
Commissioner Pamela Thompson, Alamance County
Mayor Larry Ward, Town of Denton
Commissioner Marie Wood, City of Mount Airy (Z)
(Z) Denotes attendance via ZOOM

Members Absent:

Commissioner Kevin Austin, Yadkin County
Council Member Jim Butler, City of Burlington
Commissioner Carly Cooke, Guilford County
Mayor Rick Cross, Town of Bermuda Run
Mayor Pro Tem Monta Davis-Oliver, Town of Yadkinville
Commissioner Benita Finney, Davie County
Councilman Victor Jones, City of High Point
Councilwoman Peggy Leight, Town of Walkertown
Commissioner Tonya McDaniel, Forsyth County
Mayor Howard Morgan, Town of Sedalia
Commissioner John Shaw, Montgomery County
Commissioner Van Tucker, Surry County

Chairman Alvin Foster welcomed the PTRC Executive Committee and called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom in addition to in person attendance. Chairman Foster encouraged Mr. Foster requested a moment of silence and then led the Executive Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

- 1) **Action Item: Request for approval of the August 2, 2023 PTRC Executive Committee minutes, Mr. Alvin Foster, Chair**

- 2) **Action Item: Request for authorization to apply for a Community Planning Grant to support future construction projects along U.S. 52 in Winston-Salem; funding application to be submitted to the US Department of Transportation's Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Program., Mr. Adam Shull, Regional Planning Assistant Director**
 - a) The PTRC's Planning Department is seeking approval to submit a Community Planning grant application to facilitate a collaborative community engagement process focused on future infrastructure construction projects along US-52 in Winston-Salem. This work would bring together the PTRC, Creative Corridors Coalition, NCDOT, the City of Winston-Salem, city residents, stakeholders and world-class designers to envision how transportation construction projects along US-52 can inclusively reconnect East Winston and Downtown Winston-Salem. The PTRC would be the lead applicant, providing grant writing and administration services, leading Design Charrettes, and organizing community engagement sessions.
 - b) The planning study area includes the segment of US-52 between Salem Parkway/US-421 (formerly I-40 Business) and Martin Luther King Drive, the three bridges that cross 52 and the adjoining city street network and neighborhoods. The project includes a focus on the replacement of the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Street bridges over US-52. The North Carolina Department of Transportation has prioritized replacement of the three bridges due to infrastructure conditions.
 - c) The application requests \$733,700 in planning grant funds to empower our coalition to complement NCDOT's planning process for the bridge replacements, with robust public engagement and community-driven impact analyses guiding each step before, during, and after construction. Our project will catalyze long-term strategic partnerships between public, private, and non-profit groups and individual citizens who are critical stakeholders in the redevelopment of the Bridges and adjacent areas.
 - d) The application will qualify PTRC as an applicant for two discretionary grants simultaneously: the Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCN) Program and the Neighborhood Access and Equity (NAE) Program. The USDOT combines these programs into one Notice of Funding Opportunity, and while they remain separate programs for the purposes of award, the programs share many common characteristics, including:
 - i) Prioritizing disadvantaged communities;
 - ii) Aiming to improve access to daily needs such as jobs, education, healthcare, food, and recreation;
 - iii) Fostering equitable development and restoration;
 - iv) Reconnecting communities by removing, retrofitting, or mitigating highways or other transportation facilities that create barriers to community connectivity, including to mobility, access, or economic development.
 - e) Because of these shared characteristics, it is possible for many projects to be eligible and considered for both programs using a single application.

- f) If awarded within the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program, there will be a 20% local match requirement. Under the Neighborhood Access and Equity Program, our project qualifies for no match requirement based on project activities taking place in a disadvantaged community.
- g) Final applications are due by Thursday, September 28th.
- h) Mr. John Larson stated that in the 1950's, US 52 was moved off of Main Street and that process ~~split the city in half. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to mend the city back together in a~~ functional way. He added that he appreciates PTRC for being a partner on this and taking a leadership role.
- i) The PTRC Planning Department requests authorization to apply for the US Department of Transportation's Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) program for \$733,700.

3) Action Item: Request for approval to enter into contract providing professional planning services from December 2023 to February 2025 with the Town of Oak Ridge for \$79,500, Mr. Jesse Day, Regional Planning Director

- a) Oak Ridge Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) Update: The Regional Planning Department requests to enter into contract with the Town of Oak Ridge to update the Town's development ordinances and bring under one document. There are development ordinances scattered throughout the Town code and it can be confusing and hard to find applicable ordinances for key development activities. The existing ordinance is a product of Guilford County that has been updated here and there over the years. The new ordinance will have updated graphics, reflect ~~changes to Town Core design guidelines and included all development related ordinances under~~ one easy to read and navigate document. All development related items will be updated - including but not limited to - watershed, floodplain, subdivision and other local and State regulations.
- b) Request for approval to enter into contract providing professional planning services from December 2023 to February 2025 with the Town of Oak Ridge for \$79,500. The Town has approved the contract.

4) Action Item: Request for approval for the CD application for BIL funding in the amount of \$2.25 million for the Weatherization Collaborative Lead Agency project, Mr. Michael Blair, Community Development Director

- a) Community Development is requesting approval to apply for Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding in the amount of \$2.25 million under Focus Area 1 RFP for the Weatherization Collaborative Lead Agency initiative.
- b) The requested funding of \$2.25 million is crucial to enable us to effectively execute the Weatherization Collaborative Lead Agency initiative. This project is strategically aligned with our commitment to energy efficiency, climate resilience, and our Weatherization Training Center. Focus Area 1 is instrumental to achieving success with Focus Area's Two and Three.
- c) By becoming the designated Lead Collaborative Agency, we will lead collective efforts to enhance energy efficiency across the state.
- d) The funding will facilitate partnerships, training, and capacity-building, leading to economic growth and the creation of local job opportunities within the energy sector.
- e) The requested amount will cover essential aspects, including staffing, training, collaborative initiatives, community outreach, and program implementation. This allocation ensures comprehensive project coverage and effective execution.
- f) Staff recommends approval for the CD application for BIL funding in the amount of \$2.25 million for the Weatherization Collaborative Lead Agency project.

5) Action Item: approval for the CD application for BIL funding in the amount of \$7.35 million for the Statewide “Upgrades to Weatherization Training Program”, Mr. Michael Blair, Community Development Director

- a) Community Development is requesting approval to apply for Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding in the amount of \$7.35 million under Focus Area 2 RFP for the “Upgrades to Weatherization Training Program” initiative.
- b) The requested funding of \$7.35 million is crucial to enable us to effectively execute the Weatherization Training Center Statewide Expansion. This project is strategically aligned with our commitment to training Weatherization professions and new students at our Weatherization Training Center. Focus Area 2 is the primary BIL grant that we are seeking.
- c) By becoming the designated statewide Training Center, we will lead collective efforts to enhance energy efficiency professional’s skill sets across the state.
- d) The funding will facilitate partnerships for training, and capacity-building, for the state.
- e) The requested amount will cover essential aspects, including staffing, training, collaborative initiatives, and program implementation. This allocation ensures statewide expansion and expansion throughout the Eastern United States.
- f) Mr. Mark Richardson asked if this money is paying salaries. Mr. Blair responded that the State is working on reorganizing the Weatherization Assistance Program. They are hoping to be more efficient by using larger entities. There is also a current need for trainers right now.
- g) Mr. Darrell Frye asked if this is current expense and not capital expense. Mr. Dolge answered it is current but could support capital costs in the future. Mr. Frye also asked the area served. Mr. Dolge answered that it will serve North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia. There is currently only one major training center on the East Coast and it is not close to us.
- h) Mr. Darrell Frye asked how this will benefit out counties. Mr. Blair answered that we have defer half of the people that apply because we don’t have the manpower. We will be able to serve more people than we ever have. Mr. Matt Reece added that this will also train more contractors.
- i) Staff recommends approval for the CD application for BIL funding in the amount of \$7.35 million for the Statewide “Upgrades to Weatherization Training Program”.

6) Action Item: Request for approval for the CD application for BIL funding in the amount of \$5.08 million for the Statewide “Weatherization Workforce Development Program, Mr. Michael Blair, Community Development Director

- a) This item was pulled from the agenda.

7) New Business: Request for authorization to enter into a contract with the City of High Point for \$75,000 to provide technical assistance for the City’s stormwater infrastructure project funded by the Local Assistance for Stormwater Infrastructure Investments (LASII) program, Mr. Adam Shull, Regional Planning Assistant Director

- a) The PTRC’s Planning Department is seeking approval to enter into a contract with the City of High Point to provide project management, financial management, and grant-reporting services related to an ARPA-funded infrastructure project. The City was awarded a \$5 million Local Assistance for Stormwater Infrastructure Investments (LASII) program grant by the NC Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Infrastructure. Called the High Point W Green Drive Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) project, the work will design and install new GSI systems along a ¾-mile stretch of W Green Drive that arcs along the southwest side of

downtown, near the headwaters of the drainage area into the impaired Richland Creek watershed.

- b) The project will reduce, redirect, infiltrate and treat stormwater runoff and bring stormwater sewers in a distressed part of the City closer to current standards. The end product will contribute to ongoing neighborhood revitalization efforts, offering a brand new, green, tree-lined streetscape; safer and more attractive pedestrian spaces; better access to nature and the Richland Creek watershed; and access to a new greenway.
- c) The PTRC will support the City with project implementation; interpreting and complying with NC DEQ procedures; any required monitoring visits; submitting programmatic and financial reports; ensure orderly and timely drawdowns, allocation and disbursement of funds; and compliance with State and Federal regulations.
- d) The PTRC will accomplish this work for \$75,000 through the grant-funded period of performance ending December 31st, 2026.
- e) Request for authorization to enter into a contract with the City of High Point for \$75,000 to provide technical assistance for the City's stormwater infrastructure project funded by the Local Assistance for Stormwater Infrastructure Investments (LASII) program

8) New Business: Building and Grounds Update, Mr. Matthew Dolge, Executive Director

- a) Mr. Matthew Dolge stated that the Building and Grounds (Expansion) Committee met prior to this meeting. Mr. Darrell Frye, Mr. Mark Richardson, Mr. Alvin Foster all attended. Mr. Kevin Austin was unable to attend.
- b) As far as the church property, a petition for annexation into the Kernersville city limits has been filed. The City has received that and we are on track to be annexed by mid-December. We will be able to use that property as a training facility. The church will still hold services on Sunday. It will be a good partnership. We are currently in the Due Diligence phase.
- c) Mr. Dolge showed the plan for the training facility (this plan can be found online at www.ptrc.org or by emailing kmitchell@ptrc.org). The biggest structural change will be replacing the heating and air. We will have added parking. Modular offices will be installed for added flexibility. We will also add a storage building for our Mobile Unit.
- d) As far as the building expansion, there is currently a marker in the state budget that would fund this addition. Mr. Dolge showed the plans for the two-story addition (this plan can be found online at www.ptrc.org or by emailing kmitchell@ptrc.org). The large conference room would be turned into office space. The first floor of the new part would hold conference space that could hold 150 people. We would also have the ability to split the large room into two sections. The main entrance would be moved and staff offices would only be accessible by card access which would provide more security. The second story would be office space.
- e) We built our current building in nine months. We are using the same architects and they handle everything from beginning to end.
- f) Mr. Dolge added that this will meet our immediate needs and also our long-term goals.
- g) We need the State to pass a budget for this to happen but we want to be ready.

9) Roll Call vote for the above-mentioned Action Items 1-5 & 7

- a) A motion was made by Mr. Mark Richardson.
- b) The motion was seconded by Ms. Marikay Abuzuaiter.
- c) Roll call vote- Ayes: Councilwoman Marikay Abuzuaiter, Mayor Kelly Allen, Alderwoman Renee Bryant, Council Member Jane Cole, Mayor Alvin Foster, Chairman Darrell Frye, Commissioner Ethel Gwynn, Chairman Mark Jones, Council Member Dwight Lake, Councilman John Larson,

Chairman Fred McClure, Commissioner Rick Morris, Commissioner Damon Prince, Commissioner Mark Richardson, Commissioner Pamela Thompson, Mayor Larry Ward, Commissioner Marie Wood.

- d) Nays: none
- e) Action Items 1-5 & 7 are approved.

10) Executive Director's Report, Matthew Dolge, Executive Director

- a) Mr. Dolge invited everyone to the October 18th Awards Celebration. It will be at the Blue Heron in High Point. The Southeast Crescent Regional Commission's Federal Co-Chair will be speaking.
- b) We do have a new auditor this year so it may be a bit slower. We are the only low risk auditee in the State so our Finance staff does a great job!

11) Around the Region, Mr. Alvin Foster, Chair

- a) Ms. Marikay Abuzuaiter invited everyone to the NC Folk Festival this weekend.
- b) Mr. Fred McClure invited everyone to the Barbeque Festival on October 28th.
- c) Ms. Pamela Thompson announced the Balloon Festival this weekend in Burlington.
- d) Ms. Renee Bryant invited everyone to the Food Truck Championship at 11:00 on September 9th in Randleman.
- e) Mr. Alvin Foster announced a 9/11 Memorial Dedication at 11:00am in the Town square.

12) There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned with general consensus at 12:57 p.m.



Alvin Foster, PTRC Chair



Katie Mitchell, Clerk to the Board