

The regular meeting of the Beaufort County Planning Commission (hereinafter "Commission") was held on Wednesday, September 11, 2002, in the County Council Chambers of the Beaufort County Administration Building at 100 Ribaut Road, Beaufort, South Carolina.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Jim Hicks, Chair

Mr. John Abney

Ms. Joy Guyer

Mr. Matthew Margotta

Mr. Ben Johnson, III, Vice Chair

Mr. Jerome Goode

Ms. Margie Jenkins

Mr. Mike Zara

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Thomas Mike, Sr.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: None

STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. Anthony J. Criscitiello, Planning Director

Ms. Carla Clark-McCuller, Planning Assistant

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Hicks called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m.

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Chairman Hicks called for a moment of silence in remembrance of those who perished during the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States and in honor of those who are fighting the war against terrorism.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chairman Hicks led those assembled in the pledge of allegiance.

REVIEW OF MINUTES: The minutes of the August 14, 2002, Commission meeting were reviewed. No corrections were noted. **MOTION: Ms. Jenkins made a motion, and Mr. Goode seconded, to accept as written the minutes of the August 14, 2002, meeting. The motion was carried (FOR: Abney, Goode, Guyer, Jenkins, Johnson, Margotta & Zara).**

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Chairman Hicks noted that he and Ms. Guyer and the Planning staff had met with the four municipalities and their officials to discuss the Land Use element of the Comprehensive Plan. The comments from the municipalities will be considered for incorporation into the element review.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None was received.

TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT OF THE BEAUFORT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Mr. Criscitiello briefed the Commissioners and introduced Mr. Rod Wilburn of Day Wilburn Associates, the consultants who authored the transportation element review. Mr. Wilburn summarized the review for the Commissioners.

Public Comment:

1. Ms. Nancy Gilley, representing the League of Women Voters, supported the revision of the vision statement and the goals. She applauded the emphasis on regionalism and interjurisdictional work. The League is gratified that a majority of their work has been included into the review. The League supports the need for an effective county-wide impact analysis ordinance and commensurate fees. She invited the Commissioners and the public to a League sponsored sale-tax referendum forum at the Arsenal tomorrow night.
2. Mr. Reed Armstrong, representing the S.C. Coastal Conservation League, commended Mr. Wilburn and the planning staff for the work on the review. He reiterated a need for origin and destination studies to determine where people are going to and from on the roadways; such studies should be added to Policy 2 and Goal 2 (fifth bullet). He recommended incorporating transportation planning into the siting of all major public projects, especially schools; such planning should be added to Policy 8 and Goal 1.
3. Mr. Walter Quakenbush is disappointed in the review and its concentration on roads. With the County comprised of 64 islands, alternative forms of transportation should have been addressed. He gave several examples of adaptive transportation, i.e. Venice, Zurich, Switzerland and Disney World. The problem is there is no on-staff transportation planner and no transportation analysis performed. We're trying to rehash 20th century information and trying to solve it with 20th century thinking, when we're in the 21st century. He suggested a monorail along Highway 278 instead of its widening. Instead of widening bridges, put in a tunnel. Effective evacuation of this county will require the cooperation of the outlying counties to improve their roadways and network of transportation. The review needs further work and should not end right here.

Mr. Wilburn noted that a major reevaluation would require understanding travel patterns and origin and destination/OD studies. He recommended the Commission reword the policy to read "the process for any major reevaluation should include careful attention and appropriate studies of travel patterns." He noted that transportation planning should incorporate reviewing major public projects.

Chairman Hicks noted that the municipalities and the Beaufort County Transportation Advisory Group has reviewed and provided comments that were incorporated into this review.

Discussion involved:

1. **Policy 2.7:** Place mandatory requirements for the design and construction of interconnected roads between developments and frontage roads parallel to major highway corridors.

Discussion included the restrictiveness of the wording, adding a reference to the access management plan which is under development, adding a provision for future road plans so that in-fill can link existing developments, incorporating the future road plans in the official County map process, and allowing Mr. Wilburn and Mr. Criscitiello to reword the policy to incorporate what was discussed.

2. **Policy 2.11:** Implement annual traffic count program upon completion of major reevaluation of the Comprehensive Plan.

Discussion included changing the sentence to read "...major reevaluation of the transportation element of the Comprehensive Plan."

3. **Policy 3 Recommendation:** Adopt a Policy for Bikeways and Trails for Walking Coordinated with the Parks and Recreation Plan.

Discussion included concern that this appeared to be a higher priority in the Transportation Plan than other policies since this would not benefit the entire County, support of bikeways and walking trails for communities, reiteration that this policy was in the original Comprehensive Plan and the consultant was making recommendations to the policy, the cost tied into implementing this policy, and providing alternatives that will change people's transportation behavior.

4. **Policy 7 Recommendation:** Commit to a Traffic Calming Program for Roadway Projects.

Discussion included the consultant being able to provide strategies and techniques that could be considered for adopted by the County.

5. **Policy 9 Recommendation:** A major reevaluation of the Comprehensive Plan and an update of the TRANPLAN model are recommended.

Discussion included changing the sentence to read "A major reevaluation of the transportation element of the Comprehensive Plan...".

MOTION: Mr. Zara made motion, and Ms. Guyer seconded **to recommend approval of the Beaufort County Comprehensive Plan transportation element review, as written, with the following exceptions:**

1. reword Policy 2.7 regarding the mandatory requirement of interconnected roads between developments to include adding a reference to the access management plan which is under development, adding a provision for future road plans so that in-fill can link existing developments, and incorporating the future road plans in the official County map process;
2. change the wording "major reevaluation of the Comprehensive Plan" to "major reevaluation of the transportation element of the Comprehensive Plan" in Policy 2.11 and Policy 9 recommendation;

3. investigate the proper place to put wording regarding origin destination studies so it is recognized as part of the overall transportation plan; and,
4. forward this element review to Beaufort County Transportation Advisory Committee/BTAG for their review, prior to sending it on to the County Council's Planning Committee.

The motion **was passed unanimously** (FOR: Abney, Goode, Hicks, Jenkins, Johnson, Margotta & Zara).

COMMUNITY FACILITIES ELEMENT OF THE BEAUFORT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Chairman Hicks recommended the inclusion of a cover statement in the Commission's recommendation to County Council to read: "All action items included in the Community Facilities element review of the Beaufort County Comprehensive Plan are provided for information only and will be evaluated and funded through established channels and procedures."

Ms. Joan Petrucci, the Tax Increment Finance/TIF Planner, summarized the element review for the Commissioners. She noted personnel from various departments that assisted her in putting this review together that were in the audience – the Sheriff's Department, Library Director, Emergency Medical Services, Fire Department, Public Works, the School District, and Beaufort-Jasper Water-Sewer Authority/BJWSA.

Discussion included clarification of the 208 plan, new and replacement wastewater treatment plants, the mapping of existing County facilities which contain future school sites, a reiteration by the municipalities of action item 21.1 for effective coordination between the School District and the County Planning bodies, collocating library and school sites, integration of cultural facilities with other Comprehensive Plan elements like parks or within other components of the community facilities element, the state's role in emergency management, existing mutual support agreements with the surrounding counties regarding emergency management, considering deleting specific details from the fire protection portion of the review, and kudos to Ms. Petrucci and the department heads who assisted her in the review.

Public Comment:

1. Mr. Rich North, a resident of Sun City, noted the growing emergency medical services needs of the Bluffton Community. To reduce the response time to five minutes from eight to ten minutes, additional equipment and personnel are needed. He noted the lack of timeline to acquire the additional EMS needs. He asked that the Commission recommend that the Finance and the Community Service and Public Safety Committees meet to find the needed monies for the additional equipment.
2. Ms. Wendy Zara, a Sheldon resident, response to Mr. Don Altman's remarks of cooperation by the School District with the County was that she had not seen any cooperation for the past five or six years and was not really optimistic for the future. She asked for the inclusion of a statement that the mayors of the municipalities and other jurisdictions specifying that they would like to see more cooperation with the School

District and the other government entities. She noted a blatant example of the School District violating the Comprehensive Plan by siting a school in a rural area when there was a location five miles away without forcing sewer across the Whale Branch River. During the Dale Community Preservation District discussions, the School Board said if they brought a package treatment plant to the area it would only be for Dale Elementary. Now that's changed.

3. Mr. Walt Quakenbush agreed with Ms. Zara about the School District's duplicity. He asked that for the denial of building permits if the School District continues to site schools outside of the Comprehensive Plan recommendations. He recommended obtaining input from Beaufort Memorial Hospital on their ability to provide services to the County's expanding population. He noted his concern for water and electrical replacement resources should the sole sources become contaminated or destroyed, and for non-metered parking at the library sites.

OTHER BUSINESS: None were discussed.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Guyer made a motion, and Mr. Zara seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was passed unanimously (FOR: Abney, Goode, Guyer, Jenkins, Johnson, Margotta & Zara). Chairman Hicks adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:15 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY: _____

Barbara Ann C. Childs, Admin. Assistant to Planning Director

Jim Hicks, Chairman, Beaufort County Planning Commission

APPROVED:

October 9, 2002

(Note: Deletions are ~~struck-through~~ and additions are **highlighted**.)

Meanings of the abbreviations used in the body of these minutes:

<i>BTAG</i>	<i>Beaufort County Transportation Advisory Group</i>
<i>BJWSA</i>	<i>Beaufort-Jasper Water-Sewer Authority</i>
<i>EMS</i>	<i>Emergency Management Services</i>
<i>TIF</i>	<i>Tax Increment Finance</i>