

DURHAM COUNTY LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

February 3, 2017

Meeting Notes

- Present: Wendy Jacobs, Chair; James Hill, Vice Chair; Commissioners Heidi Carter, Brenda Howerton and Ellen Reckhow
- Legislators Present: Senator Floyd McKissick, Jr. and Representatives Philip A. Lehman and Mickey Michaux
- Others Present: Jodi Miller, Deborah Craig-Ray, Claudia Hager, Jay Gibson, Gayle Harris, Drew Cummings, and Michelle Parker-Evans

Chair Jacobs welcomed everyone to the Legislative Breakfast.

Chair Jacobs read thru the list of priority goals for NCACC and highlighted the following:

1. Seek legislation to establish a new state-county partnership to address statewide public school capital challenges—including but not limited to maintenance, renovation, construction and debt—through a dedicated, stable funding stream that is consistent from county to county and sufficient to meet the school facility needs of all 100 counties.

Chair Jacobs explained that the Association decided to take a different approach this year and request legislation that addressed needs related to maintenance and debt.

4. Support increased state funding for transportation construction and maintenance needs, and support legislation to ensure that the Strategic Transportation Investments (STI) funding formula recognizes that one size does not fit all and that projects in both rural and urban areas are prioritized and funded.

The Board explained that this item was critical because of light-rail funding.

5. Support legislation and funding to raise the Age of Juvenile Jurisdiction from 16 to 18 with the exception of felony crimes.

Commissioner Reckhow expanded on the item. North Carolina is now the only state that treats 16 and 17 year olds as adults.

Representative Michaux commented that the Bill gets introduced every session; however, it looked favorable for passing this year. Commissioner Howerton asked about any pushback from a monetary standpoint? Commissioner Reckhow mentioned that two of the latter states did appropriate planning which avoided a financial bubble. Chair Jacobs stated that we may spend on front end, but save on the back end. Senator McKissick

noted that he was cautiously optimistic that the Bill would pass this year. He spoke of an estimate of \$15 million.

Items from Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization:

Additional Funds to Meet the State's Transportation Needs. For the 2017 fiscal year, the state's transportation operating budget is approximately \$4.4 billion. Of that, just over \$2 billion was provided through the Strategic Transportation Investments (STI) law. Funding available through the STI law is insufficient to construct projects identified in the CAMPO and DCHC MPO fiscally-constrained Metropolitan Transportation Plan. NCGA is encouraged to investigate solutions/options included in the document.

Remove the Ten Percent Cap on Statewide Funding within a Corridor. As part of the STI funding formula, no more than 10 percent of funds can be allocated to any one project at the statewide level within a division or in adjourning divisions over a 5-year period. While intended to geographically disperse funding throughout the division or region, this provision can prevent necessary roadway improvement in larger metropolitan areas.

Remove the Ten Percent Cap on Light Rail Transit Funding. CAMPO and DCHC MPO members believe the Strategic Transportation Investments program is an appropriate method for distribution of state and federal transportation dollars. While both commuter rail and light rail will provide benefits, they each have significant initial capital expenditures that should be addressed in the same manner as other major infrastructure investments. Both the ten percent cap on overall project costs and the ten percent cap on regional funding allocation should be removed to allow these project the compete with other transportation requests and be funded on their merits.

Commissioner Reckhow commented that these items related to the light rail were needed to keep pace with growth. Representative Michaux inquired about revenue growth. General Manager Claudia Hager responded that property tax and sales tax had been slower. Representative Michaux replied that the County needed to have a revenue plan to help alleviate costs.

Items approved and referred to NCACC 2017 Statewide Legislative Process

Enable older adults to remain independent and age in place with appropriate services and supports consistent with the NC Aging Services Plan 2015-2019.

Rationale: In the next 20 years, the 60 plus population will increase by almost 60% in North Carolina. In some communities, the rate is even higher as boomers enter retirement. As the number of older adults increases across the state, it is desirable and cost effective to help ensure that communities are livable across a lifespan. Older adults would prefer to age in place and not have to leave their home and community. It is helpful to note the related recommendations and strategies as called for in the NC Aging Services Plan 2015-2019.

Strengthen and Fund North Carolina's Adult Protective Services Program

Rationale: Adult Protective Services is mandated by N.C. General Statute 108A to evaluate reports of abuse, caretaker neglect, self-neglect and/or exploitation of adults. In APS, Durham County DSS spends \$627,118 yet we get \$21,615 in revenue from the federal government. The only funding for the APS Program is provided by county governments and a decreasing federal Social Services Block Grant. We recommend that the North Carolina General Assembly

recognize and value its vulnerable and older citizens by making available \$5 million in the State budget to meet the growing need for Adult Protective Services in North Carolina.

The Board was concerned about no state funding for adult protective services. Every county has been affected. Durham County is looking for additional funding. Commissioner Reckhow noted that more abuse occurs because of lack of education and care given by other elderly caregivers.

Representative Michaux reiterated the need to suggest ways to help generate funding outside of revenue growth. Senator McKissick mentioned a broader base of sales tax to counties and the possibility of reformulating the division. They added that it would help to have priorities. Chair Jacobs clarified that the NCACC form was the priority.

The group discussed the prepared meal tax, the sports commission and other incentives to try to boost economic development and occupancy and sales taxes. Representative Michaux indicated those things were not being publicized.

Senator McKissick cautioned the Board that if the prepared meal tax was reconsidered, it would be wise to make sure all PACs were on board so there would be no push back.

Other taxes mentioned included a transfer tax, increase in capitals tax, and occupancy tax for Museum of Life and Science and History museum.

Representative Michaux expressed concerned about taxes on seniors, specifically property taxes. Commissioner Reckhow assured him the County was working with the City to find a solution.

Raise the Age of Juvenile Jurisdiction to 18

Rationale: Only New York and North Carolina Prosecute 16- and 17-Year-Old youth in the adult criminal justice system without an opportunity for the youth to appeal for a transfer to juvenile court. For years, child advocates, scholars and many lawmakers have backed legislative proposals to extend juvenile jurisdiction to 18, only to have bills sent back to study committees.

Both delegates felt there was a lot of support for this Bill to pass.

North Carolina Association of School Administrators:

Calendar Flexibility:

- Provide local boards of education the same flexibility granted to charter schools in adopting a school calendar that best meets the needs of their students and communities
- Allow public school calendars to align with those of nearby community colleges and universities to facilitate dual enrollment.

- Enhance family time by ensuring that all first semester EOC exams be administrated before winter break so that students aren't studying for or worried about high stakes testing during holidays in December and early January.

Both of the delegates the calendar flexibility was "doable."

Regarding HB2, Senator McKissick did not think the new Bill to repeal would pass, but he felt there may be a possible compromise.

Chair Jacobs thanked the Delegation for coming. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

V. Michelle Parker-Evans
County Clerk to the Board