

**Core Stakeholders Meeting
COG Offices
October 14, 2009
12pm – 2pm**



Attendees:

Dave Navey, Vice Chair
James Gaspard, EVP/DesignLine USA
Jennifer Matthews, Project Manager/DesignLine USA
Mike Allison
Tim Baldwin
Benton Evenson
Jamie Farnham
Larry Lane
Marcie Smith
Robert Taylor
Grady Truett
Johnny Wear
Jason Wager
Sarah Niess
Emily Livingstone

Meeting Notes:

Welcome / Introductions

Vice Chairman Dave Navey welcomed everyone and each attendee introduced themselves to the group.

DesignLine USA Presentation

James Gaspard from DesignLine USA gave a presentation on his firm, a tech company that manufactures hybrid electric, all electric, and alternative fuel-powered buses. The question was asked if there are other applications for their technology, besides for transit; he answered that garbage trucks could be the next use. Mr. Gaspard noted that the Charlotte DesignLine plant has the capacity to produce 2 (hybrid electric) buses per day, and he invited anyone who would like to visit the Charlotte plant to do so.

Vice Chair / Chair Elections

Electing officers was the only piece of CCFC Core Stakeholder Group business to be addressed at this meeting. Although Chairman Mike Keziah could not attend, he passed along that he would gladly continue to serve as Chairman. Dave Navey shared that he would also like to remain as Vice Chairman. It went to a vote – Larry Lane nominated both Mike and Dave, this motion was seconded and carried. Mike Keziah will be Chair and Dave Navey will be Vice Chair for the next two years.

Subcommittee Activities

Electric Vehicle Subcommittee

This group had their first meeting in August 2009. They discussed Project Get Ready and Raleigh being a “Get Ready” city. This project is about how a city prepares for electric vehicles. Project Get Ready is about streamlining this process and is sponsored by the Rocky Mountain

Institute. The EV subcommittee's next step is to connect with a Get Ready representative from Raleigh about their experiences and progress thus far.

Also on the topic of electric vehicles, Jason Wager received a call from Charlotte Center City Partners regarding their desire to have a prominently placed EV show room in center city on Tryon Street. Indicative of the growing momentum around electric vehicles, the interest from Center City Partners is coming from the upper echelons of this group. It was also noted that The Charlotte Electric Vehicle Symposium will be held on Saturday, November 7, 2009 at CPCC's Center for Sustainability. For more information on this event, visit <http://www.cpcc.edu/cfs/events/the-charlotte-electric-vehicle-symposium>.

This subcommittee discussion closed with the notice that the CCFC would like to put on an EV roundtable discussion (similar to the CNG roundtable last year), perhaps in December or January, and to look out for more information in the CCFC monthly e-news.

Legislative Subcommittee

Over the past several months, this subcommittee met with six State representatives to education them about CCFC, alternative fuels and alternative fuels technology. These meetings, while challenging in terms of scheduling, turned out to be beneficial for both elected officials and subcommittee members. At this point, the legislative subcommittee's work is done.

CNG Consortium / NGV Subcommittee

Dave Navey reviewed why it is important that we continue the conversation about using natural gas instead of gasoline or diesel. Some of the reasons are, that we have access to the resource itself – it's American made, using natural gas is a viable option towards cleaner air, and while the fuel is different, it requires no engine modifications or attachments. The idea behind the CNG Consortium was to bring natural gas people (producers, users, distributors, etc.) together to talk and work out what's needed to get around roadblocks to progress. This afternoon, after the conclusion of the Core Stakeholders Group meeting, the CNG Consortium, now the NGV Subcommittee, will meet for a second time.

Coalition Projects / Initiatives

Freightliner Tour

Dave Navey also gave a brief report on the NC/SC Clean Cities Freightliner Tour that happened on September 28, 2009 in Gaffney, SC. This day at the plant was spent partially in conference, learning about Freightliner alternative fuel technologies, and in part taking a walking tour of the plant itself. The Gaffney plant has three production lines, and remarkably is a Zero Waste to Landfill facility, meaning they recycle practically everything and nearly nothing goes to the landfill. After the walking tour, the group moved to the front of the facility where several kinds of alt fuel/advanced technology vehicles were parked and ready to be test driven. The visit to Freightliner concluded after this activity.

Funding Opportunities Update

Sarah Niess reviewed current funding opportunities and started by sharing the exciting news that \$12.9M in ARRA funding is in the works, to be used between Triangle J COG, other NC/SC Clean Cities coalitions, and the NC Solar Center, and that contracts will hopefully be signed before the end of the calendar year. Until contracts are signed with DOE, none of the pending projects may move forward.

Sarah moved on to the next funding opportunity (see attached Funding Opportunities handout. Please note that this document was produced on October 14, 2009, so by this point, a few grant

deadlines have passed), the CCFC Pilot Demonstration Project, then to GRADE+. Robert Taylor noted that one issue with applying for GRADE funds as a local government fleet is that the grant requires the older diesel engine that is being replaced to be destroyed. Many local governments include the residual value of its equipment in budget projections so it is difficult to destroy equipment. The City of Monroe had a similar issue. In terms of the DERA grant that is due December 8, 2009, it was noted that in 2010, DERA funds will not be available; so now is the time to apply. While not on the handout, it was added that there will be EPA Smartway funds for finance programs to retrofit or improve the efficiency of trucking fleets. The next funding opportunity is provided by NCDQAQ and is the Mobile Source Emission Reduction Grant, due December 31, 2009. Sarah noted that she would be available to assist people with this grant if help is needed. This update on funding opportunities concluded with information on an Alternative Fuels RFP from the State Energy Office to be released fall 2009, and a Clean Fuels Advanced Technology (CFAT) grant from the NC Solar Center, with RFP to be released in early 2010.

Roundtable

The last segment of this meeting was devoted to a Roundtable discussion where attendees were encouraged to share their latest and greatest news. Robert Taylor noted that he recently attended a Gas Road Show in Raleigh that was educational and valuable, and that while the City of Charlotte is taking a serious look at CNG, decision-makers want to see the emissions reductions numbers improve. Dave Navey shared that Charlotte Truck Center is now a “military contractor.” They can sell truck parts and service to all the military locations throughout the whole military system, all branches, worldwide. Dave used the help of the NC Military Business Center to get this started. Tim Baldwin has been working with SC Energy Office on the Carolina Blue Skies and Green Jobs Initiative grant (the same ARRA funding as what Sarah reported first under funding opportunities). He reiterated that none of the projects can start until contracts are signed with DOE. Mike Allison reported that through a recent collaboration, Duke Energy will be receiving 40 Ford F550 plugin hybrids by March 2011. The goal is that by 2020, all of Duke’s vehicles will be plugin hybrids. Grady Truett is continuing to work with Gaston County schools on biodiesel efforts. Jamie Farnham noted that Clean Energy has acquired BAF. Larry Lane noted that budget restrictions are still a reality at UNC Charlotte, but they are looking at putting in a small solar station near the main entrance to campus. At the conclusion of the Roundtable, this meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting

The next CCFC Core Stakeholders Group Meeting will be held in January 2010 – information on the exact date and location will be sent out in December.