



Charlotte City Council

# Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Meeting Summary for February 15, 2016

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## COMMITTEE AGENDA TOPICS

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- I. **Subject:** **Federal Update – Holland & Knight & Dana Fenton**
- II. **Subject:** **2016 Federal Legislative Agenda – Dana Fenton**
- III. **Subject:** **2015-2016 State Legislative Calendar – Dana Fenton**
- IV. **Subject:** **Trending Topics**
- VI. **Subject:** **Next Meeting**  
**Action:** Monday, March 21 at 12:00 p.m. in Room 280

## COMMITTEE INFORMATION

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Present: Council Members Ed Driggs (Chair), Kenny Smith, Julie Eiselt, James Mitchell

Other: Shawna Watley – Holland & Knight, Mayor Jennifer Roberts – City of Charlotte, Hyong Yi – Asst. City Manager, Chief Jon Hannan – Charlotte Fire Chief, Dana Fenton – Intergovernmental Relations Manager, Natalie English - Chamber

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Time: 12 p.m.

## ATTACHMENTS

- 2016 Federal legislative Agenda
- 2015 - 2016 State Legislative Agenda
- 2015-2016 Legislative Calendar

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## DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

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### **Committee Discussion:**

Mayor Jennifer Roberts recently visited the delegation and shared some of her highlights of the meeting with the committee.

Mayor Roberts: I feel we need to be in Washington more. We need to be seen and connected more. We need to make sure we are getting our information and our needs out. We also met with Acting Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Therese McMillan. Ron Carlee, CATS CEO John Lewis, Rob Phocas and of course Dana was there. We have Gateway going, phase 2 of the Streetcar and we have the Blue Line obviously under construction. There was a lot of interest in phase 2 of Streetcar with the folks that we spoke with. We were also careful to thank everyone for the new airport control tower and the FA approval of that. It's definitely needed. So we were very careful to say thank you to all the delegation. We also reviewed the redevelopment of the North End Smart District as part of the Smart City challenge. Two of our representatives, both Congressman Hudson and Congresswoman Adams submitted letters of support to the Smart City challenge grant.

Driggs: Thank you mayor.

### **I. Federal Update – Holland & Knight & Dana Fenton**

Watley: The biggest thing for us in particular was that there was an increase in transportation funding for this year's budget. The full funding grant is moving ahead as we knew it would and we appreciate that. We had very good meetings with the Mayor. We are very excited about some of the things that have come out of those discussions with the House members.

Driggs: When we come into Washington can you try to align committee chairs and certain members of Council with people they could see in Washington when the House is out?

Watley: I can talk to Rich about that as well as Dana.

Fenton: During the conference there will be quite a few different sessions that will address different areas of local government, environmental and public safety and the Cabinet and members below the Cabinet's level will be at the NLC.

Driggs: Let's see if we can organize that. Shawna, thank you.

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## **II. 2016 Federal Legislative Agenda – Dana Fenton**

Fenton: Last month at the January meeting there was discussion about the current year's legislative agenda. When we started putting together the proposed agenda we figured that nothing much was going to happen but as we saw movement on many different issues including the reauthorization of the service transportation program, a new budget agreement.

Driggs: Isn't that bipartisan?

Fenton: Bipartisan yes. Low and behold at the end of the year we received some very good news with the reauthorization program budget and a few other things. You brought up last month the possibility if there were some things that needed to be added to the agenda for this current fiscal year and we have three things we would like to talk with you about adding in. The Doppler Weather Radar, the Urban Areas Security Initiative and the Community Development Block grant (\*refer to attached presentation for details).

Driggs: Any comments from the committee?

Eiselt: Will the Doppler Weather Radar be at the airport?

Fenton: I think it would be but I am absolutely not sure where they would set this up

Driggs: Is this redundant to private sector radars that we see weather channels use sometimes?

Fenton: I am going to ask Chief Hannan to speak to that

Hannan: I don't know the national weather service's relationship and how they intertwine with others but I do know that the warnings we receive are based on their ratings which is the one in Greenville

Driggs: Do I hear a motion to recommend to full Council to add this to our Federal Legislative Agenda?

Eiselt: I make a motion

Smith: Second

Driggs: All in favor?

All: Aye

Driggs: OK you can add that.

Fenton: Thank you. The second issue we want to bring up is the Urban Areas Security Initiative.

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This is funding that comes from the federal government that assists high threat, high density urban areas in efforts to build and sustain the capabilities necessary to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to and recover from acts of terrorism. The eligibility is based upon relative risk of terrorism. Thirty regions receive this funding with Charlotte being one of them. The Charlotte Fire Department administers the funds on behalf of the region. In the President's proposed budget for FY17 there was a policy change so I have Chief Hannan here to talk about how this region uses it.

Hannan: They are regional grants but they are really focused on the core city. That was the original intent of it. It started after 9/11 and peaked at about 70 cities and now it is down to about 32 now. The highest amount that we received in one year was right at \$8 million dollars and settled at \$3 million dollars a year. There are ten counties in our region, two of which are in South Carolina – York & Lancaster. We tied the radio systems in all ten counties together with a microwave infrastructure that costs \$6.5 million dollars. We put a lot of money and assets in surrounding counties when it's been appropriate to the Urban Areas Securities Initiatives. A lot goes into our radio system. CMPD, CFD & Mecklenburg County Medic, we are all on the same radio infrastructure. We can actually move over to radio frequencies and talk to each other. Cabarrus County, Union County and the City of Gaston are all on our system. Stanley County is coming on it. It gives law enforcement, fire fighters and EMS the ability to deal with a major situation much better.

Eiselt: So the \$6.5 million was that to buy the technology or communication infrastructure or was that for maintenance?

Hannan: There is some maintenance to it but this was just to tie the systems together. Basically we had to get all of those old systems tied together.

Driggs: I think the proposal itself is uncontroversial so can we have a motion to add to our legislative agenda our support of continuing our existing UASI Structure?

Eiselt: Motion

Mitchell: Second

Driggs: All in favor say "aye"

All: "Aye"

Diggs: Thank you

Fenton: The last issue I want to bring up is the Community Development Block Grant. This is funding the city receives every year for housing and youth programs. This program was enacted in 1974. These grants are distributed on the basis of population. In the current fiscal year, \$5.2 million was the amount of funding that we received from the Federal government for these

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programs. In the President's budget he is proposing to cut federal assistance by around 67%. This would impact the amount of funding that we have for these programs. Today we have Pam Widemann from Neighborhood and Business Services to talk more about this.

Widemann: We generally get what our CDBG allocations would be in the March – April timeframe. As Dana said it is based on the population of our city so we don't exactly know what that will be at this point. Based on what that will be we can make decisions from there about how it might affect our housing programs and our other programs.

Driggs: I make a motion to add this to the Federal agenda

Eiselt: Second

Driggs: All in Favor

All: "Aye"

Driggs: It's on. Thank you

Fenton: Just a general overview of the legislative briefings for the new members of the committee. First we want to thank the Senators for their support of the Airport Control Tower and share the good news about the 2030 Transit System Plan. We will provide updates on progress of projects. We will review other legislative priorities and review the City's Smart City Challenge Grant application. We are looking for letters of support from the Senators as well. We will try to get the letters in advance. Then also we always ask the Senators what is on their minds.

Driggs: So will you be working with Holland & Knight to get the letters before we go?

Fenton: Yes. They have done a great job with that so far.

### **III. 2015 – 2016 Legislative Agenda – Dana Fenton**

Fenton: The 2016 "Short" Session will begin on April 25<sup>th</sup>. We expect the General Assembly to be concentrating on ending the state budget. They are looking at any carryover legislation.

Eiselt: How does it work right now? What will you be asking to change?

Fenton: What we have already asked and it has already passed in the House is to allow us to use private property to mitigate impacts of flooding. Basically we don't want to have to buy an entire piece of property when only a small fix is needed. Then there are emerging issues of course like Development Tiers, Sales Tax Redistribution - there are threats of that coming back up again this year and then Transportation. There is a new issue added to the state legislative agenda. As you all may recall a cap on amount of state funding directed to the Light Rail project was amended to

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the state budget in the amount of \$500,000. Right now it does not affect State funding for the LYNX Blue Line Extension of course. I really want you to hear that up front. But for any other future projects funding limitations will be detrimental. There are some efforts going on right now to get it repealed.

Driggs: Do you have any other additions to the State Legislative agenda?

Fenton: Not at this time Mr. Chair. There are other issues that may come up as we know so as time goes by there may be a need to add things.

Driggs: Will this be a modification of STI? The cap?

Fenton: The cap was a modification.

Driggs: Do we have a motion to add this to our state legislative agenda?

Eiselt: Motion

Smith: Second

Driggs: All in favor?

All: "Aye"

#### **IV. Trending Topics**

**Action:** Next meeting will take place on Monday, March 21, 2016 at 12 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:15 p.m. ~ jcs

# **Intergovernmental Relations Committee**

Monday, February 15, 2016 at 12:00 noon  
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center  
Room 280

Committee Members: Ed Driggs, Chair  
James Mitchell, Vice Chair  
Julie Eiselt  
Claire Fallon  
Kenny Smith

Staff Resource: Hyong Yi (substituting for Ron Kimble)

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- I. Federal Update – Holland & Knight**
- II. 2016 Federal Legislative Agenda – Dana Fenton**
- III. 2015-2016 State Legislative Agenda – Dana Fenton**
- IV. Legislative Calendar – Dana Fenton**
  - **Attached**
- V. Trending Topics**

## **Next Meeting:**

- March 21, 2016, 12:00 noon, Room 280

Distribution: Mayor/City Council  
Ron Carlee  
City Manager's Executive Team  
Bob Hagemann  
Stephanie Kelly



# 2016 Federal Legislative Agenda

Intergovernmental Relations Committee

February 15, 2016

- Doppler Weather Radar
- Urban Areas Security Initiative
- Community Development Block Grant
- Legislative Briefings

- Metropolitan Weather Hazards Protection Act of 2015
  - S. 2058 (Senators Burr and Tillis)
  - H.R. 3538 (Representative Pittenger)
- Enact policy requiring National Weather Service to operate at least one Doppler weather radar within 55 miles of each City with population of at least 700,000
- Response to the 2012 tornado in Charlotte that had no warning



# Urban Areas Security Initiative

- Authorized by the Homeland Security Act of 2002
  - Assists high-threat, high-density urban areas in efforts to build and sustain the capabilities necessary to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism
  - Eligibility based upon relative risk of terrorism
  - ~ 30 regions receive funding
  - City manages program for the region
- President's Proposed FY 2017 Budget
  - Policy Change: Restrict eligibility to smaller number of regions
  - Funding: Administration proposes reducing federal assistance to states and local governments from \$600 million in FY 2016 to \$330 million in FY 2017



# Community Development Block Grant

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program enacted in 1974
  - Formula grants distributed on basis of population
  - In Charlotte, funding is used primarily for housing with up to 15% used for youth programs
  - Charlotte FY 2016 CDBG budget is \$5.2 million
- President's Proposed FY 2017 Budget
  - Funding: Administration proposes reducing federal assistance to states and local governments from \$3.0 billion in FY 2016 to \$2.8 billion in FY 2017
  - 6.66% reduction
  - Local population growth may reduce local impact of any program reductions

- Thank the Senators for their support of Airport Control Tower and 2030 Transit System Plan
  - Provide updates on progress of projects
- Review other legislative priorities
- Review City's Smart City Challenge Grant application
- Ask Senators what is on their minds



# 2015-2016 State Legislative Agenda

Intergovernmental Relations Committee

February 15, 2016

- 2016 “short” session
- Light Rail Cap
- Next Steps
- Legislative Briefing
- Member Engagement

- April 25 Start
- State Budget
- Carryover bills
- Emerging issues:
  - Development tiers
  - Sales tax redistribution
  - Transportation

- 2015 Appropriations Act:
  - HB 97, Section 29.41 “... the cumulative amount of funds ... that are expended for light rail transit system projects shall not exceed the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) per project.”
  - Does not affect State funding for the LYNX Blue Line Extension
- Repeal efforts:
  - House amended SB 605 (Various Changes to the Revenue Laws – Rucho) to repeal the cap
  - SB 605 is in the Senate Rules Committee

- If Committee desires to recommend changes to 2015-2016 State Legislative Agenda, then:
  - Brief Council on March 14
  - Council consideration on March 28
- Brief the Mecklenburg State Delegation on April 18

- Meet with Delegation:
  - April 18, 8:00 am, Room 267 of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center
- Overview:
  - Thank them for a great session in 2015
  - Review what is left to be done in 2016
  - Present any new issues
  - Roundtable discussion
- Adjourn by 9:00 am

- Mayor & Council to Raleigh:
  - Wednesday, April 27
  - Wednesday, May 4
  - Wednesday, May 18
  - Wednesday, June 1
  - Wednesday, June 8 (NCLM Town Hall Day)
  - Wednesday, June 29
- Charlotte Chamber of Commerce Quarterly Elected Officials Meeting
  - February 29, 8:00 am at the Chamber
  - May 9
  - August 29
  - November 14



# Calendar

Date	Event
March 14	Brief Council / Needed Changes to 2015-2016 State Agenda
March 21	Intergovernmental Relations Committee meets
March 28	Council Consideration / Needed Changes to 2015-2016 State Agenda
April 18	Legislative Briefing
April 18	Intergovernmental Relations Committee meets
April 25	2016 Short Session starts
April 27	Mayor & Council to Raleigh
May 4	Mayor & Council to Raleigh
May 16	Intergovernmental Relations Committee meets
May 18	Mayor & Council to Raleigh
June 1	Mayor & Council to Raleigh
June 8	NC League of Municipalities Town Hall Day
June 20	Intergovernmental Relations Committee meets
June 29	Mayor & Council to Raleigh

## City of Charlotte 2015-2016 Legislative Calendar

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September 21, 2015	Intergovernmental Relations Committee
October 11-13, 2015	NC League of Municipalities Annual Meeting, Winston-Salem
October 19, 2015	Intergovernmental Relations Committee
November 4-8, 2015	National League of Cities Congress of Cities, Nashville
November 9, 2015	Brief Council on proposed 2016 Federal Legislative Agenda
November 12-13, 2015	Metro Mayors Coalition Meeting,
November 23, 2015	Council consideration of proposed 2016 Federal Legislative Agenda
January 3, 2016	US Congress convenes
January 19, 2016	Intergovernmental Relations Committee
January 20-22, 2016	US Conference of Mayors Winter Meeting, Washington, DC
February 15, 2016	Intergovernmental Relations Committee
March 2, 2016	NC Metropolitan Mayors Coalition Winter Meeting, Rocky Mount
March 5-9, 2016	National League of Cities Congressional City Conference, Washington, DC
March 14, 2016	Brief Council on changes to 2015-2016 State Legislative Agenda
March 21, 2016	Intergovernmental Relations Committee
March 28, 2016	Council consideration of amended 2015-2016 State Legislative Agenda
<b>April 18, 2016</b>	<b>2016 Legislative Briefing with State Delegation</b>
April 18, 2016	Intergovernmental Relations Committee
April 25, 2016	2016 “Short” Session Starts
<b>April 27, 2016</b>	<b>Mayor &amp; Council to Raleigh</b>
<b>May 4, 2016</b>	<b>Mayor &amp; Council to Raleigh</b>
May 16, 2016	Intergovernmental Relations Committee
<b>May 18, 2016</b>	<b>Mayor &amp; Council to Raleigh</b>
<b>June 1, 2016</b>	<b>Mayor &amp; Council to Raleigh</b>
June 8, 2016	NC League of Municipalities Town Hall Day, Raleigh
June 20, 2016	Intergovernmental Relations Committee
<b>June 29, 2016</b>	<b>Mayor &amp; Council to Raleigh</b>