

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. E(3)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: June 25, 2002

TITLE: Review of Chapel Hill Transit's Proposed Revisions to the "C" Bus Route

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| DEPARTMENT: Planning | PUBLIC HEARING: NO |
| ATTACHMENTS: A. Resolution B. Current C Route Map and Schedule C. Draft C Route Schedule and Map D. TAB Recommendation | FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Patricia McGuire, Planning Administrator -- 918-7327 |

PURPOSE

Chapel Hill Transit has prepared a proposal for revising the "C" bus route. The Administration recommends that the Board of Aldermen adopt the attached resolution communicating support for revisions to the "C" route.

INFORMATION

Chapel Hill Transit staff has been reviewing all bus routes and schedules in order to optimize efficiency of the system and service to the community. Changes to the "C" route, which currently provides service around town from the Carrboro Post Office to the Family Practice Center at UNC (*Attachment B* – map and schedule). The proposal for the upcoming year is to split the two-bus route into two separate routes thereby covering more territory and offering additional convenience to users. The routes will also more directly serve the new park and ride lot off Jones Ferry Road and reduce the potential pedestrian crossing links in that area.

A draft of the new route map and schedule are attached (*Attachment C*). At the request of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, a Jones Ferry Road Park and Ride express route will also be established in the upcoming year. The University will pay the full cost of this new service in the upcoming year. The route will run from the park and ride lot via the Highway 54 bypass to the UNC campus only during the morning and afternoon peak hours on 20-minute headways.

Rick Hannegan, Chapel Hill Transit's Assistant Transportation Director, met with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) to review the proposal on June 6, 2002. The TAB was enthusiastic in its support of splitting the route. Speakers at the Town's Public Transit Forum had requested shorter travel distances on the "C" route. The TAB also requested additional

information on the costs associated with reducing the headways from 40 to 30 minutes during the morning and afternoon peak hours on the two new “C” routes.

On June 19, Chapel Hill Transit reported that the change to 30 minute headways would cost an additional \$125, 000 for the upcoming fiscal year. The TAB reviewed the matter again on June 20, 2002 (see recommendation – *Attachment D*).

The options for consideration are as follows:

- 1) Maintain existing routes.
- 2) Endorse the proposed changes to the “C” route with 40-minute headways.
- 3) Endorse the proposed “C” route changes at 30-minute headways during peak hours and budget for additional transit costs (\$125,000).

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends that the Board adopt the resolution authorizing the Town Manager to communicate the Board’s support for the revisions to the “C” route with 40-minute headways (*Attachment A*).