

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. E(3)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: December 3, 2002

TITLE: 2025 Regional Transportation Plan Update

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING	PUBLIC HEARING: YES ___NO__X__
ATTACHMENTS: A. Resolution B. Draft Recommended Financially Constrained 2025 Long-Range Transportation Plan C. Revised Northern Durham Parkway Information	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Dale McKeel – 918-7329

PURPOSE

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Transportation Advisory Committee (DCHC TAC) has released a Draft Recommended 2025 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) for public comment. The attached resolution would provide the Transportation Advisory Committee with recommendations on the Draft Recommended 2025 Long-Range Transportation Plan (Attachment A).

INFORMATION

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO) includes representatives from Carrboro, Chapel Hill, Hillsborough, Durham, Orange County, Durham County, Chatham County, and the N.C. Board of Transportation.

One of the primary functions of the DCHC MPO is to create a long-range transportation plan every three years, as required by federal transportation and air quality regulations. The current long-range plan was adopted in January 2000, and development of a new Plan began shortly thereafter.

On November 6, 2002 the TAC released the Draft Recommended 2025 Long-Range Transportation Plan for a 42-day public comment period (Attachment B). The TAC is scheduled to adopt a final draft Plan on December 18, 2002.

The 2025 Plan includes all road, transit, bicycle and pedestrian projects that are expected to be completed through 2025, and a financial plan indicating how these projects will be funded. The 2025 Plan will be used to help identify projects for future state and local Transportation Improvement Programs.

Once adopted, the final draft Plan will be analyzed by State and federal agencies for compliance with federal clean air standards. The federal air quality conformity regulations require that the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Urban Area adopt a final Plan meeting all federal air quality standards by February 28, 2003. Failure to adopt a Plan by that time may result in a cut-off of federal transportation funding for new projects in the region. It is anticipated that the TAC will adopt a final Plan in late Spring 2003.

BACKGROUND

The Carrboro Board of Aldermen has received updates on the 2025 Plan at several points in the process, including the May 14, October 1, and October 15 meetings. On October 15, the Board made the following recommendations to the TAC:

1. Transit improvements should be implemented prior to pursuing roadway expansions.
2. Corrections should be made to the transit model network to more accurately reflect local and fixed guideway transit impacts.
3. A proposed high-capacity transit route currently runs from US 15-501/Franklin Street from I-40 to the Carrboro Town limits. This route should be extended into Carrboro down Main Street, through downtown Carrboro, Jones Ferry Road and NC 54 Bypass to Carrboro Plaza.
4. Projects from the Town of Carrboro's connector roads plan should be added to the regional road network. These additions include the Seawell Connector, the connector between Lake Hogan Farm Road and Homestead Road, and the extension of Lake Hogan Farm Road.
5. An extension of the proposed UNC/Carrboro/Horace Williams fixed guideway transit line to the North Carolina Railroad line near Hillsborough, utilizing the existing Norfolk Southern corridor.

The changes requested in items 2, 3, and 4 have been incorporated into the Draft Recommended 2025 Long-Range Transportation Plan. However, based on fiscal constraints and concerns expressed by other jurisdictions, item 5 has not been incorporated into the draft recommended Plan.

The Carrboro connector roads in item 4 have been included in the text of the draft recommended Plan but, due to time constraints, were not shown on the map of the recommended highway component (on page 14 of the plan). The cross-section for these roads should be referenced in the text as a "two-lane" rather than "two-lane divided" (on page 13 of the plan). The need to make these corrections is included in the attached resolution.

ENO DRIVE / NE-NW LOOP / REVISED NORTHERN DURHAM PARKWAY

At the October 30 Assembly of Governments meeting, the Board of Aldermen adopted a motion instructing the Board Transportation Advisory Committee representative to support a resolution, adopted that same night by the Orange County Commissioners, opposing the inclusion of "Option 7" of the Northeast/Northwest Loop in Durham in the 2025 Plan.

The Draft Recommended Plan, as released by the Transportation Advisory Board on November 6 meeting, does not include "Option 7" but contains a different project in northern Durham referred to as the Revised Northern Durham Parkway. This proposed route terminates at

Roxboro Road (US 15-501). Additional information about this route is provided by Attachment C.

The TAC members from the Orange County jurisdictions (Carrboro, Chapel Hill, Hillsborough, and Orange County) met on November 21 to discuss the Revised Northern Durham Parkway. Based on the discussion at that meeting, it appears that the outstanding issues can be resolved and a joint memorandum to the TAC from the Orange County TAC members is being prepared by Chapel Hill Mayor Kevin Foy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Administration recommends that the Board of Aldermen adopt the attached resolution providing recommendations on the 2025 Regional Transportation Plan to the Transportation Advisory Committee.