

# BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. E(1)

## AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

**MEETING DATE: January 21, 2003**

**TITLE: A Review of Draft MOU for Public Transportation Services**

<b>DEPARTMENT: Planning</b>	<b>PUBLIC HEARING: No</b>
<b>ATTACHMENTS</b> <b>A. Resolution</b> <b>B. Draft MOU</b> <b>C. TAB Resolution</b> <b>D. MOU Approved in 1997</b>	<b>FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:</b> <b>Dale McKeel – 918-7329</b>

### PURPOSE

A committee composed of representatives from the Town of Carrboro, the Town of Chapel Hill, and The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has been meeting since spring 2002 to prepare a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Public Transportation Services. A draft MOU has been prepared. A resolution authorizing the Town Manager to sign the MOU is attached.

### INFORMATION

The MOU is the document that outlines the cost sharing relationship for the public transit services operated by Chapel Hill Transit. The MOU is used to develop a separate annual contract between the Towns of Chapel Hill and Carrboro and the University for the provision of public transportation services.

In response to a letter from Carrboro Mayor Mike Nelson, a committee was formed in the spring of 2002 to develop a new MOU. This committee consisted of two representatives from the Carrboro Board of Aldermen (Diana McDuffee and Mark Dorosin), the Chapel Hill Town Council (Pat Evans and Edith Wiggins), and the UNC-CH administration (Carolyn Elfland and Robert Knight).

The MOU currently in place was adopted in 1997 (Attachment D). Significant differences between the draft 2003 MOU and the 1997 MOU are as follows:

1. Section II.1 creates a new Public Transit Committee and describes its members and responsibilities. The Board of Aldermen appoints two members of this committee.
2. Section II.2 clarifies the role of the staff work group in monitoring transit services.
3. Section II.4.a clarifies that in some circumstances new services can be added to the base transit system with costs shared among the three partners, rather than first-year costs being borne by the requesting partners.
4. Section II.4.b clarifies that some routes are "University routes" that are funded exclusively by the University.
5. Section II.7 clarifies how surpluses and losses from one year are carried over to the next year.

6. Several changes have been made to reflect that the transit system is now fare-free.

The Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) reviewed the draft MOU during its meeting on January 9, 2003. Note that the TAB's recommendation included listing additional items in Section II.1 that could be studied by the Public Transit Committee, including services for the disabled, information systems for the transit system, and environmentally friendly technologies.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Each year the Town of Carrboro negotiates an annual contract for public transit services, which determines the Town of Carrboro's share of the net cost of transit services. The terms of the MOU guide the structure of the annual contract.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Administration recommends that the Board of Aldermen review the draft MOU and adopt the resolution authorizing the Town Manager to sign the MOU.