

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. D(6)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: September 16, 2003

TITLE: Mobility Report Card

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING	PUBLIC HEARING: YES __ NO _X_
ATTACHMENTS: A. Resolution B. Excerpts from 2001 Chapel Hill Mobility Report Card C. Cost Estimate	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Dale McKeel – 918-7329

PURPOSE

This fall, a consultant will be preparing a Mobility Report Card for the Town of Chapel Hill. The Town of Carrboro has an opportunity to be included in the Mobility Report Card at a cost of \$4,077. Adoption of the attached resolution would authorize the Town Manager to execute a contract with the Town of Chapel Hill to include data from Carrboro in the Mobility Report Card (Attachment A).

INFORMATION

A Mobility Report Card is a compilation of data on various elements of a town's transportation system, including traffic volumes, intersection level of service, transit ridership, and bicycle and pedestrian counts. The report card represents a snapshot of mobility at a point in time, and provides a means to monitor and evaluate progress toward town-wide mobility goals.

By monitoring and consistently evaluating progress, the Town will be able to more efficiently detect and correct problems; manage, describe, and improve processes; and document accomplishments. Typically, a Mobility Report Card is updated on a regular basis (two to five years). A Mobility Report Card was prepared for the Town of Chapel Hill in 2001 (Attachment B) and can be downloaded from the following website: <http://townhall.townofchapelhill.org/planning/docs.html>

Chapel Hill is updating the Mobility Report Card this fall with data collected from both Chapel Hill and the UNC campus. The Town of Carrboro has an opportunity to be included in the 2003 Mobility Report Card.

PROPOSED SCOPE OF SERVICES

The proposed scope of services for the Mobility Report Card includes the following tasks in Carrboro:

- 24-hour traffic counts at 37 locations
- Peak hour (AM, Noon, PM) analysis at 23 intersections

- Travel time and delay along five corridors
- Bicycle and pedestrian counts at 16 locations
- Summary of transit ridership

Data collection for the Mobility Report Card and Downtown Circulation Traffic Circulation Study will be conducted during the same time period. To avoid duplication of work and reduce costs, the downtown intersection counts taken for the Circulation Study will be used for the Mobility Report Card. When the contract for the Circulation Study is finalized, staff will determine whether other data from that project can be used for the Report Card.

Town staff have discussed the scope of work and budget with the Town of Chapel Hill to prepare the Mobility Report Card. Chapel Hill has identified a contractor, LSA Associates, to prepare the report. If the Board of Aldermen wish to move forward with the Mobility Report Card, it is anticipated that Chapel Hill would amend its contract with LSA Associates to include the Carrboro portion of the Mobility Report Card. The Town of Carrboro would then provide the 20 percent local match as discussed below.

BENEFITS OF PREPARING A MOBILITY REPORT CARD

Preparation of the Mobility Report Card would provide numerous benefits for the Town's citizens. One immediate benefit would be data on intersection turn movements for signalized intersections in Carrboro, which has not been collected for several years. With this data, it will be possible to review the phasing and timing of existing traffic signals to ensure that signals are operating as efficiently and as safely as possible for all users.

The Mobility Report Card will also serve as a component of the Congestion Management System that is required by federal law in the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro metropolitan area. A Congestion Management System provides information on transportation system performance and identifies alternative strategies to alleviate congestion and enhance the mobility of people and goods. The focus is typically on strategies which can be implemented quickly, inexpensively, and that avoid the construction of additional lanes of roadway.

The information in the Mobility Report Card would be useful in addressing transportation questions which often arise when new development is being considered. In addition, the preparation of a Mobility Report Card would enable the Town of Carrboro to move toward several goals that were identified in the *Vision 2020* report, including goals in Section 4.1, Planning; Section 4.2 Public Transit; Section 4.3, Bicycle and Pedestrian Traffic; Section 4.4, Established Roads; and Section 4.5, New Development.

FISCAL IMPACT

If Carrboro participates in the Mobility Report Card, the estimated budget for Carrboro's portion would be \$20,382 (Attachment C). Funding for the Report Card has been provided by the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization. This funding requires a 20 percent local match, so the Town's share would be \$4,077.

We propose the local match be provided from funds included in the Town's adopted FY 2003-2004 budget for salaries in the Planning Department. It is anticipated that there will be lapsed salaries in

the Planning Department this fiscal year; therefore funds are available to also fund the Mobility Report Card from this budget item.

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends that the Board of Aldermen adopt the attached resolution authorizing the Manager to execute a contract with the Town of Chapel Hill to include data from Carrboro in the Mobility Report Card (Attachment A).