

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN**

**ITEM NO. E(3)**

**AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT**

**MEETING DATE: December 9, 2003**

**TITLE: Status Report on the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan and 2030 Socio-economic Projections**

<b>DEPARTMENT: PLANNING</b>	<b>PUBLIC HEARING: YES ___ NO <u>X</u> ___</b>
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b> <b>A. Resolution</b> <b>B. State Recommendation on Non-attainment Boundaries</b> <b>C. Schedule</b>	<b>FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:</b> Dale McKeel – 918-7329

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this agenda item is to provide the Board of Aldermen with a status report on the development of a Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Urban Area 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan. The attached resolution would receive the report and refer the 2023 socio-economic projections to the Planning Board and Transportation Advisory Board for comment.

**INFORMATION**

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO) adopted a 2025 Long Range Transportation Plan in May 2003. Environmental Protection Agency regulations require that this plan be updated prior to April 2005. In order to meet this deadline, the DCHC MPO has begun preparing a 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan.

*Clean Air Act Requirements*

The federal Clean Air Act requires the Environmental Protection Agency to designate areas as non-attainment or attainment following the adoption of new ambient air quality standards. The Environmental Protection Agency has begun the process of designating new non-attainment areas. As part of this process, the State of North Carolina has submitted a recommendation to the Environmental Protection Agency for non-attainment areas.

The State recommendation would designate Durham, Orange and a portion of northern Chatham County as non-attainment. As the regional transportation agency for a non-attainment area, the DCHC MPO must develop and adopt a 20 year long range transportation plan that can reduce the amount of air pollutants and meet a future air quality “budget” set by EPA. Non-attainment areas that fail to meet the air quality budgets are designated non-conforming and have all federal transportation funds frozen until such time as they adopt a plan that shows conformity.

It is expected that the Environmental Protection Agency will make a final decision on non-attainment areas by April 2004. Once the Environmental Protection Agency makes their final non-

attainment determination the Urban Area must complete an analysis of air quality conformity by April 2005, using the Regional Transportation Plan.

#### *Schedule for the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan*

The DCHC MPO has adopted a schedule for completing the 2030 Plan and meeting the April 2005 deadline for air quality conformity analysis (Attachment C). One of the first steps in the process is the development of socio-economic projections for 2030. These projections include population and employment projections for the year 2030. Staffs from the member jurisdictions have been working with staff from the Metropolitan Planning Organization to prepare draft 2030 projections for review. On November 12, 2003, the Transportation Advisory Committee reviewed and released for public comment the 2030 draft socio-economic projections.

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Urban Area will hold a series of public workshops to review important elements of the 2030 Plan and the Transportation Advisory Committee will hold public hearings to receive public comment. The public workshop in Chapel Hill was held on December 4, 2003, between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the Chapel Hill Public Library. The Transportation Advisory Committee will hold a public hearing on December 10, 2003, to receive public comment. The public comment will extend through January 14, 2004.

It is also recommended that the Board of Aldermen refer the 2030 socio-economic projections to the Planning Board and Transportation Advisory Board of review. It is proposed that the comments from these boards will be brought back to the Board of Aldermen on January 13, 2004 for final review and comment.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

None known.

#### **ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION**

The administration recommends that the Board of Aldermen adopt the attached resolution receiving the report and referring the 2030 Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Urban Area socio-economic projections to the Planning Board and Transportation Advisory Board for comment.