

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT**

ITEM NO. C(1)

MEETING DATE: June 27, 2006

TITLE: Chapel Hill-Carrboro-University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Long Range Transit Plan

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING	PUBLIC HEARING: YES __ NO <u>X</u> __
ATTACHMENTS: A. Resolution B. June 9, 2006 Letter from Chancellor James Moeser C. June 15, 2006 Letter from Mayor Mark Chilton and Mayor Kevin Foy	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Dale McKeel – 918-7329

PURPOSE

This memorandum reviews the Chapel Hill-Carrboro-University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Long Range Transit Plan. Staff has prepared a resolution establishing a Transit Study Committee and appointing Carrboro representatives to the Transit Study Committee.

BACKGROUND

In 2005, the Public Transit Committee (a.k.a., Partner’s Committee), which includes representatives from Carrboro, Chapel Hill, and UNC, received a discussion paper prepared by John Bonsall outlining an approach to develop a transit master plan for Chapel Hill and Carrboro. The Committee endorsed the approach outlined in the discussion paper and agreed to arrange a presentation by John Bonsall.

John Bonsall presented his recommendations at a joint meeting of the Chapel Hill transit partners on September 7, 2005 at the Friday Center. In November 2005, the Public Transit Committee received a discussion paper from the staff proposing a process to develop a long range transit plan. The Committee agreed on the recommended approach and requested the staff to prepare a draft scope of work to undertake the development of the long range transit plan.

DISCUSSION

The Public Transit Committee worked with staff to prepare a draft request for qualifications. The request for qualifications outlines the proposed elements to be included in the Transit Plan and include these main work tasks.

1. Identify Principal Transportation Corridors, Study Area and Travel Patterns.
2. Assess Current and Planned Transportation System within Principal Transportation Corridors.

3. Develop Goals, Objectives and Evaluation Criteria.
4. Update/Enhance/Develop Travel Forecasting Model(s).
5. Project Future Travel Demand and Transportation Corridor Capacity.
6. Identification and Preliminary Evaluation of Transit Technologies.
7. Assessment of High Level Transit Alternatives.
8. Refinement and Assessment of Initial Transit Alternatives.
9. Assessment of Future Land Development.
10. Assessment of Transportation Refinements and Finalize Plan.
11. Implementation Plan.
12. Financial Plan.
13. Monitoring Plan.

A Transit Study Committee is proposed to oversee the selection of a consultant and provide guidance to the consultant during the preparation of the Transit Plan. As proposed, the Transit Study Committee would include two representatives from the Town of Chapel Hill, two representatives from the Town of Carrboro, and four representatives from UNC.

The schedule for the Transit Plan states that proposals will be solicited in July 2006, proposals will be reviewed in September 2006, and a consultant will be selected in October 2006. Chapel Hill staff believe that the Transit Plan can be prepared in six to nine months of concentrated effort.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization has set aside \$160,000 in federal funding to complete the Transit Study. The federal funding requires a 20 percent match totaling \$40,000. The total cost of the project will not be finalized until the consultant is selected. The local match and additional funding necessary to complete the Transit Plan would be provided by Chapel Hill, Carrboro, and UNC. The attached letter from Chancellor Moeser states that the University is committed to covering 60 percent of the cost of the study not funded by external funding sources.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board of Aldermen adopt the attached resolution establishing a Transit Study Committee and appointing Carrboro representatives to the Transit Study Committee.