

ATTACHMENT A

**A RESOLUTION RECEIVING THE NEW HORIZONS TASK FORCE UPDATE ON
TRANSITION ISSUES AND REQUESTING ADDITIONAL UPDATES
Resolution No. 27/2006-07**

WHEREAS the Board of Aldermen commissioned the New Horizons Task Force to study and help with transition issues relating to the newly annexed areas; and

WHEREAS, the New Horizons Task Force has now met four times, completed a resident survey, and herewith presented the survey to the Board of Aldermen along with an update of the activities of the task force;

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Board of Aldermen receive the update and survey report.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Aldermen request at least two more updates before the mandate for the New Horizons Task Force expires in July 2007.

THE NEW HORIZONS TASK FORCE

Report to the
Board of Aldermen
September 19, 2006

What is the NHTF?

RESOLUTION CREATING THE NHTF:

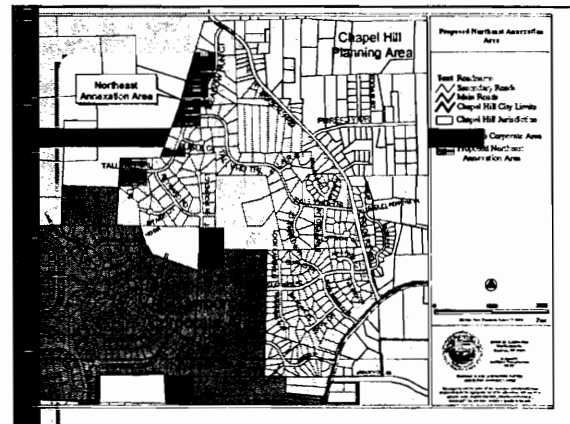
WHEREAS, close to 300 households in northern Carrboro were annexed by the Town effective January 31, 2006, and

WHEREAS, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen have always sought feedback from residents and neighborhoods (as with the Neighborhood Forum), and in this case desired a formalized communication link between themselves and residents residing in this new area of the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town has established guidelines for creating advisory boards and commissions, and

WHEREAS, the New Horizons Task Force will allow residents in this new area of Town to voice their thoughts and concerns to the Board of Aldermen;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Aldermen authorizes the creation of a New Horizons Task Force.



THE CHARGE OF THE NHTF:

- **The New Horizons Task Force will act as a natural communication conduit to the Board of Aldermen for the newly incorporated areas to address transition interests and concerns not addressed by other Town advisory boards, committees, or commissions.**

MAKE-UP OF THE NEWLY ANNEXED AREA:

The newly annexed area is composed of nearly 300 households in seven areas:

- The Highlands: 33%
- Fox Meadow: 31%
- Rogers Road: 9%
- Camden: 7%
- Highlands Meadow: 7%
- Highlands North: 6%
- Meadow Run: 4%
- Other (Homestead Rd., etc.): 2%

MAKE-UP OF THE NHTF:

- We have six members representing three of these areas (Fox Meadow, Highlands North and Homestead Road)
- We have had representatives from Rogers Road, Camden and Meadow Run attend our meetings or help with NHTF tasks

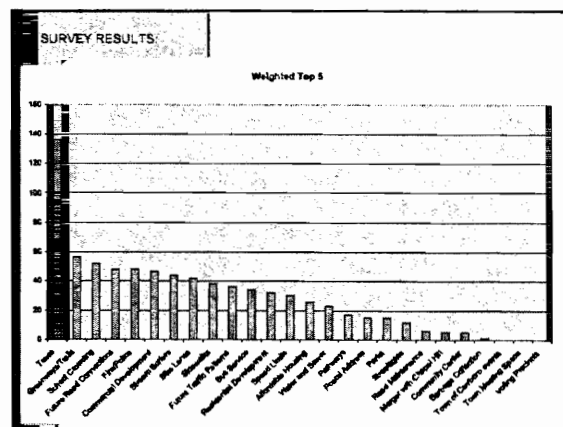
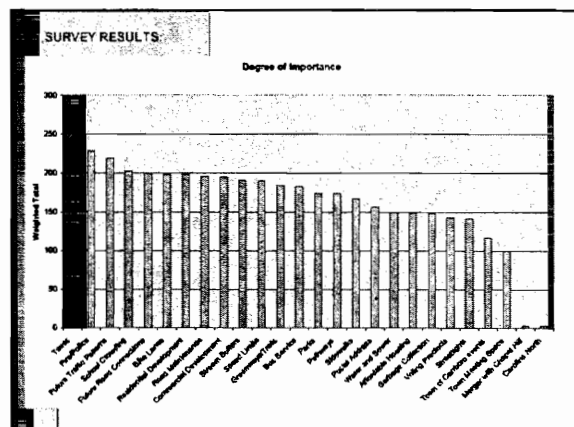
NHTF COMMUNICATION IN AREA

- Hand-delivered a survey in June and results in July to every household in the area
- Information on Town website
- Yahoo list-serves
- Can also contact Laura Wenzel, Secretary, for minutes, agenda, etc.

NHTF Survey Project

SURVEY PROCESS AND RESULTS

- discussed creating a survey during our first meeting (May 8) to get concerns/issues of our area
- created and finalized the survey by e-mail, and hand-delivered it in late May to all residents
- compiled results of the survey during the June 12 meeting
- received more surveys at the July 10 meeting
- total of 92 responses from 298 households



Some survey comments . . .

TAXES

"The taxes are way out of proportion to the services provided."

"My taxes went up 50%, with no tangible benefit."

"Finding a way to build a tax base in Carrboro other than property taxes."

"What are we getting for an extra \$2000 in taxes?"

"Nearly double the taxes for virtually no improved services."

"Aside from an increase in taxes and the garbage collection, nothing has changed."

Some survey comments . . .

FUTURE TRAFFIC PATTERNS

"[Concerned about] turning stable neighborhoods into thoroughfares. New developments should pay full cost – sidewalks, direct connection to main roads."

"Mainly, we've been dealing with mitigating the impacts of surrounding developments. I'd like the town to address future traffic patterns, at a smaller level than in existing plans."

Some survey comments . . .

GREENWAYS/TRAILS

"Please provide alternate forms of travel than by auto (bike, greenways, etc.)"

"If there were bike paths and street crossings between Fox Meadow and Smith/ CH High I'd encourage my children to walk or bike."

"I am concerned about preservation of open space, especially along Bolin Creek and its tributaries."

Some survey comments . . .

SCHOOL CROWDING

"Another new development is being proposed adjacent to our property. We are concerned that this will overcrowd the schools and Homestead [Road]."

"Continued residential development without adequate school space. Do not overbuild!"

Some survey comments . . .

BUS SERVICE

"Regular bus service, PLEASE! I have tried the feeder service and while it is a nice stop gap, it is inconvenient and cumbersome. With city taxes should come regular city services."

"I want BUS SERVICE from our neighborhoods to Timberlyne Shopping Center and to the University. Right now I'd have to walk two miles or more to get a bus. I want the bus line to go down Homestead to our neighborhoods and back up Rogers Road to Eubanks."

Some survey comments . . .

ROADS

"When will roads be annexed?"

"Concerns about whether the town will perform maintenance on our road."

"For \$3000 a year, I at least want to receive ice-storm services." (post-survey conversation)

Some survey comments . . .

ROAD SAFETY

"Traffic calming is a concern because of development of Cotton Property."

"What logic could possibly apply to increasing traffic in a walking neighborhood?"

"I am concerned about potential impacts of Carolina North. I hope they are serious about reducing parking spots and auto traffic."

Some survey comments . . .

TOWN FISCAL MANAGEMENT

"We are concerned that the town is too pro-residential development."

"Initiate merger with Chapel Hill, to form one consolidated municipal government."

Some survey comments . . .

SERVICES

"We don't want or need OWASA service."

"Fire station coverage! Should have been completed prior to annexation!"

"The two workers leave garbage all [over] the street when they empty the cans. When I paid \$15/month for a private trash service, they never "rejected" my trash can for being at the wrong angle or because a car was nearby."

Some survey comments . . .

GENERAL SENTIMENTS

"The way this annexation was handled put a bad taste in my mouth."

"Seemed greed for our tax money was only reason."

NHTF Action

NHTF Action . . .

AREAS ADDRESSED SO FAR:

- Taxes
- Street Maintenance
- OWASA

NHTF Action ...
TAXES

- Overriding concern of new residents
- We conveyed to the annexed area an overview of how Town dollars are spent
- Exploring alternative ways of raising revenue
- Big issue – ongoing discussion

NHTF Action ...
STREET MAINTENANCE

- Brainstormed list of questions at July 10 meeting
- Town Staff and DOT at August 14 Meeting
- 3-year or more timeframe for transfer of street maintenance services
- DOT and Town will provide comparable level of street maintenance and service with exception of traffic calming

NHTF Action ...
OWASA

- Reviewed map of annexed area and where service currently runs
- Confirmed that household can get a \$2,000 sewer subsidy by the Town of Carrboro to hook up, but still not financially realistic for neighborhoods without water and sewer to bring in OWASA
- Residents satisfied with well and septic

**Next Steps
 for NHTF and BOA**

Next steps ...
FURTHER INFORMATION

- Greenways Summit
- Economic Development Report
- Facilitated Small Area Plan for Carrboro's Northern Study Area

Next steps ...
TOPICS TO DISCUSS

- Taxes
- Greenways/Trails
- School Crowding
- Future Road Connections
- Fire, Police, and other services
- Commercial Development
- Stream Buffers
- Bike Lanes
- Bus Service

Next steps . . .
NHTF REPORTS

- Will present reports in early spring and in June at conclusion of NHTF

Next steps . . .
INITIAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO BOA

- *Recognize that the New Horizons survey demonstrates that priorities of some annexed area residents may differ with central Carboro residents on issues such as greenways, streetlights and the presence of "big box" stores*
- *Acknowledge that parts of the annexation process could have been handled better*
- *Actively encourage new resident participation in Town boards, summits and events; include neighborhood-based signage*

NEW CARRBORO RESIDENT SURVEY ATTACHMENT C- /

Please take the time to complete this survey prepared by members of The New Horizons Task Force (NHTF).

The NHTF is a Town of Carrboro advisory board comprised of people who live in the area recently annexed into Carrboro. The board will operate through June 2007. The NHTF serves as a communication vehicle between these new residents and the Town's Board of Aldermen, two of whom also serve as liaisons to the task force. Through this survey, NHTF members seek to find out and prioritize issues that are important to the new residents of Carrboro.

PART 1.

A. To the right of each topic below, please circle the number that best describes the degree of importance of the following topics to you, these topics relate specifically to the newly annexed areas:

- 3: very important (I am very interested in this topic)
 2: important (I am interested in this topic)
 1: not important (this topic is not important to me)

B. To the left of the topics below, please rank at least your top five in order of importance.

TOPIC:	Very Important	Important	Not Important
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _____ Affordable housing	3	2	1
_____ Bike lanes	3	2	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _____ Bus service	3	2	1
_____ Town of Carrboro events in general	3	2	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _____ Commercial development	3	2	1
_____ Fire protection/Law enforcement	3	2	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _____ Future road connections	3	2	1
_____ Future traffic patterns	3	2	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _____ Garbage collection	3	2	1
_____ Greenways/Trails	3	2	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _____ Postal address	3	2	1
_____ Parks (fields, courts, pool, etc.)	3	2	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _____ Pathways between neighborhoods	3	2	1
_____ Residential development	3	2	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _____ Road maintenance	3	2	1
_____ School crowding	3	2	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _____ Speed limits/Traffic calming	3	2	1
_____ Stream buffers	3	2	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _____ Street lights	3	2	1
_____ Sidewalks	3	2	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _____ Taxes	3	2	1
_____ Town meeting space	3	2	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _____ Voting precincts	3	2	1
_____ Water and sewer hookup	3	2	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _____ Other _____	3	2	1
_____ Other _____	3	2	1

PLEASE TURN OVER TO COMPLETE SURVEY...

PART 2. Please answer the following questions:

Do you have an interest in learning how Town processes work? If so, which ones?

What issues have arisen for your neighborhood due to the annexation that you would like the Town to address?

What is the best way for us to communicate with you and your immediate neighbors? Please list your neighborhood:

Please discuss anything we have not addressed, or any other concerns you may have:

Do you want to be involved with the NHTF and/or receive a copy of the survey results? If so, please tell us your particular area of interest and give us your name and contact information:

THERE ARE SEVERAL CONVENIENT WAYS TO RETURN THIS SURVEY!

- BY MAIL:** Town Clerk, Town of Carrboro, 301 W. Main St., Carrboro, NC 27510
- BY FAX:** to the Town Clerk at 918-4456
- BY E-MAIL:** download it from www.townofcarrboro.org/msg.htm (where you can also learn more about Town services), complete it and e-mail it back to TownClerk@townofcarrboro.org.
- IN PERSON TO A NHTF MEMBER* OR COMMUNITY DROP-OFF PERSON/LOCATION:** Charlie Buckner* (8100 North Hound Court), Alena Callimanis (1004 Camden Lane), Stephen Clossick (6002 Meadow Run Court), Faith Tabernacle Church (Pastor Ila McMillan - 8005 Rogers Road), Lydia Lavelle* (8107 Kit Lane), Mary Rabinowitz* (1510 Homestead Road), Town Hall Clerk's Office, Laura Van Sant* (8207 Reynard Road), Peggy Vincent* (1001 Brendan Court), Laura Wenzel* (1015 Tallyho Trail).

PLEASE RETURN THE SURVEY BY THURSDAY, JUNE 8. ONE SURVEY PER HOUSEHOLD, PLEASE.

THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE NEXT NEW HORIZONS TASK FORCE MEETING, MONDAY, JUNE 12 AT 7:00PM AT HOMESTEAD COMMUNITY CENTER. THE NHTF MEETS THE SECOND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH. ANYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND THESE MEETINGS.

July 26, 2006

New residents of Carrboro:

Here are the results of the survey conducted in June and July by the New Horizons Task Force (NHTF). Thank you to the 92 households that filled out the survey. We appreciate everyone taking the time to give us your feedback about the topics we identified, and we read each and every one of your comments.

As you may recall, the NHTF is a Town of Carrboro advisory board comprised of people who live in the area recently annexed into Carrboro. The board will operate through June 2007. The NHTF serves as a communication vehicle between these new residents and the Town's Board of Aldermen, two of whom also serve as liaisons to the task force. Through this survey, NHTF members sought to find out and prioritize issues that are important to the new residents of Carrboro.

The overwhelming number one concern of new residents was taxes. At our July meeting, we had a discussion about the overall budget of Carrboro. As a point of information, nearly 50% of Carrboro's budget goes toward public safety and public works, 15% toward administration, and less than 10% each for planning, transportation, recreation, and other areas. We discussed tax relief that was available for low income households regarding property taxes.

We will be spending the rest of our meetings addressing the priorities and topics of interest raised in the surveys, most of which relate directly to our taxes. For example, two issues identified were road maintenance and sidewalks. At our July meeting, we drafted a list of questions specific to those topics. These have been sent to Town staff and answers we receive will be discussed at the August meeting. It is our hope to methodically address topic areas, gather questions about the topic at a meeting, and then discuss the answers at the next meeting. To see what topic will be addressed at each meeting, persons can review upcoming NHTF agendas on the Town's web site under Government/Advisory Boards/Agendas:

<http://www.townofcarrboro.org/AdvBoards/Agendas/advAgendas.htm>

We meet the second Monday of each month at 7:00pm at the Homestead Community Center. The meetings are open to the public, and anyone is welcome to attend.

Please note that contact information for NHTF members can be found by clicking on "Board Membership" on the above-identified link.

Members of the public can read about and take part in discussions of NHTF by joining our discussion group - "NewHorizonsTF-discussion" - at www.yahoo.com.

Residents may also contact Laura Wenzel, the NHTF secretary, for agendas, information or with any questions (1015 Tallyho Trail, 967-7565).

Again, thank you for your interest and do not hesitate to contact us with any concerns!

Sincerely,

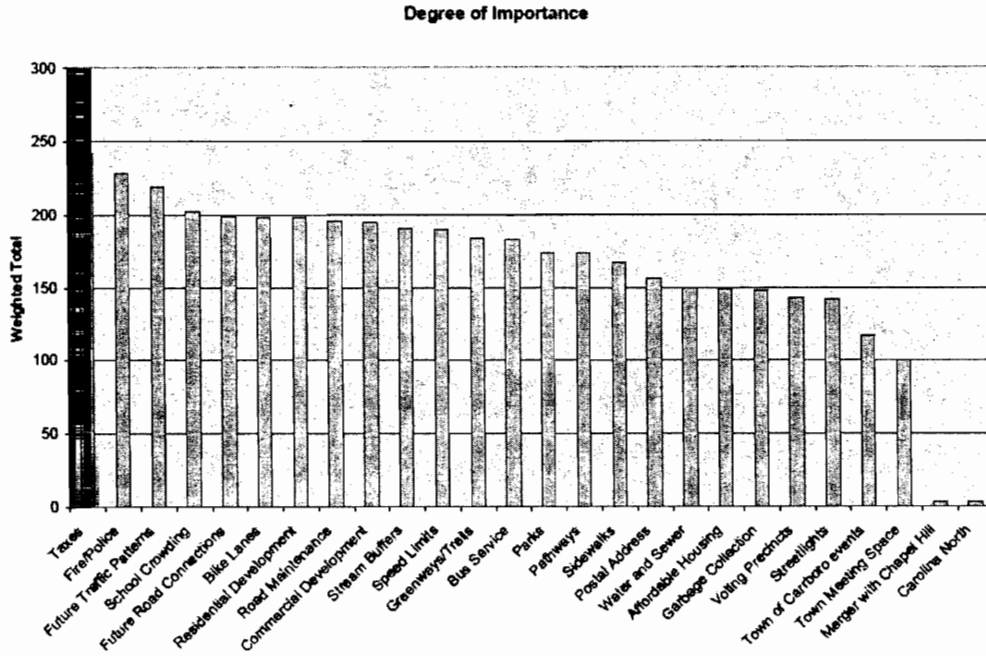
Members of the NHTF

(Charlie Buckner, Lydia Lavelle, Mary Rabinowitz, Laura Van Sant, Peggy Vincent, Laura Wenzel; Aldermen Dan Coleman and Randee Haven-O'Donnell)

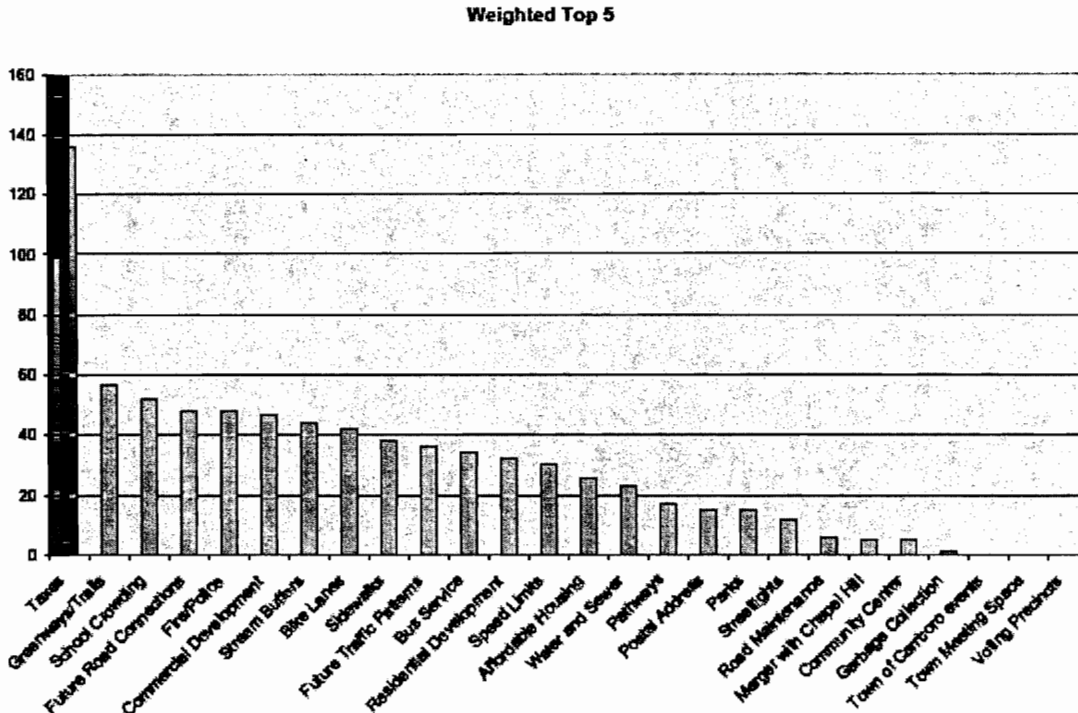
NEW HORIONS TASK FORCE SURVEY RESULTS

These results represent 92 surveys that were tallied at the June 12 and July 10, 2006 NHTF meetings.

Results: "Degree of importance" of these topics to respondents:



Results: "Top five" topics of respondents:



General analysis of open-ended comments of respondents:

Town Processes	Freq.	Items
	8	planning, zoning, permits
	5	budgeting
	1	everything
	1	chain of command
	1	environmental protection
	1	road connections
	3	bus service
	1	collaboration between towns and county
	1	how to get town to focus on neighborhood needs vs ideology
ISSUES/CONCERNS		
Theme	Freq.	Items
Services - 63	30	taxes
	8	fire station/hydrants
	7	police enforcement (2 mentioned mailbox vandalism)
	4	garbage pickup -- service is poor
	5	bus service
	3	new developments - infrastructure
	2	voting closer to neighborhood
	1	charge for trash cans
	2	gymnasium, ball fields, community center
	1	animal control regulations
	Communication - 37	12
11		distrust BoA
7		what are benefits in return for taxes
4		make annexed areas feel part of town, newsletter, communicate plans
1		plans for paying for new services like sidewalks
2		enable all residents to weigh in on decisions by NHTF
Road Safety - 22	7	widen shoulders/ bike trails on Homestead, Rogers, Seawell
	6	safety on Tallyho (sidewalk, tree cutting)
	5	increased traffic/traffic calming
	1	speed limit, Rogers Rd
Connectivity - 14	3	sidewalks
	11	connector roads - no
	2	bike connectivity
Environment - 12	1	connect more than one neighborhood to new development
	3	street lights - no
	2	green space, stream, paths
	2	rural character / high density housing
	2	bridging Bolin Creek
	1	ugly malls
Other	1	Bolin Creek/Winmore runoff
	1	bridge stanchions too close to Creek
	4	postal address (2-don't change, 2 - what is it?)
	7	merge towns/reverse annexation/rethink dividing Homestead, Rogers
	2	no concerns
	1	create alternative to property taxes
	1	trash/abandoned vehicles in yards of many houses on Rogers
	1	street sign for Meadow Run or light for it
	1	invest in selling solar energy to power cos. Put panels on town bldgs.
	1	community ctr (store, park) to promote interaction b/t residents.
1	teen center/activities, engage teens and discourage vandalism	