

NE Annexation Area Town Services Update

The New Horizons Task Force's Final Update and Report presented to the Board of Aldermen on June 19, 2007 requested that the Town provide an update in June of 2008 on several annexation items that were originally presented to the community during the annexation public information meeting held on November 16, 2004. Following is a list of items (*bulleted*) identified by the task force along with associated updates (*in boxed areas*). The NE annexation became effective on January 31, 2006 and as stated in the 7-31-04 NE Area Annexation Report "that on the effective date of annexation the Town of Carrboro will provide each major municipal service on substantially the same basis and in the same manner as such services are provided within the rest of the Town immediately before annexation".

Public Works Services

❖ General Street Maintenance

UPDATE: Public works

Streets in the annexed area were brought into Town of Carrboro City limits as part of the annexation process, however, maintenance responsibilities currently remain with NCDOT. The Town has been very receptive to working with NCDOT on the transferring of maintenance responsibility for the streets and continues to be in correspondence with NCDOT officials about this issue. As mentioned before, the Town has identified maintenance deficiencies which need to be corrected by NCDOT prior to transfer. According to NCDOT, any repair work to address these deficiencies will be scheduled subject to relative condition (relative to other streets in the State System) and available funding. The Streets will continue to be maintained by NCDOT until the roads are added to the Town's street system.

Residents/citizens pay taxes that help support a network of public roads within the Town/State, not just the road in front of their home. These systems of roads provide access to schools, businesses, family and friends within the Town and across the State. There are several other roads within Carrboro that are on the State system and are maintained directly by the State (including Homestead Rd., Rogers Rd., Greensboro St., Main St., and Jones Ferry Rd.). Homes and businesses also front on these roads and subsequently taxes paid by these property owners help support both systems. There are also several private roads within the Town. Property owners who live on private roads help support the greater network of roads (via taxes), and at the same time pay directly to maintain their private street.

The State funds the maintenance of the roadways within their system. When the Town takes over maintenance responsibility from the State, the maintenance costs will pass on to the Town as the road is transferred in essence from the State system to the Town's system. As the Town accepts the maintenance responsibility for the roads they will become eligible for Powell Bill Funding from the State. The Town relies heavily on Powell Bill Funding to help support street and right-of-way maintenance.

Police Services

- ❖ Provide officers, essential equipment, and vehicles for 24-hour service in order to effectively answer all calls for service, initiate investigations, and assist the public.

- ❖ Carrboro is currently divided into three patrol areas. The Department anticipates realigning the patrol areas and adding a 4th Patrol District;
- ❖ Two additional patrol officers will be needed to serve the 2 annexation areas.

UPDATE: Police

Just prior to annexation the Police Department evaluated the need for realignment of the patrol areas with input from the Patrol supervisors and by reviewing call data in all areas, including information regarding calls for service in the annexed area (obtained from the Orange County Sheriff's Department). After considering the officers' input and the data/information, the department concluded that adding the annexed area to Area 2 was the best plan and that a fourth patrol area was not needed. Area 2 has always been mostly residential and has generated the fewest calls for service. Patrol Supervisors said that they could provide efficient and effective police service to the annexed area without realigning other patrol areas in Town. At that time, we agreed with the Patrol Supervisors, added the annexed area to Area 2, and monitored police service and response in all areas. To date, the plan has worked and department doesn't see a need to realign areas even though this may have been "anticipated" earlier. Since annexation, the Police department has actually increased the size of their patrol platoons from 5 to 6 officers. The Department accomplished this thru reorganization, reassignment and the addition of an officer during the annexation process. The extra officer per platoon is one factor that made it unnecessary to realign patrol areas.

Fire-Rescue Services

- ❖ A fire substation is proposed for the northern part of Carrboro to accommodate anticipated growth and to improve fire coverage.
- ❖ Six additional fire hydrants may be needed to meet a 1000 foot separation standard once OWASA waterlines are extended throughout Annexation Area "B" with estimated current cost of \$3,500 each.

UPDATE: Fire-Rescue

The Town began its search for architectural services to design a fire substation in May of 2006, awarded a contract to Stewart, Cooper and Newell architectural firm on October 12, 2006 and signed a 99 year lease with UNC for a 1.68 acre site off Homestead Road for the new fire substation in December of 2006.

On October 13, 2007 Mr. Ken Newell, presented an update to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen on the site plan, elevations and internal floor plan for Fire Station #2. In response, the Board authorized the town staff to proceed with the next step in accordance with the architect's contract seeking a land use permit and construction plan approval. Plans needed for these approvals are nearing completion.

A budget amendment was adopted on March 18, 2008 recognizing the FY07-08 portion of a multi-year grant that will be awarded from the FEMA's National Preparedness Directorate for the Fire-Rescue Department to hire three new fire-fighters in preparation of opening Fire Station #2. In recognizing the grant revenue (\$21,507), the Board of Aldermen added three fire fighting positions to the pay plan effective May 8, 2008 bring the total substation fire-fighter positions added over the last two fiscal years to nine. A total of 15 or six additional fire fighter positions will be needed to make the substation fully operational in FY 2010-2011.

The Town still proposes to have fire hydrants installed approximately 1,000 feet apart in areas served by OWASA water lines, if necessary, either at the Town's expense in a previously developed area or at the expense of a private developer at the time of development. Since OWASA provides both water and sewer utilities, the town must wait for OWASA to extend water service before fire hydrants can be installed.

Public Transportation Services

- ❖ Carrboro Contracts with Chapel Hill Transit for the provision of public transit as part of the annual budget process. Potentially, transit services could be extended to the Rogers Road area if a decision is made to appropriate available funds and to alter existing services in keeping with demand.

UPDATE: Transit

Shared Ride service continues to be made available under a three year grant which is going into year two and EZ- Rider service is available. Options for providing fixed route services still depend on service demand and funding availability with cost sharing negotiated through the Transit Partner's Committee. Chapel Hill Transit has received approval for a grant from the MPO that will extend the current High School (HS) fixed route service to Rogers Road for a trial one year period. Hopefully this route will become operational during the fall of 2009. The HS route currently operates during the peak hours, (7am to 9am and 4pm to 6pm). With the grant funding, the proposed route will have mid-day service as well.

Water and Sewer Service-OWASA

- ❖ The cost of water and sewer extensions is borne by benefiting property owners in accordance with OWASA's policies for the extension of water and sewer service to existing unserved neighborhoods.
- ❖ The Town of Carrboro plans to provide for the extension of approximately 900 linear feet of outfall line to a point where sewer service will be generally available to Annexation Area "B".

UPDATE: Sewer Line

The construction of approximately 900 feet of sewer line has been completed by the town which will be available for connection and extension to the Fox Meadow Subdivision by the upstream property currently owned by MBI Development LLC. The property owner of the 31.5 acres north of the sewer line extension, MBI Development LLC., submitted a CUP application on 6/11/2007 for a 39 lot architecturally integrated subdivision referred to as Colleton Crossing. The first review of plans, distributed in June 2007, is complete and comments have been returned to the applicant. Revised plans have not yet been submitted.

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE UPDATE REPORT ON
NE ANNEXATION AREA TOWN SERVICES
Resolution No.183/2007-08

WHEREAS, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen received a report from the New Horizons Task Force on June 19, 2007; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen in response to a request from the Task Force for a update report on issues identified in the report be made to the Board in June of 2008; and

WHEREAS, the Town Staff has prepared a NE Annexation Area Town Services Update Report for the Board's review and consideration.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Aldermen accepts this report.