

# BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. B(2)

## AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT MEETING DATE: September 9, 2008

**TITLE: Review of 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan Alternatives**

<b>DEPARTMENT: Planning</b>	<b>PUBLIC HEARING</b> YES ____ NO <u>X</u>
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b> A. Resolution B. 2035 LRTP Alternatives Analysis report <a href="http://www.dchcmo.org">www.dchcmo.org</a> C. Advisory Board comments D. Guide to reviewing the report	<b>FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:</b> Adena Messinger – 918-7329

### PURPOSE

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization is preparing the 2035 Long range Transportation Plan. A first step in the development of the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan is an evaluation of several “transportation system alternatives” that include a set of highway, transit, and other transportation improvements *and* a land use scenario. A report of the alternatives analysis is provided to the Board of Aldermen for comments.

### INFORMATION

Approximately every five years the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization updates its Long Range Transportation Plan. The 2035 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is the guide for major transportation investments in the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC-MPO) area. The DCHC-MPO area covers the entire Durham County and the urbanized portions of Orange and Chatham Counties. The 2035 LRTP recommends major transportation projects, policies and strategies designed to maintain existing transportation systems and serve the region's future travel needs. The 2035 LRTP is also designed to support land use and air quality goals for the urban area, and must be prepared in accordance with Federal transportation and environmental requirements. Projects must be in the 2035LRTP in order to receive state and federal transportation funding through the North Carolina Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

The DCHC MPO has developed and evaluated several Alternatives in the process to create the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan. Each Alternative is a combination of a Transportation System, which includes a set of highway, transit and other transportation improvements, and a Land Use Scenario that distributes the forecasted population and employment for the year 2035. These Alternatives were run in the Triangle Regional Model (TRM) to produce a set of transportation performance measures that describe how the transportation system will handle the travel demand generated by a particular population and employment distribution in the year 2035. These performance measures, such as the level of roadway congestion, average travel time, and transit ridership, are used to evaluate and compare the various Alternatives. The Alternatives Analysis Report, provided as attachment B, includes the results from the model runs as well other information about the proposed networks for the 2035 LRTP.

The Planning Board and Transportation Advisory Board comments on the 2035 LRTP Alternatives are provided in Attachment C. Attachment D is provided as a means to guide the Board's review of the report.

Following the public comment period on the alternatives analysis, MPO staff will be preparing a "preferred alternative" that will serve as the 2035 LRTP. This "preferred option" will again be presented to the Planning Board, Transportation Advisory Board, and Board of Aldermen for review and comment during the months of October and November.

#### **STAFF AND FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with reviewing the 2035 LRTP Alternative; however, implementing the 2035 LRTP will have fiscal impacts that will be determined as funding is sought for the projects that are included in the plan.

Staff will be reviewing the 2035 LRTP and working with the MPO throughout the process.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Board of Aldermen accept the presentation on the LRTP Alternatives and provide comments to the MPO.