

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. D(2)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT MEETING DATE: December 2, 2008

TITLE: Review of 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan “Transportation Options”

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| DEPARTMENT: Planning | PUBLIC HEARING YES ____ NO <u>X</u> |
| ATTACHMENTS: A. Resolution B. 2035 LRTP Alternatives Analysis Options Report (www.dchcmpo.org) C. Advisory Board comments D. Board of Aldermen and Advisory Board comments on the <i>Alternatives Analysis</i> | FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Adena Messinger – 918-7329 |

PURPOSE

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization is soliciting feedback on the *2035 Long Range Transportation Plan: Transportation Options*. This is the next step towards developing the final 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan. Staff from the MPO will be presenting the *Options* report for your comments.

INFORMATION

Approximately every four to 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 2035 LRTP in order to receive state and federal transportation funding through the North Carolina Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Comments from the Planning Board, Transportation Advisory Board, and Environmental Advisory Board are provided in Attachment C.

Attachment D includes the comments made by the Board of Aldermen, Planning Board and Transportation Advisory Board regarding the Long Range Transportation Plan Alternatives Analysis in September.

What are the LRTP Transportation Options?

The transportation options are the draft 2035 LRTP. It shows the highway, transit, bicycle and other transportation projects that are to be included in the Plan, and the costs and revenues associated with the proposed set of projects.

Four options have been developed based on public, elected officials and staff comments received while reviewing the many transportation Alternatives in August and September of 2008. The proposed highway, bicycle, and other transportation projects are the same in each option; however, the bus and rail transit are different. The four transit options include:

- Bus Transit -- Emphasizes bus transit, but does not include any rail transit projects;
- Commuter Rail -- Includes commuter rail service;
- Rail Transit -- Includes light rail transit (i.e., electric rail cars) and rail transit
- Light Rail Transit -- All rail transit service uses electric rail cars.

The MPO staff and policy board (Transportation Advisory Committee – TAC) will review the transportation options and consider public comments to develop the final 2035 LRTP.

Components of the Transportation Options to Review

Advisory Board members may review as much of plan as desired. The list below directs your attention to several sections that may be of specific interest.

- List of Highway Projects, pages 3-5 through 3-8. The Carrboro specific projects are: 17, 33, 36, 51, 96, 97)
- The 4 transit options, Section 4 (refer to the website for color maps: www.dchcmpo.org)
- List of Bicycle Projects, pages 5-14 through 5-15 have the Carrboro projects (these projects were taken from the draft bicycle transportation plan)
- List of highway projects not included in the plan, last 3 pages of the document. Carrboro specific project: 18
- Financial plan; Section 2

Summary of the 2035 Plan preparation and adoption:

- A report on the alternative analysis is prepared and released for comment (advisory boards and elected officials are asked to provide comments to the MPO).
- A preferred option is developed, based on public comment and staff reviews.
- The preferred option is released for public comment (advisory boards and elected officials are asked to provide comments to the MPO).
- The MPO's Transportation Advisory Committee is asked to adopt the 2035 LRTP.

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.