

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. D(4)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: November 22, 2011

TITLE: Update on the Triangle Regional Transit Program

DEPARTMENT: Planning	PUBLIC HEARING: YES ___ NO ___ X ___
ATTACHMENTS: A. Resolution B. Detailed Definition of Alternatives – Executive Summary C. Map of recommended UNC station location	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Patrick McDonough, Triangle Transit – 485-7455 Jeff Brubaker – 918-7329

PURPOSE

The Board of Aldermen is asked to receive an update on the Triangle Regional Transit Program, including the Durham-Orange Corridor Alternatives Analysis and associated regional transit planning efforts.

INFORMATION

Triangle Transit has completed the Durham-Orange Corridor Detailed Definition of Alternatives Technical Report, which evaluates the costs and benefits of various regional transit improvements between Orange and Durham Counties. These improvements include light rail transit (LRT) and bus rapid transit (BRT). Also included in the evaluation were transportation system management (TSM) and the No-Build alternative. The report is part of an Alternatives Analysis process that is necessary to apply for transit funding from the Federal Transit Administration's New Starts program. The report recommends that light rail transit be advanced as the LPA.

The report is available at: <http://www.ourtransitfuture.com/>. A DVD with the full report is also available for browsing in the Planning Department.

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization's Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) will be considering approval of a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) at its February 8 meeting. This will follow a public hearing scheduled for the TAC's January 11 meeting. This agenda item is an opportunity for the Board to provide comments that will be included in the TAC's consideration of an LPA.

Although the proposed corridor does not extend west into Carrboro, several implications of the Alternatives Analysis are relevant for Carrboro:

- If LRT is selected, the station location on UNC's campus will affect the feasibility of a future extension into Carrboro. The recommended station location, A3, is off of Hibbard Drive south of Mason Farm Road (Attachment C). The Board heard some of the implications of UNC station location at its November 9, 2010, meeting (see links below), including a presentation of a white paper completed by Triangle Transit, available as an

appendix of the Transitional Analysis linked here:
<http://www.ourtransitfuture.com/index.php/newsroom/project-materials/>

- The LPA selection affects the cost of the regional transit system, which in turn affects the financial implications of the Bus and Rail Investment Plan in Orange County. A report on this plan was provided to the Board of Aldermen on May 24, 2011. It is linked here: http://townofcarrboro.org/BoA/Agendas/2011/05_24_2011.htm.
- The investment in a fixed guideway transit corridor may increase mobility for Carrboro residents, especially those without motor vehicles available to them, even if it means having to take a feeder bus, bike, or walking to get there.

Background

A presentation was made to the Board of Aldermen on regional transportation efforts, including the Triangle Regional Transit Program, on November 9, 2010. For more information from that meeting see:

- Agenda: http://townofcarrboro.org/BoA/Agendas/2010/11_09_2010.htm (Item A3)
- Minutes: http://townofcarrboro.org/BoA/Minutes/2010/11_09_2010.pdf

FISCAL AND STAFF IMPACT

No fiscal or staff impacts accrue from receiving the report.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend that the Board of Aldermen adopt the resolution receiving the report and providing additional comments on the Alternatives Analysis (Attachment A).