

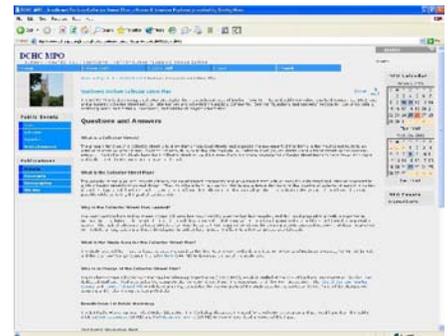
## Chapter 2 – Public Engagement

A critical component of a successful collector street plan is engaging members of the public who live, work, and travel within the study area. These are the people who understand the transportation system as well as the shortcomings of the existing network. Beyond the intimate knowledge obtained from the public, it is ultimately these people who will live and work with the proposed future network. Therefore, they have a vested interest and responsibility to encourage their idea of the vision and function of their community for the future.

With this interest in mind, public engagement began early and continuously throughout the planning process. A project website ([www.dchcmo.org/](http://www.dchcmo.org/)) was maintained to inform the public of plan progress and upcoming events. Three public workshops were held and public input was obtained, summarized, and used as a guide in the development of the collector street proposal. A complete record of written public input can be found in the Appendix.

In addition to the general public outreach, a Technical Steering Committee was formed with local staff to represent the City and Town needs and interests. This committee met on a regular basis and was involved extensively throughout the process. The committee contributed technical knowledge, institutional understanding, and community familiarity. The Committee was heavily relied upon when developing the network and policy issues.

This public involvement process was developed to gain valuable knowledge and input from the community as well as build awareness and support for the collector street plan. It is hoped that the *Southwest Durham County and Southeast Chapel Hill Collector Street Plan* will be supported and promoted by the public.





## Public Workshop #1

The first public workshop was held on Tuesday, October 11, 2005 as a drop-in session from 5pm to 8pm at Resurrection Methodist Church, located within the study area. Addresses inside of and adjacent to the study area were mailed a postcard invitation to this workshop and the MPO

website provided an invite as well. Thirty-seven citizens attended and participated in the workshop activities. A PowerPoint presentation was presented and discussed at the beginning of the workshop and then played continuously throughout the evening. A complete record of workshop materials and public responses can be found in the Appendix.

Participants were asked to submit their responses to several questions, including "What is your vision for the study area in 20 years? What things are important to you?" A summary of all responses are included in the Appendix. Some of the responses included:

*My 20 year vision would include "High density housing, large green belts between developed areas – bike and ped[istrian] paths everywhere. No more cookie-cutter subdivisions!"*

*"Protect ponds and open space. Maintain wildlife corridors."*

*My 20 year vision would include "Varied housing types, including some low-density development (with more rural character); more pedestrian-friendly areas."*

*My 20 year vision would include a "Well-planned, dense transit village."*

### DO YOU LIVE OR WORK NEAR SW DURHAM OR SE CHAPEL HILL?

If you do, you will want to attend the upcoming **public workshop** to offer your ideas and comments about developing a **Collector Street Plan** in this area.

- We need you — bring your ideas!
- Drop by any time between **5pm-8pm**
  - Meet one-on-one with staff

Tuesday, October 11, 2005  
Resurrection United Methodist Church  
4705 Old Chapel Hill Road  
Durham, NC 27707

Sponsored by [www.dchcmpla.org](http://www.dchcmpla.org)

To continue to receive future Collector Street Plan Study information, send your name, street address, and/or e-mail address to:

e-mail: [andrew.henry@durhamnc.gov](mailto:andrew.henry@durhamnc.gov)

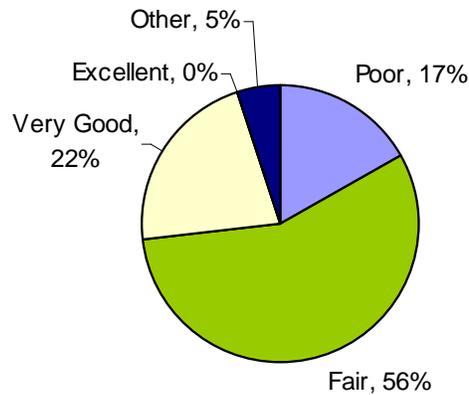
-or-

Telephone: Andy Henry, (919) 560-4366

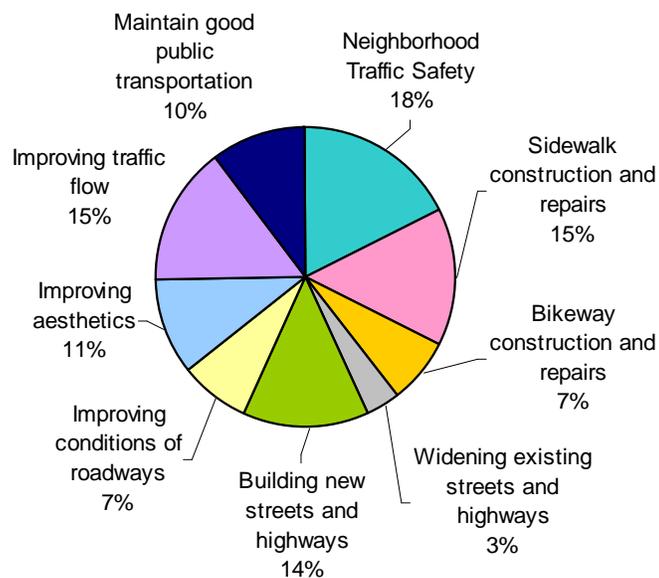
Public Workshop #1 – Direct Mail Postcard

Participants also were presented with a survey that asked for their input on the condition of the current transportation network. Some of the questions and responses asked at the first public survey included:

- Overall, how would you rate your experience traveling in the SW Durham/SE Chapel Hill area?



- If you had \$100 to spend on transportation improvements, how would you spend it? *You can spend it all on one thing or spread it around.*





In addition to answering surveys and questionnaires, the public attendees were asked to review maps of the study area and give comments and concerns about existing and future problems and solutions. An extensive set of maps were available that clearly showed the location of existing homes, neighborhoods, stores, churches, wetlands, and other key items. The participants were encouraged to draw future collector street networks that they would like to see. These maps were then used to develop draft network alternatives.



*Public Workshop #1 – Workmap Exercise*



## Public Workshop #2

The second public workshop was held on Tuesday, January 10, 2006, as another drop-in session from 5pm to 8pm at Resurrection Methodist Church. Prior to this public workshop, draft alternative

collector street networks, that were developed based on response from the first public workshop and engineering principles, were sent out to study area residents. More than 140 attendees were present at the second workshop. A PowerPoint presentation was presented and discussed at the beginning of the workshop and was played continuously throughout the remainder of the evening. During the presentation, several questions and concerns were brought up and discussed. A complete record of workshop materials and public responses can be found in the Appendix.

Surveys and maps of the Draft Network Alternatives were distributed and the public was asked for their input on the alternatives. Some of the comments that were received are shown below.

### In reference to Alternative "A":

*"This plan seems to be the most sensible."*

*"Good connection to transit stop and Hwy 54.  
Good alignment of SW Durham Drive"*

#### SW DURHAM-SE CHAPEL HILL COLLECTOR STREET PLAN Public Workshop Invitation

At the first public workshop we gathered input from the public to help us draft collector street alternatives.

- Come view the alternatives and give us your feedback.
  - Drop by any time between **5pm-8pm**
- If you missed the first public workshop, it's not too late to get involved.

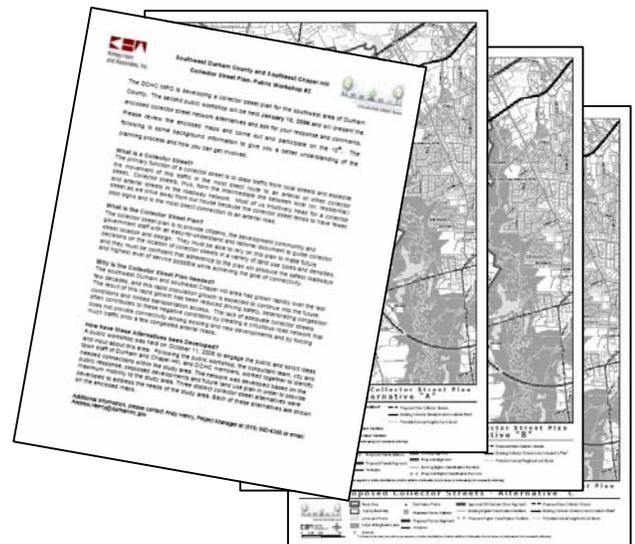
**Tuesday, January 10, 2006**  
Resurrection United Methodist Church  
4705 Old Chapel Hill Road  
Durham, NC 27707

#### For more information and maps of the alternatives:

- SGo to the Web site: [www.dchcmpo.org](http://www.dchcmpo.org)
- Send an e-mail: [andrew.henry@durhamnc.gov](mailto:andrew.henry@durhamnc.gov)
- Telephone Andy Henry: (919) 560-4366

Sponsored by [www.dchcmpo.org](http://www.dchcmpo.org)

Public Workshop #2 – Direct Mail Postcard



Public Workshop #2 – Direct Mail Maps with CSP Proposed Alternatives

*"Dislike the direct connection of Lancaster to Highway 54."*

*"The present proposal will destroy the character of the Oaks neighborhood."*

**In reference to Alternative "B":**

*"Seems to distribute traffic more evenly. Don't make Lancaster the main road for Pinehurst residents heading to I-40 east."*

*"Good alignment of SW Durham Drive since it uses an existing road."*

*"Randall/Beaumont cannot support increased traffic."*

*"Do not turn Celeste Circle into a collector street."*

**In reference to Alternative "C":**

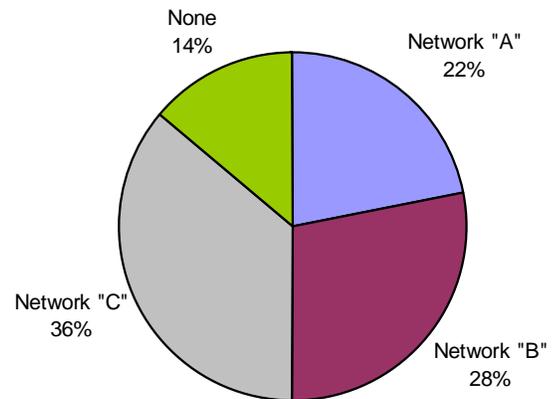
*"Want Alternative C so less traffic. Buses are ruining the road, and kids are playing there, which isn't safe."*

*"Better direct connection from BCBS area and Meadowmont commercial area."*

*"Alterations need to be made to the existing streets so that they are more pedestrian and bike friendly."*

*"Do not put a median at Farrington Road. There would be no logical way to get back on 54 going east."*

Overall, the public participants responded in favor of Network Alternative "C" by 36%.



## Public Workshop #3

The third public workshop was held on Tuesday, March 21, 2006, as another drop-in session from 5pm to 8pm at Resurrection Methodist Church. Prior to this public workshop, the recommended collector street network was developed based on public input from the previous workshops and engineering principles. Information about the plan and the recommended collector street network map were sent out to study area residents.

More than 150 attendees were present at the third workshop. A PowerPoint presentation was presented and discussed at the beginning of the workshop and was played continuously throughout the remainder of the evening.

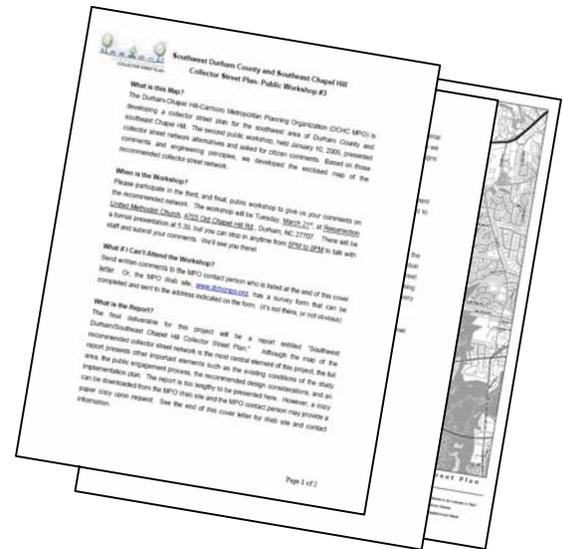
There was much public concern and comment pertaining to the Southwest Durham alignment and Highway 54 intersections within the study area. The public expressed concern and stated the following would cause them to actively oppose the adoption of this plan:

*“SW Durham Drive unnecessarily connects into Meadowmont Lane.”*

*“The SW Durham drive needs to be realigned before any further discussion on collector streets continues.”*

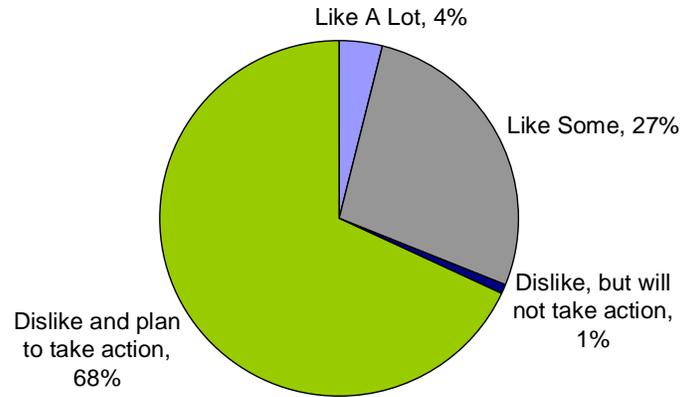
*“The lack of study on Hwy 54...it really does not make sense to study potential development without looking at the whole picture.”*

While these issues are important, it is out of the scope of this project to address these larger issues. Many citizens mentioned that they could not support the plan until these issues were addressed.



Public Workshop #3 – Direct Mail Maps with Recommended Collector Street Network

Seventy-eight (78) participants responded to a survey distributed at the public workshop. Of those participants, 68% stated that they disliked the plan and intended to take action. One (1) percent said they disliked the plan, but would not take action. Twenty-seven (27) percent of the participants said they somewhat liked the plan and 4% said they liked the plan a lot.



Based on the feedback from the third public workshop, minor changes were made to the recommended collector street plan. However, due to the lack of support of the recommended collector street plan and the relating outstanding issues, it is recommended that the Southwest Durham Drive alignment, Highway 54 intersections, and potential interchange at I-40 be studied further, before adoption is sought.

A complete record of workshop materials and public responses can be found in the Appendix.