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TO:
CC:
FROM: Valerie Foushee, Chair
DATE: March 24, 2009
SUBJECT: Chatham/Orange Joint Planning Task Force
COPIES: Laura Blackmon, County Manager
Donna Baker, Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners
Craig Benedict, AICP, Planning & Inspections Director

On February 3, 2009 the Board of County Commissioners approved the formation of the Chatham/Orange Joint Planning Task Force. This task force is a product of discussion over the last few years between our regional local governments and during two Assembly of Governments meetings in 2008. Staff enveloped the discussion of these meetings into a proposed task force summary. Consistent with our Assembly of Governments discussion, please note that we have accented the importance of "Regional Transportation" issues in the preamble to the Task Force. The proposed committee charge, as well as, some identified issues and tasks are enclosed with this letter. The proposed committee membership and support staff is noted on the second page of the enclosure.

The purpose of this letter is to transmit this information to the local governments for your review, approval and appointments. Any comments concerning the task force assignments can be collected by staff of the various governments and discussed at the first meeting. We will also be forwarding this information to UNC, OWASA and other regional agencies so they will keep informed and participate as needed, as we move forward.

Please forward your appointments to Donna Baker, Clerk to the Orange County Board of Commissioners. We will choreograph the schedule of our first meeting.

If there are questions about some of the topics, please feel free to call Craig Benedict, AICP, Orange County Planning & Inspections Director, at 919-245-2585. Mr. Benedict will schedule an informal meeting with support staff prior to the Task Force initial meeting to discuss the agenda organization and preparation. This is also to ensure that the workload is shared and understood.

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As a related side note, Orange County is proceeding with its involvement in the Jordan Lake Partnership with a few stipulations (one being the need to discuss with non-signatories to the agreement, i.e. Chapel Hill and Carrboro). It is the intent of the Board of County Commissioners to ensure that the joint planning efforts of this new task force are considered as one of the mechanisms for a regional growth management framework. The water supply and allocation discussions of the Jordan Lake Partnership would be coordinated with a mechanism that could include all affected parties.

On behalf of the Orange County Board of Commissioners, we thank you in advance for your willingness to participate in this regional planning partnership.

Please call if you have questions.

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Chatham/Orange Joint Planning Task Force

Proposed Committee Charge:

“The Chatham/Orange Joint Planning Work Group will first address ‘Regional Transportation Issues.’ After significant progress has been made on that issue, the group will prioritize the issues to be discussed next, drawing on the list referenced under ‘Planning Issues.’ Part of the Work Group’s charge is to communicate regularly with their respective governing boards concerning the group’s discussion and priorities.”

A. Planning Issues

- 1) To review and assess current regional and individual jurisdictions’ planning efforts in northern Chatham County and southern Orange County; including topics such as;
 - Land Use Plans
 - Zoning Regulation
 - Joint Parks/Open Space/Environmental Acquisition
 - Land Use GIS analysis
 - Demographics
 - Interlocal Joint Planning Agreements
 - Watershed Rules
 - To review and assess current watershed protection efforts in northern Chatham County and southern Orange County for both individual and regional watersheds, including, but not limited to, watershed zoning overlays, stream buffers, impervious requirements, stormwater controls, and land uses.
- 2) Discuss and strategize on possible opportunities and structure for participating jurisdictions to jointly develop and pursue regional planning initiatives;
- 3) Provide a report to all the participating jurisdictions’ governing boards by late Fall, 2009 on the regional and individual jurisdictions’ planning efforts and possible opportunities and structure for participating jurisdictions to jointly develop and pursue regional planning initiatives through a joint and/or regional approach.

B. Regional Transportation Issues

- 1) To review and assess current regional and individual jurisdictions’ transportation planning and public transportation efforts in northern Chatham County and southern Orange County; including the integration of OPT, Chapel Hill Area Transit, and regional MPO and RPO agencies;
- 2) Discuss and strategize on possible opportunities and structure for participating jurisdictions to jointly develop and pursue regional transportation planning initiatives;
- 3) Discuss and strategize on possible opportunities and structure for participating jurisdictions to jointly develop and pursue regional public transportation planning initiatives; and

- 4) Provide a report to all the participating jurisdictions' governing boards by late Spring 2009 on the regional and individual jurisdictions' transportation planning and public transportation efforts and possible opportunities and structure for participating jurisdictions to jointly develop and pursue regional public transportation and public transportation initiatives through joint and/or regional approaches.

Proposed Committee Membership

<u>Chatham/Orange Joint Planning Task Force</u>	<u>Member Name</u>
Chatham County Elected Official	
Chatham County Elected Official	
Orange County Elected Official	
Orange County Elected Official	
Town of Pittsboro Elected Official	
Town of Pittsboro Elected Official	
Town of Chapel Hill Elected Official	
Town of Chapel Hill Elected Official	
Town of Carrboro Elected Official	
Town of Carrboro Elected Official	
Town of Hillsborough Elected Official	
Town of Hillsborough Elected Official	
UNC (issue participant)	
OWASA (issue participant)	
Triangle Transit (issue participant)	

Task Force Staff: Orange County Planning (Administrative Lead)
 Orange County Environment and Resource Conservation
 Orange County Parks & Recreation
 Chatham County Planning and Public Works
 Orange Public Transportation
 University of North Carolina
 OWASA
 Triangle Transit
 Town of Chapel Hill
 Town of Carrboro
 Town of Hillsborough
 Town of Pittsboro