

## **MEMORANDUM**

TO: Roger L. Stancil, Town Manager

FROM: Lance Norris, Public Works Director  
J.B. Culpepper, Planning Director  
Steve Spade, Transit Director  
David Bonk, Long Range and Transportation Planning Manager  
Mary Jane Nirdlinger, Special Projects Coordinator  
Kumar Neppalli, Engineering Services Manager

SUBJECT: Report on Transportation Impact Analysis Related to the Carolina North Development

DATE: February 8, 2010

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to provide the Council with the updated Transportation Impact Analysis (TIA) report related to the Carolina North Development. The Town staff and the Consultant will present the TIA at tonight's meeting.

No action is required by the Council.

### **BACKGROUND**

The TIA report discusses changes in transportation issues associated with the Carolina North Development, mitigation measures and recommendations, including existing and proposed traffic calming measures in adjacent neighborhoods.

The Town's Consultant completed an initial TIA report in June 2009 for the Carolina North Development. As part of the Development Agreement, an updated TIA was completed in Fall 2009 by the consultant. Fall 2009 TIA serves as an update of the original TIA and is based on new traffic, transit, pedestrian and bicycle data collected in September and October of 2009. This study update also has a modified horizon year for the analysis of the second phase of development from the year 2025 to 2030. It also includes additional focus on the multi-modal impacts of the development in the immediate vicinity of the project. It is important to note that this update is not an expansion of the scope or study area for the TIA, but is limited to a validation and update of the analysis based on the new existing transportation data collected.

### **DISCUSSION**

The estimated cost of the Fall TIA is approximately \$195,000. The University provided these funds. Consistent with the current Town TIA policy, the cost includes the consulting fee for the preparation of the TIA and the Town staff time spent on the project.

The draft final report was presented at a public information meeting held on December 10, 2009. Approximately 15 citizens attended the meeting and provided input. The final report was completed and submitted on December 31, 2009. An Executive Summary of the TIA is provided in Attachment 1, and the detailed report is available on the Town website at: <http://www.townofchapelhill.org/index.aspx?page=900>.

Town staff reviewed the report and agrees that the report in general is prepared in accordance with the approved guidelines. Key points of the Fall 2009 TIA:

- A general comparison of the turning movement count data between the Fall 2009 counts and those counts used in the Spring 2009 TIA revealed that the Fall 2009 counts are in the range of approximately 5 – 10 percent lower at almost every intersection.
- Average daily traffic volumes decrease by just over 8 percent in total between the Spring 2009 TIA and the Fall 2009 counts.
- Transit data comparison revealed that ridership had increased overall by 4 percent, mainly due to significant increases in the J, NS, and RU routes.
- Due to some capacity improvements made in the Summer 2009 to the NS Route and changes in ridership data used for the Fall 2009 TIA, some minor changes in the potential mitigation measures occurred between the spring and fall studies. It should be noted that the potential transit mitigation measures identified in the TIA document will be reviewed as part of the development of the Chapel Hill Transit Short Range Transit Plan and incorporated into the analysis of future service needs.
- In general, most mitigation measures/roadway improvements at the critical intersections are the same, although restriping or geometric improvements are no longer needed at some major intersections along the US 15/501 corridor, as identified in the Spring 2009 study. This is due to the decrease in traffic volumes observed with the Fall 2009 traffic counts, versus the data used in the Spring 2009 TIA.

We have provided a copy of the annual report along with this Council memorandum to several interested citizens. This information is also available for citizen review on the Town's website.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Executive Summary of Fall 2009 TIA for the Carolina North Development (begin new page 1).