

**PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT STAFF REPORT
ON MEASURES TO IMPROVE PEDESTRIAN ACCESS AND CIRCULATION
ON AND IN THE VICINITY OF THE TOWN HALL/FIRE STATION PROPERTY
JUNE 30, 2004**

Town Engineering Department staff performed a field study of the Town Hall/Fire Station area, including the surrounding street and sidewalk networks, to identify opportunities for improving pedestrian access, circulation, and safety. The following information lists and provides a brief description of potential improvement projects for further consideration.

Improvement ideas #1 through #4 are listed as “CURRENT PROJECT” and, as such, have been or will be accomplished by Town staff without further direction from the Council. Improvement ideas #5 through #14 are listed as “FUTURE PROJECT” and further action on these ideas will not be undertaken until the Council so directs.

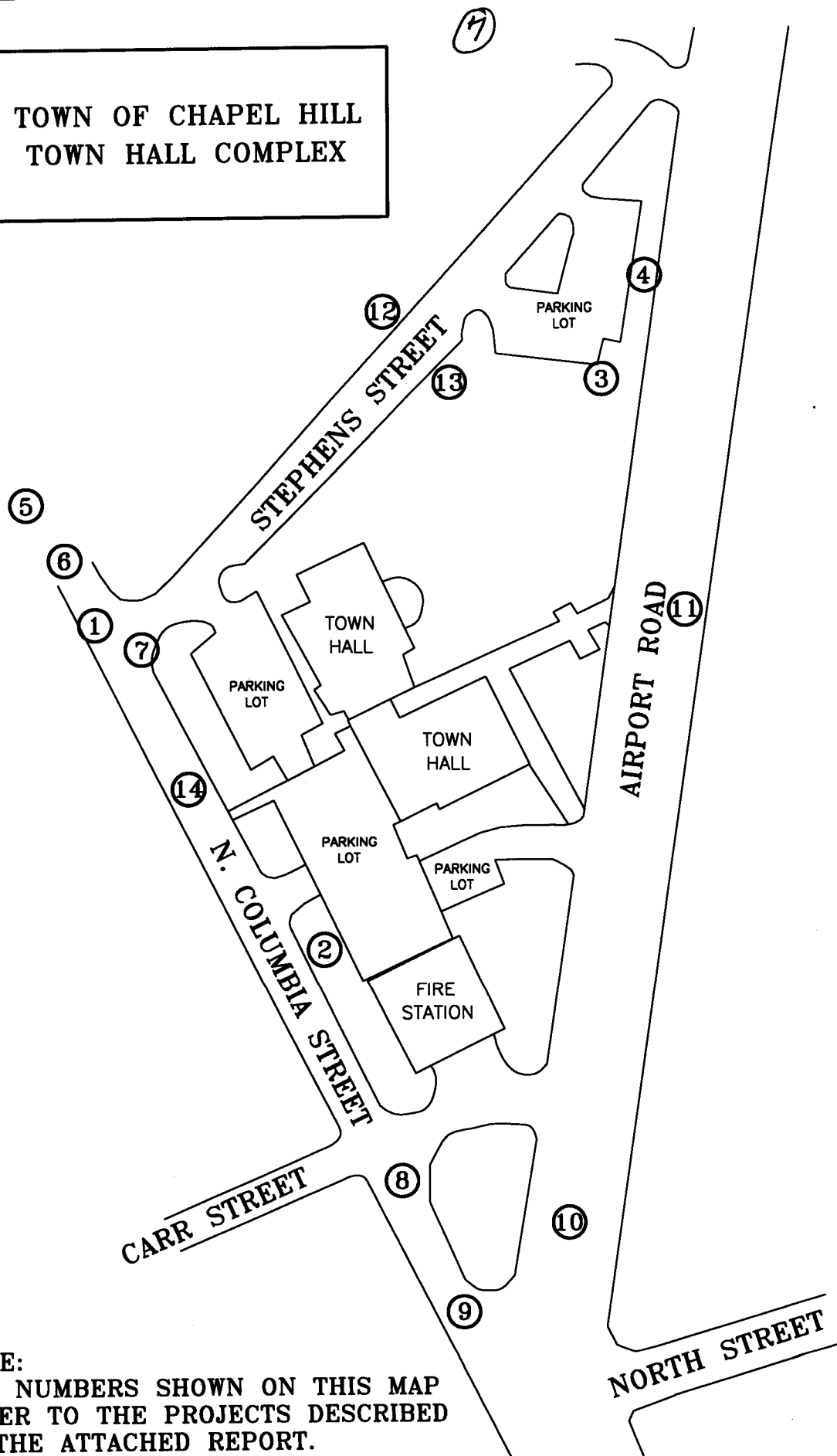
1. **CURRENT PROJECT** – Clear sight lines north and south from Stephens Street at its intersection with North Columbia Street.
ACTION - Public Works Department will clear vegetation as necessary to provide adequate sight lines for pedestrians and drivers passing through this intersection.
2. **CURRENT PROJECT** – Repair/replace cracked and displaced sections of sidewalk at various locations on and around the Town Hall/Fire Station property.
ACTION – Public Works Department will inspect and repair all sidewalks and walkways as necessary.
3. **CURRENT PROJECT** – Install additional signs and lighting and perform maintenance on gravel walkway leading from the Stephens Street parking lot to Town Hall.
ACTION – Public Works Department will maintain the walkway and install improved signs and lighting.
4. **CURRENT PROJECT** – Trim back hedge along Airport Road, adjacent to the Stephens Street parking lot, so that it does not encroach on the existing Airport Road sidewalk.
ACTION – Public Works Department will trim hedge.
5. **FUTURE PROJECT** – Install flashing yellow warning light and “Slow – Intersection Ahead” signs at the crest of the hill on North Columbia Street north of the Stephens Street intersection.
ACTION – Engineering design and cost estimate.
6. **FUTURE PROJECT** – Make North Columbia Street one-way southbound between Noble Street and Airport Road.
ACTION – Survey affected residents, change ordinance, install signs.
7. **FUTURE PROJECT** – Install stop signs on North Columbia Street at Stephens Street to create “all-stop” condition at the intersection.
ACTION – Survey affected residents, change ordinance, install signs.

8. FUTURE PROJECT – Construct combination speed table/cross walk across North Columbia Street south of the Carr Street intersection.
ACTION – Engineering design and cost estimate.
9. FUTURE PROJECT – Re-align North Columbia Street at its intersection with Airport Road to create a perpendicular “ T” intersection and replace existing yield sign with stop sign on North Columbia Street.
ACTION – Engineering design and cost estimate. NCDOT approval required.
10. FUTURE PROJECT – Construct pedestrian bridge across Airport Road between the south end of the Town Hall/Fire Station property and a location north of the North Street intersection with Airport Road.
ACTION – Engineering design and cost estimate. NCDOT approval required.
11. FUTURE PROJECT – Construct raised pedestrian refuge median in the center turn lane of Airport Road adjacent to the Airport Road entrance to Town Hall.
ACTION – Engineering design and cost estimate. NCDOT approval required.
12. FUTURE PROJECT – Construct curb, gutter and sidewalk along the north side of Stephens Street.
ACTION – Engineering design and cost estimate.
13. FUTURE PROJECT – Improve street and parking lot lighting.
ACTION – Lighting design and cost estimate.
14. FUTURE PROJECT – Construct speed table on North Columbia Street south of the Stephens Street intersection.
ACTION – Engineering design and cost estimate.

These improvement ideas respond both directly and indirectly to pedestrian access and circulation issues. Several of the ideas involve slowing traffic and making drivers aware of the pedestrian environment, thereby indirectly improving pedestrian safety conditions. Other ideas involve construction or modification of facilities that would directly improve pedestrian access and mobility. The projects can be considered individually, or in groups, to achieve different objectives.

ATTACHMENT - Sketch Map

TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL
TOWN HALL COMPLEX



NOTE:
THE NUMBERS SHOWN ON THIS MAP
REFER TO THE PROJECTS DESCRIBED
IN THE ATTACHED REPORT.