

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATIONMICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNORLYNDO TIPPETT
SECRETARY

February 12, 2003

MEMORANDUM (via e-mail)

To: George N. Small, P.E., Director
Town of Chapel Hill Engineering Department
Attn: Kumar Neppalli

From: James H. Dunlop, P.E.
Congestion Management Engineer

Subject: U-4008 – US 15-501 at Erwin Road and Europa Drive Intersection Improvements

This memorandum is in response to questions from Town staff regarding some details about the analyses performed for the above-mentioned project. The questions and responses follow:

1. Traffic volumes and new developments.

The traffic forecasts for future years included likely development, based on the current zoning and land use patterns. For this project, the future volumes included developments such as the Marriott hotel on Erwin Road. While a development may spike the traffic volumes a little earlier than a straight-line growth pattern would indicate, a specific development that fits the current land use projections will not adversely affect the predicted future life of the project.

2. Weaver Dairy Road Extension

The traffic volume projections for U-4008 included in its network the proposed Weaver Dairy Road extension to Sage Road. If the extension is not constructed as planned, it will have some effect on trip distribution at US 15-501-Erwin-Europa, however it is not expected to have a major impact on capacity. The most likely scenario is that more traffic will be routed down Erwin Road to this intersection, rather than down Sage to US 15-501. The percentage of traffic that will make this change is not expected to significantly alter the level of service at this intersection.

If there are other questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 919-250-4151.

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