

TO: The Town Council – February 12, 2003

FROM: Loren Hintz – Chair, Transportation Board

Thank you for this opportunity to share with you information and needs related to transportation in Chapel Hill.

The Transportation Board meets twice a month and has 9 members. Members also serve on other committees. Both David Bonk, town planner, and Marylou Kuschatka, CHT director, have been very helpful to the board. They have educated us, forwarded our concerns and have tried to act on our suggestions.

The Council has directed the Transportation Board to examine all aspects of transportation including mass transit, nonvehicular modes (walking, bicycling), traffic, parking and regional programs. We also help review development projects and special items referred to us by Council. Besides our spring transit forum we set aside a petitions section of our meeting where local citizens and our members can make suggestions and observations that can improve transportation in our area. We have sent to Council over the years various petitions and requests related to interconnection of neighborhoods, intersections, sidewalks, bikeways and transit.

What follows is a list of topics related to Chapel Hill budget and action Council may need to take in the future:

(We will elaborate on these as needed at the Council meeting on Wednesday. As always we are aware of the limits of the budget to do everything that we and other boards may request.)

1. Transportation Services Facility

We will need a new facility and planning has begun.

2. Downtown transfer Station

With increased use of buses, some sort of downtown transfer facility may be useful. This might also tie in to future TTA routes.

3. Increased staffing of Transportation Department

Our increased service requires some contracting out of jobs and paying of overtime. Doing work in house is cheaper. Specifically we need more mechanics, service and interior detail workers, and drivers.

4. Increased staffing of Planning

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Trying to keep a handle on transportation issues is very time consuming. More permanent staff would be helpful. For example the traffic management plan that businesses and institutions have submitted to the town would be more effective if there was more staff time to analyze and report on it.

5. Increased funding of sidewalks, bike paths, bike lanes, bus shelters, bus information signs, bicycle route maps, crosswalks, pedestrian walk signals and maintenance of signs and nonvehicular and transit facilities.

5. Increased bus and paratransit service to the general town community.

We continue to receive requests for bus service for areas which are not yet served and for extended evening, holiday, and weekend service. Running Saturday service on some town holidays and increased Sunday service would be very helpful to folks who depend on the bus as their only means of transportation.

7. Examine means other than property taxes to pay for some services and facilities related to transportation.