



Planning Board Agenda Abstract

Monday, July 15, 2024

Location: 134 N. Main Street, Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526

Agenda Item

2040 Comprehensive Transportation Plan Update - Town of Fuquay-Varina - CTA-2024-04

Item Explanation

The purpose of this agenda item is to consider a proposed text amendment to the 2035 Community Transportation Plan that addresses several areas for improvement.

Staff Comments

The 2035 Community Transportation Plan (CTP), adopted in 2017, is the current policy document for the future of transportation planning and implementation in Fuquay-Varina. It is meant to establish the long-term vision for transportation and motorists, bicyclists, pedestrians, transit, and freight in Fuquay-Varina over a 15-year planning horizon. The Plan articulated the community's designed transportation vision and provided incremental steps to achieve that vision.

Seven years after its implementation, Town leaders and staff have experienced great success and are prepared to update this document to carry the Town into the future. The 2040 Comprehensive Transportation Plan is the revisited and updated Plan to assist community leaders and staff in making transportation decisions.

In addition to guiding future transportation decisions, this update improves the Town's chances of being awarded regional, state, federal, and private funding for transportation improvements. Funding is highly competitive, as Fuquay-Varina must compete against other municipal and state projects. The 2035 Community Transportation Plan set the vision that guided staff on securing approximately \$80 million over ten years. The 2040 Comprehensive Transportation Plan builds on that vision, learning from the lessons of the past and implementing new and improved best practices and innovations. The CTP

is a living document meant to be revisited and amended as necessary as the community grows. The 2035 CTP is now proposed to be updated based on the extension amount of growth the Town of Fuquay-Varina has experienced since the 2017 approval.

The updated 2040 Comprehensive Transportation Plan proposed in this amendment builds upon the current Plan's vision, guiding principles, and recommendations and provides more focus and clarity regarding the community's expectations for the future of transportation in the Town's jurisdiction.

Key Plan Updates:

- Arterial greenways reevaluated: To bolster the Town's greenway network, staff proposes realigning some greenways already in the CTP to connect pedestrians and destinations better. No greenways are proposed to be removed within this plan update.

- The Town's suite of road cross-sections has been overhauled. More simplified and more user-friendly cross-sections are proposed in their place. The new cross-sections, in conjunction with upcoming updates to the Town's Standard Specifications and Construction Details, offer developers greater flexibility in their design. Creativity in design is greatly desired, and these updates will provide the flexibility needed to deliver superior products. Additionally, the form-based roads included in Appendix B of the Land Development Ordinance (LDO) have been incorporated into this new set of cross-sections. There will no longer be two (2) sets of cross-sections for different project types within the Town.

- Updates to The Land Development Ordinance (LDO) & the Town's Standard Specifications & Construction Details: This CTP update necessitates updates to both the LDO and the Town's Spec Book. These updates will ensure greater coordination between all three (3) documents and greater ease of use by staff and the public. Updates to both the LDO and Spec Book will be presented at a later date.

- Realigning future rights-of-way to minimize disproportional impacts: Staff evaluated future rights-of-way designated by the Plan to ensure that the disproportional impacts to property owners are minimized. In locations deemed potentially disproportionate, rights-of-way were realigned, provided a suitable alternative existed.

- Funded NCDOT projects incorporated: Since the 2035 CTP, several long-range transportation projects by NCDOT have progressed to stages where it is now appropriate to incorporate them into Town plans. Both project U-5751 (NC 55 Hwy Extension) and the Hwy 401 Bypass project have been included in the updated CTP and planned

accordingly. Additionally, several intersection improvements planned by NCDOT have been incorporated herein.

- General updates to the CTP map to include constructed rights-of-way and other improvements: Since the 2017 adoption, the Town, NCDOT, and development partners have constructed hundreds of miles of roads, sidewalks, sidepaths, and greenways. The 2040 CTP reflects all these newly constructed transportation improvements and builds upon this success.

- The 2040 CTP recommits to traffic congestion relief: Projects like Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) & Transportation Demand Management (TDM) are proposed in the 2040 CTP to enhance efforts to mitigate traffic congestion, which continues to rank high on citizens' reported priority lists. These projects, in addition to implemented practices like street connectivity and the expansion of secondary streets, reinforce the Town's goal of reducing congestion for its citizens and motorists passing through Fuquay-Varina.

Town of Fuquay-Varina Traffic Calming Policy:

In conjunction with the 2040 CTP update, staff is presenting the Town of Fuquay-Varina Traffic Calming Policy. This policy is proposed in response to citizens' increased need for a route to implement traffic calming procedures in neighborhoods throughout the Town. The policy outlines traffic calming best practices and the official process for addressing and correcting traffic concerns like speeding through residential areas.

Public Comment & Engagement:

The 2040 CTP update involved an extensive public engagement campaign throughout the yearlong project. Early in the process, staff and the consultant determined that both general and specific public feedback was desired and formulated a multi-part approach for collecting feedback. A steering committee of transportation and development industry professionals, stakeholders from various citizen groups and local businesses, and general public outreach through in-person events and online surveys. The steering committee convened four times, offering their professional expertise to staff and consultants throughout different phases of the project.

Staff and the consultant conducted four groups of interviews with identified stakeholders, including representatives from civic groups, the Town's industrial businesses, homeowners' associations, and local developers. These interviews focused on the stakeholders' experiences with local transportation and their interests in the future of transportation in Town as representatives of their respective groups.

Staff and the consultant also engaged the general public in two (2) phases of engagement. Both phases featured a pop-up event, the first at Celebrate Fuquay-Varina and the second at the Chamber of Commerce's Grower's Market. Additionally, a public open house was held for each phase, the first to gather feedback on the vision of the Plan and as an educational opportunity and the second to obtain feedback on the draft plan. The Let's Talk FV project website hosted two surveys to receive feedback on various project stages. These surveys and public events were advertised on Town social media and in the monthly water bill mailer, as appropriate.

The draft plan was finally made public on June 21, initiating a 30-day period for comments. These comments will be incorporated, as appropriate, within the final version of the 2040 CTP that will be presented to the Town Board.

Participation in this project was among the highest the staff has witnessed in recent years. Navigating public engagement in the post-COVID era is a continuously evolving and challenging endeavor, and the staff would like to express their sincere thanks to all the participants who contributed to its success.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of the proposed 2040 Comprehensive Community Transportation Plan town code amendment and adoption of the Fuquay-Varina Traffic Calming Policy,. It is reasonable and, in the public's, best interest, as it improves the Town's ability to provide comprehensive transportation planning and implementation.

Fiscal Note

No

Recommendation:

PUBLIC HEARING

MOTION TO: Recommend approval of CTA-2024-04, an update to the 2035 Community Transportation Plan (renamed the 2040 Comprehensive Transportation Plan) and adoption of the Fuquay-Varina Traffic Calming Policy, as presented and recommended by staff, as it is reasonable and in the best interest of the public for the reasons identified by staff.

ATTACHMENTS

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