



## DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Planning Division

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Bruce K. Walden, Chief Administrative Officer

**FROM:** Elizabeth H. Tyler, AICP, Director

**DATE:** October 7, 2004

**SUBJECT:** Draft Long Range Transportation Plan 2025

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#### Introduction

A binder copy of the Draft Long Range Transportation Plan 2025, as prepared by the staff of the Champaign-Urbana Urbanized Area Transportation Study (CUUATS), a program of the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission (RPC) was placed on your Council desks on Monday, October 4, 2004. This plan is completed pursuant to the requirements of the Federal Highway Administration. The purpose of the LRTP is to detail how the local area transportation system should evolve over the next 20 years. The proposed LRTP would replace and update the document entitled "C-U in 2030", prepared by CUUATS in 1999. It has been prepared in conformance with content and procedural standards established by FHWA and with the technical assistance of the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

#### Background

CUUATS staff completed the draft plan over a 27-month time period of data collection, analysis, mapping and writing. Development of the plan was guided by a multi-agency steering committee representing Urbana, Champaign, Savoy, University of Illinois, Regional Planning Commission, CU Mass Transit District, County Highway Department, and Illinois Department of Transportation. It was further guided by the policy and technical committees of CUUATS. For the City of Urbana, Bill Gray and I serve as steering and technical committee representatives and Mayor Tod Satterthwaite serves on the CUUATS policy committee.

The LRTP development process involved extensive public participation efforts, including a travel survey, open houses, focus group meetings, and presentations to community groups. The Draft Plan is currently in a 30-day review period, extending from September 20<sup>th</sup> through October 19<sup>th</sup>. The Plan must be finalized, adopted by CUUATS, and submitted to IDOT by the end of the calendar year in order to meet state and federal road funding requirements.

## **Discussion**

Key elements of the LRTP include the identification of a planning area boundary, design and implementation of the public involvement process, description of existing conditions, modeling of future traffic projections, identification of goals and objectives, identification of transportation projects, and development of an implementation strategy.

Urbana representatives will be particularly interested in the road classification map and description of existing traffic volumes and generators (Figure II-4, IV-5, IV-7), Section 6 which describes the goals and objectives of the plan, the narrative of current and future perspectives contained in Sections 7 and 8, and Figure IX-1, which depicts the Preferred Alternative for future improvements. Figure IX-1 depicts two areas that are under further study in the Urbana area: a portion of the Route 130 Corridor Study (north of I-74), and an area of Curtis Road around the South Farms relocation where the City, County, and Township are working to establish a letter agreement with the University of Illinois regarding the design and use of the roadway. Expected transportation improvement projects for Urbana are listed in Table X-3. This list is consistent with the programming of CUUATS for shared funds and with the City's Capital Improvement Plan. It should be noted that projects proposed in the Champaign County Greenways and Trails Plan are incorporated into the LRTP and are listed under the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) Table shown in Table X-3. The Plan also incorporates discussion of the MTD's efforts to evaluate a high capacity transit system in portions of the University of Illinois campus and as a possible link between campus and the downtowns of Urbana and Champaign.

As development of the LRTP has evolved simultaneously with Urbana's Comprehensive Plan Update effort, we have been able to use the two planning processes to inform each other. For example, the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee's discussion of goals and policies have included review of those set forth in the LRTP. The future traffic projections modeled by the LRTP have also made use of the draft future land use maps prepared by the Urbana Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee.

## **Staff Recommendation**

Staff recommends that City Council review the draft LRTP and offer any comments for submittal during the review period (i.e., between September 20<sup>th</sup> and October 19<sup>th</sup>). Review of the plan will also be conducted by the Plan Commission at their regular meeting on October 7, 2004. A presentation by CUUATS staff to the Urbana City Council Committee of the Whole is scheduled for October 11, 2004. Additional information and supporting documents are available at the CUUATS link at the website for the Regional Planning Commission at [www.ccrpc.org](http://www.ccrpc.org). This also links to an electronic version of the Draft LRTP.

The CUUATS Technical Committee is scheduled to approve the Final LRTP on November 10, 2004, and the CUUATS Policy Committee will take final action on approving the Final LRTP on November 17, 2004. Once the LRTP is finalized, staff will arrange to provide copies to those City Councilmembers who are interested in having a Final version. CD-ROMs are also available.