



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Planning Division

m e m o r a n d u m

TO: Bruce Walden, Chief Administrative Officer

FROM: Elizabeth H. Tyler, AICP, Director

DATE: April 12, 2007

SUBJECT: A Resolution to adopt the Illinois Route 130/High Cross Road Corridor Plan

Introduction & Background

In 2003, the City of Urbana received an Illinois Tomorrow Grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation to prepare a Corridor Plan for the Route 130 Corridor. The primary goal of the study is to promote logical development that considers interconnectivity of land uses and transportation networks for the City of Urbana, its rural surroundings, and the urbanized area.

The Corridor Plan was prepared by staff of the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) under the direction of the City of Urbana (lead agency) and other participating agencies, including Champaign County, Somer Township, Urbana Township, and the University of Illinois. The Corridor Plan was timed to accommodate completion of the City's 2005 Comprehensive Plan. Over the three years of its preparation, the Corridor Plan employed an extensive public involvement process resulting in the Preferred Scenario for transportation improvements in the study area.

The Illinois Route 130/High Cross Road Corridor Final Plan has now been completed. The State of Illinois as the grant provider has requested that the sponsoring agencies endorse or adopt the plan.

The Corridor Plan is a lengthy document, and includes several hundred pages documenting the public involvement process and the transportation modeling effort. Plan Commissioners and Councilmembers have been provided with a digital version of the Plan in CD format. Paper copies of the plan can be provided at City Council request. Copies of the Plan may also be downloaded from:

<http://www.ccrpc.org/planning/transportation/130>

or purchased directly from the Regional Planning Commission at 328-3313 according to their website instructions. Additional background material on the Plan and on the public involvement process is also available at the website noted above.

At their April 5, 2007 meeting the Plan Commission unanimously approved a motion to forward the Route 130 Plan to the City Council with a recommendation for acceptance, with a note added under Section 5.3, Strategies for Implementing Plan Ideas, that if and when the City of Urbana considers formal adoption of the Access Management Guidelines that the City exclude references to maps included in the guidelines, because those maps are currently outdated.

Discussion

The IL 130/High Cross Road Corridor study area is comprised of an eight-mile segment of that roadway, extending from Ford Harris Road on the north to Old Church Road on the south. The Plan focuses on both transportation and land use issues throughout this diverse corridor.

Goals for the study area included the following:

- Improve mobility
- Improve safety
- Improve accessibility
- Preserve the environment
- Serve residential communities
- Serve planned regional commercial centers

The preferred alternative includes 17 specific recommendations, including improving roadways, widening existing roadways, constructing bicycle and pedestrian paths, installing and modernizing traffic signals, and planning for the urban design of anticipated development. Figure 2-1 of the Corridor Plan (attached to this memo) illustrates the Preferred Alternative Transportation Projects resulting from the traffic modeling and public involvement process. This exhibit shows proposed roadway improvements without additional lanes for Route 130 north of Interstate 74 and additional lanes for Route 130 south of Interstate 74. Bicycle and pedestrian improvements are shown as a network of paths feeding into and along Route 130 south of the Interstate. Bridge improvement projects are also shown at two locations north of the Interstate.

Some of the significant aspects of the Preferred Alternative are:

- Use of an extensive public input process in formulating and ranking improvements
- Recognition of the differing land use goals for the Route 130 corridor north and south of the Interstate.
- Enhancement of mobility for all forms of travel – not only for automobiles.
- Strongly reflects the goals and future land uses shown in the 2005 Comprehensive Plan. No changes to the Comprehensive Plan's future land uses are being recommended.

For more detailed information on the background of the Plan, please refer to the introductory chapters of the draft document and to the information posted on the website.

CCRPC has employed an open process seeking extensive public input from stakeholders and the general public alike. Stakeholder participants have included corridor users, conservation advocates, private property owners, development and business interests, and various governments, including the Illinois Department of Transportation, the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District, and the City of Urbana (Plan Commissioners, City Council members, and City staff). The following summarizes the Plan's extensive public input process.

March 2004: Kick-Off Open House

This meeting was a chance for the public to meet staff and learn about the existing transportation and land use conditions in the study area. Attendance: 60 participants.

September 2004: Question and Answer Session

The public was invited to ask questions of public agencies (i.e. City of Urbana, CU-MTD, CCRPC, etc.) regarding the intent and scope of the corridor study. Attendance: 135 participants.

Year 2005: On Hold

Work on the Plan was placed on hold to take advantage of the impending completion of the 2005 Urbana Comprehensive Plan.

February 2006: Public Workshop

Using a "strings and ribbons" interactive activity, participants indicated which potential projects they desired to see completed in the corridor. Attendance: 64 participants.

April 2006: Business and Developer Focus Group

Using the same format as the February workshop, business owners and developers in the corridor identified preferred projects. Attendance: 15 participants.

June 2006: Public Workshop

Participants voted on a preferred scenario out of four possibilities derived from public workshops. Attendance: 52 participants.

October 2006: Public Workshop

Public workshop to present the preferred alternative, and further input was solicited by having participants identify design preferences for the corridor. Attendance: 68 participants.

December 2006: Public Open House

The draft Plan was available for viewing at the Urbana Free Library, with staff available to answer questions. Attendance: 44 participants.

January 2007: Public Review Period

The draft Plan was available for review and comment at the CCRPC offices. Staff reviewed the Plan with the Plan Commission and City Council to obtain additional input on behalf of the City.

Based on comments on the final draft received during the public review period, including comments provided by the City, minor changes have already been incorporated in the Plan. A summary of these changes is attached as Exhibit B.

Action Requested

The Plan Commission has recommended that the City Council adopt the attached Illinois Route 130/High Cross Road Corridor Plan, with a note added under Section 5.3, Strategies for Implementing Plan Ideas, that if and when the City considers formal adoption of the CUAATS Access Management Guidelines that the City exclude references to maps included in the guidelines. Staff recommends adoption of the resolution and plan.

It should be noted that the 2005 Comprehensive Plan explicitly recognizes that some formally adopted plans are not official amendments to the Comprehensive Plan. Adoption of the Route 130 Plan would make it part of a “system of plans” designed to guide future decision making but would not amend the Comprehensive Plan.

Prepared by:

Robert Myers, AICP, Planning Manager

Attachments:

Exhibit A: Resolution to adopt the Illinois Route 130/High Cross Road Corridor Plan

Exhibit C: IL 130/High Cross Road Corridor Plan FINAL (CD previously sent)

Exhibit B: Summary of Changes to the Final IL 130/High Cross Road Corridor Plan

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-04-010R

A Resolution Authorizing Adoption of the Illinois Route 130/High Cross Road Corridor Plan (Plan Case No. 2041-PR-07)

WHEREAS, in 2003 the State of Illinois awarded the City of Urbana an Illinois Tomorrow Corridor Planning Grant to study land use and transportation issues along Urbana's east side; and

WHEREAS, the City has engaged in a long term study of the Illinois Route 130/High Cross Road corridor in concert with the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission, Champaign County Highway Department, Urbana Township, and Somer Township; and

WHEREAS, in addition to mobility, accessibility, safety, environmental and land use development analyses, the plan included a substantial and exemplary public involvement process; and

WHEREAS, these collective efforts resulted in the creation of a document entitled "Illinois Route 130/High Cross Road Corridor Plan"; and

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois has requested that the plan participants endorse or approve said plan; and

WHEREAS, the City has determined it in the best interest of its citizens to adopt the plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS, as follows:

Section 1. The City of Urbana hereby adopts the Illinois Route 130/High Cross Road Corridor Plan.

Section 2. By such adoption, it is the intention of the City Council that in future decision making the City will consider the Illinois Route 130/High Cross Road Corridor Plan, but that the plan will not be a formal amendment to the 2005 Comprehensive Plan.

Section 4. This Resolution is hereby passed by the affirmative vote of the members of the corporate authorities then holding office, the "ayes" and "nays" being called at a regular meeting of said Council.

PASSED by the City Council this ____ day of _____, 2007.

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSTAINED:

Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk

APPROVED by the Mayor this _____ day of _____, 2007.

Laurel Lunt Prussing, Mayor

Summary of changes to final IL130 Corridor Plan

~~Strikethrough~~ = text that has already been removed from the final draft

Underline = text that has already been added to the final draft

Bold = text that the Plan Commission recommended adding to the final draft

Page 2-3, under 2.5.1 Land Use Objectives, 3rd objective

Reduce visual and access confusion by developing site development standards that encourage the use of common driveways (access management), common ~~rear~~ parking areas, and uniform lighting and sign plans.

Page 2-4, under 2.5.1 Bicycles/Pedestrians Objectives, 1st objective

Improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety by providing and maintaining safe sidewalks, shoulders, bicycle lanes, multiuse paths and pedestrian protection at intersections.

Pages 3-17, 3-18 under Safety: Crashes

Added 2003-2005 crash data to table 3-10; changed map to reflect additional data

Page 3-27, under section 3.14.2.1 Intersections

Changed statistics to reflect additional years of crash data (2000-2005 instead of 2000-2002)

Page 5-4, in the Implementation Matrix

In the IL130 roadway improvement with additional lanes project, added more description: "IL130/High Cross between University and either Windsor, Curtis, Old Church, or farther as warranted, 4 or 5 lane as warranted with a landscaped median"

Page 5-11, under section 5.3: Strategies for Implementing Plan Ideas

Added the following paragraph as an action strategy regarding access management:

Managing Access

Access management controls how many accesses should be accommodated on principal roadways. Controlling access is an important strategy in improving safety and mobility in a corridor. CUUATS has created and approved Access Management Guidelines for the Champaign-Urbana-Savoy urbanized area. The City of Urbana can review, update, and consider formal adoption of these recommendations in the interest of community safety. **Errata: If and when the City of Urbana considers formal adoption of the Access Management Guidelines, references to map data included in the guidelines shall be excluded from the update.**

Appendix 6

Added in all public involvement efforts since December open house

Appendix 7

Added page numbers, added all public comments received to date

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING

URBANA PLAN COMMISSION

DRAFT

DATE: April 5, 2007

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

PLACE: Urbana City Building
400 South Vine Street
Urbana, IL 61801

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tyler Fitch, Ben Grosser, Lew Hopkins, Michael Pollock, Bernadine Stake, Marilyn Upah-Bant, James Ward, Don White

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Jane Burris

STAFF PRESENT: Elizabeth Tyler, Director of Community Development Services; Robert Myers, Planning Manager; Teri Andel, Planning Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT: Fidaa Araj, George and Nancy Boyd, Susan Chavarria, T. Cotcas, Matt Dixon, Chris Enck, Steve Feriburg, Jennifer Feucht, Angela Fike, Jackie Holke, Bjorg Holte, Zach Kennedy, Sang Lee, Joseph Levre, Danielle Quivey, Norma Ray, Dennis Roberts, Tim Scovic, Emily Smith, Brent Solinsky, Kevin Stewart, Christopher Stohr, Susan Taylor, Joel VanEssen, Latonya Webb, Mary Wood, Roger Woodbury

NEW BUSINESS

Plan Case No. 2041-PR-07: Route 130 Corridor Plan Policy Recommendation

Robert Myers, Planning Manager, presented the staff report for the proposed policy recommendation of the Route 130 Corridor Plan. He began with a brief history of the proposed plan. He distributed a sheet indicating minor wording changes the consultants made to the plan since it was last reviewed by the Plan Commission. Additionally, City staff recommended one additional sentence to address an apparent inconsistency dealing with the Access Management Guidelines for the corridor.

Elizabeth Tyler, Director of Community Development Services Department, further explained that there was a paragraph added to include Mr. Hopkins suggestion to reference the Access Management Guidelines that were created in 2001 by CUUATS (Champaign Urbana Urbanized

Area Transportation Study) and to consider updating these guidelines and adopting them. She stated that there was a problem in referencing this older document because it contains a map that conflicts with the proposed Route 130 Corridor Plan, particularly at the intersection of High Cross Road and the interstate.

One approach would be to adopt the wording change provided as an errata which would call for any update to the Access Management Guidelines to include revisions to maps and text to make them consistent with the 2007 High Cross Road Corridor Plan. Updated maps would logically not include the trumpet interstate interchange because that is no longer a given in the City's plans. A second approach offered by CUUATS staff is to resolve the problem simply by updating the map in the Access Management Guidelines. If CUUATS would use the current Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) map, which shows the right configuration of the roadways, in the 2001 Access Management Guidelines, it would resolve the inconsistency between the two documents. This approach is much preferred by CUUATS. It would also be easier than putting errata in all the copies of the Route 130 Corridor Plan that have been distributed. City staff did not know which approach to take so they asked the Plan Commission to make a provision in their motion to rectify this discrepancy.

Mr. Hopkins understood the purpose of the proposed recommendation is to accept the Route 130 Corridor Plan, but the City has not actually reviewed or formally recommended to the City Council adoption of the Access Management Guidelines. Ms. Tyler agreed. Mr. Hopkins went on to say that the concern about the errata is that there be no confusion about what the Plan Commission might suggest City Council look at for formal adoption. Ms. Tyler said that is exactly right.

Chair Pollock asked if there were any members of the audience who would like to address the Plan Commission concerning the proposed case. With no comments or questions from the audience, Chair Pollock closed the case for Plan Commission discussion.

Ms. Stake moved that the Plan Commission accept the Route 130 Corridor Plan including the "Summary of Changes to the Final IL130 Corridor Plan", including the proposed errata. Mr. Ward seconded the motion.

Ms. Tyler pointed out that the alternative to the motion is to just fix the map, and then we would not need the errata. Ms. Stake said she likes the errata. She feels that the Route 130 Corridor Study is an excellent study, so the City should endorse it. She was concerned about the map in the Access Management Guidelines, because it is old and inaccurate. She feels that the proposed motion will resolve that problem.

Mr. Grosser inquired why not just recommend approval with a stipulation that CUUATS update the map rather than making them reprint the plan to include the summary of changes. Ms. Tyler mentioned that all of the changes have already been added, and CUUATS has already printed out the copies of the plan, which are expensive. Paper copies for the meeting cost \$100.00 per copy to print. So, the erratum is the only change that has not already been included in the document so far. City staff feels that by changing the plan to put in the current map, it would hopefully avoid this confusion.

Chair Pollock questioned if the motion would be less onerous in terms of reprinting the document and taking up more of staff's time. Or is there an alternative that would better address what the City wants to do? Ms. Tyler believed that the City still had time to figure out the most efficient clear way to correct the problem. The current motion ties the City to the errata and not other alternatives. She felt it would be better to have some flexibility in how we address the problem.

Ms. Stake asked if City staff wrote the staff report. Ms. Tyler said yes. She explained that there were comments after City staff had produced the staff report suggesting that there might be a simpler way to take care of the problem. Chair Pollock inquired as to what the best way to solve the problem is in terms of protecting the interests of the City of Urbana and making it less onerous as possible on CUUATS staff and their time. Ms. Tyler suggested that Susan Chavarria speak for CUUATS.

Susan Chavarria, Transportation Planner for CUUATS, expressed the County's concern with having the errata statement concerning updating the Access Management Guidelines, which is that this could open the door for any small area plan to affect the technical work that was done for the broader Access Management Guidelines. They want policy to drive plans and not have plans driving policy. So, they preferred to internally handle this by staff removing the map that caused the contention and replacing it with the most updated and approved version that is in the LRTP.

Mr. Hopkins understood that all of the changes, except the errata, on the handout titled "Summary of changes to final IL 130 Corridor Plan" have already been made in the current version of the plan. He suggested that since the City is not actually adopting or changing anyone else's adoption of the Access Management Guidelines at this time, a way to resolve this would be to put on record that when the City reviews, updates and considers formal adoption of the Access Management Guidelines, the City would take particular concern about the maps included in the document and whether they are up-to-date. Chair Pollock mentioned that CUUATS plans to replace the maps anyway. Mr. Hopkins remarked that the City of Urbana could follow his suggestion anyway. It has nothing to do with CUUATS. This recommendation is for something for the City of Urbana to do.

Ms. Chavarria clarified that the Access Management Guidelines were created for any of the CUUATS member agencies to take and manipulate and change however they want. CUUATS does not want it tied to one specific area plan, so it does not compromise the integrity of the document.

Chair Pollock asked Mr. Hopkins if he felt the current motion did what he had suggested. Mr. Hopkins replied no, because it requests that the errata statement be added to the Route 130 Corridor Plan. Ms. Stake withdrew the motion. Mr. Ward agreed to the withdrawal of her motion.

Mr. Hopkins moved that the Plan Commission forward the Route 130 Corridor Plan to the City Council with a recommendation for acceptance and include a note under Section 5.3: Strategies

for Implementing Plan Ideas that says when and if the City of Urbana considers formal adoption of the Access Management Guidelines that we exclude references to map data included in the guidelines, because the current maps are out-of-date. Mr. Grosser seconded the motion.

Roll call on the motion was as follows:

Tyler Fitch	-	Yes	Mr. Grosser	-	Yes
Mr. Hopkins	-	Yes	Mr. Pollock	-	Yes
Ms. Stake	-	Yes	Mr. Ward	-	Yes
Mr. White	-	Yes			

The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Ms. Tyler thanked Ms. Chavarria and Rita Black for all their hard work on the Route 130 Corridor Plan. It is a terrific document, and we should all be proud of it.