



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Planning Division

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bruce K. Walden, Chief Administrative Officer

FROM: Elizabeth H. Tyler, AICP, Director

DATE: February 24, 2005

SUBJECT: Endorsement of Long Range Transportation Plan 2025

Introduction

A final version of the 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), has recently been published (see brochure) and is available through the RPC.

This plan was 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 LRTP replaces and updates 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 the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and with the technical assistance of the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

Background

CUUATS staff completed the draft plan over a 30-month time period of data collection, analysis, mapping and writing (late 2002 through 2004). 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, the County Highway Department, and IDOT. 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. A Draft Plan was reviewed during a period extending from September 20th through October 19th 2004. The City Council

reviewed the Draft Plan during this time frame and recommended wording changes that were then incorporated into the Final Plan (summarized at the bottom of page IX-6 of the Plan). The Plan was finalized, adopted by CUUATS, and submitted to IDOT by the end of 2004 in order to meet state and federal road funding requirements. Printing of copies of the Final Plan and production of the summary poster have only recently been completed.

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.

Highlights of the Plan include 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 have established 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 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 formally endorse the Final LRTP through adoption of the attached resolution. Additional information and supporting documents are available at the CUUATS link at the website for the Regional Planning Commission at www.ccrpc.org. This also links to an electronic version of the LRTP. Due to the relatively high cost for hard copies of the LRTP (approximately \$80 per copy), City staff will arrange to purchase only those copies of the LRTP for Councilmembers who specifically request this format. Otherwise, free CD ROMs may be acquired or the document can be viewed online. Hard copies are also available for review in the Community Development Services Department and at Public Works.

Cc: Susan Chavarria, RPC

RESOLUTION NO. 2005-02-005R

**RESOLUTION TO ENDORSE THE CHAMPAIGN URBANA URBANIZED AREA
TRANSPORTATION STUDY LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN 2025**

WHEREAS, the City of Urbana is a member agency of the Champaign-Urbana Urbanized Area Transportation Study (CUUATS), a program of the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission; and

WHEREAS, CUUATS has prepared a Long Range Transportation Plan 2025 to guide local area transportation system planning over the next 20 years in conformance with the content and procedural standards established by the Federal Highway Administration and with the technical assistance of the Illinois Department of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the Long Range Transportation Plan 2025 shall replace the document entitled "C-U in 2030" prepared by CUUATS in 1999; and

WHEREAS, the City of Urbana participated in the drafting of the Long Range Transportation Plan 2025 with representation on multi-agency steering and technical committees and as a member of the CUUATS policy committee; and

WHEREAS, the preparation of the Long Range Transportation Plan 2025 has involved extensive public participation and outreach efforts extending over a period of 30 months; and

WHEREAS, the Long Range Transportation Plan 2025 encourages the development and utilization of a variety of modes of travel, including roads, mass transit and multi-purpose pathways; and

WHEREAS, the Long Range Transportation Plan 2025 is consistent with the goals and policies contained in the Urbana Comprehensive Plan Update;

WHEREAS, the Long Range Transportation Plan 2025 is consistent with the transportation projects anticipated as part of the City's

Capital Improvement Plan and the Champaign County Greenways and Trails Plan; and

WHEREAS, the "Long Range Transportation Plan 2025" was approved by the Policy Committee of CUUATS and by the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission Board in November of 2004; and

WHEREAS, the Urbana City Council desires to express its support for the "Long Range Transportation Plan 2025."

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the members of the City Council of the City of Urbana; do hereby endorse the "Long Range Transportation Plan 2025"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, duly adopted, shall be sent to the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission and the Champaign County Board.

PASSED by the City Council this _____ day of March, 2005

Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk

APPROVED by the Mayor this _____ day of March, 2005

Tod Satterthwaite, Mayor