

NRG Focus Group #1
EPA TTA vanpool
Carrboro residents

1. When you think or hear about Carolina North, what transportation issues most interest or concern you or your neighborhood?
 - Existing roads are getting more and more congested
 - Carolina North will cause still more congestion
 - Concerned about diminishment in quality of life, i.e. decreased mobility – it will take longer to go everywhere
 - Hazard to cyclists
 - Big increase in northern Carrboro
 - Estes and Greensboro already have big burden due to increased growth in northern part of Town

2. What are some strategies or solutions the town and university might consider to address these transportation issues?
 - Town has great bus system but it won't be enough
 - What additional infrastructure needs to be put in place?
 - Take current standards applied to central campus and apply them to Carolina North, i.e. parking limitation, park and ride, bus service - metro?
 - More park and ride lots – keep congestion away
 - Road redesign – another lane on Estes?
 - Add turn lanes at intersections

3. How would you like to see your elected Board represent these transportation issues to the university on behalf of your neighborhood?
 - Carrboro needs to have a strong voice in decisions
 - Making sure that mobility triggers are planned into Development Agreement
 - Neighborhood Associations needs to be represented
 - Board needs to solicit input
 - Make sure each neighborhood has input to Board

- All details can't be known now, therefore a mechanism for public participation needs to be put in place when plans are developed
 - People given a chance to comment when they see how the changes will affect them. When they see that a thousand more people will be at intersection at Estes and Greensboro, they will want to participate.
4. What would you hope to get out of the May 3rd public forum?
- Commitment from elected Boards to listen and to consider specific public comments
5. What is the most important thing that you want the university and elected boards to hear most clearly about Carolina North and transportation?
- A lot of planning needed; can't have business as usual
 - Mobility already affected
 - Planning for CN offers a chance to do it better- plan ahead and consider the incremental impacts of growth
 - Any comments, questions, or observations based on our discussion?
 - Look at other parts of the country for ideas

Neighborhood specific questions for impact analysis

1. Speeding along Bolin Forest Drive
Many pedestrians use this street
Bike lanes at Greensboro and Estes
2. Sidewalks – Study needed along Bolin Forest Drive
Bike lanes on old 86
3. Traffic congestion downtown Carrboro

NRG Focus Group #2

Senior Center

13 people

Various neighborhoods

1. When you think or hear about Carolina North, what transportation issues most interest or concern you or your neighborhood?

- neighborhood integrity
- on-street parking
- school walk zone; school bus routing
- new schools should be placed where safe and walkable
- possible street widening
- concerned about increased traffic volumes
- cut through traffic
- public transit would destroy natural areas
- parking lots – neighborhoods
- workers most likely won't live there - resident housing should be on campus so it is walkable
- pedestrian safety - sidewalks
 - enforcement lacking on neighborhood streets
- detailed plans needed for Homestead Rd.
- every neighborhood will see increase in traffic
- impacts of secondary development
- connectivity good – but don't impact neighborhoods
- construction traffic
- noise

Observations about these concerns: conclude that little planning on transportation issues, a lot about cars; livability is a theme

2. What are some strategies or solutions the town and university might consider to address these transportation issues?

- Make it inconvenient for cars
- Park and ride lots
- public transit- smaller electric busses for neighborhoods – not big buses
- north exit – transit only
- underpasses and overpasses for pedestrians

- traffic calming in neighborhoods
- discourage parking at CN
- get ideas from other communities
- transit only off of Homestead
- greenest solution
- public education needed to encourage transit
- public transit should be comprehensive
- P and R further out
- landfill?
- pedestrian islands
- public transit lanes
- better bus
- multi modal connectivity
- safe bike, scooter paths and parking
- construction traffic plan

3. How would you like to see the town council represent these transportation issues to the university on behalf of your neighborhood?

- Increase communications between Towns and neighborhoods
- Ask elected Boards to seek neighborhood opinion
- Want elected leaders to be accountable
- Want leaders to listen and address problems
- We want to know the why behind decisions that are made
- Want specifics
- Use feedback when can't or won't explain why
- Implement transit plans
- Collaborative dialogue
- Use this as opportunity to build community
- Ask us, listen and translate into action
- Measures, metrics and comparisons

4. What would you hope to get out of the May 3rd public forum?

- Substance
- Specifics
- Opportunity to provide input and help
- See CN as asset
- Desired outcomes: want impacts addressed in Development agreement

- CN be successful; proper implementation by both town and UNC
- Don't take shortcuts – progressive, green and transparent

5. What is the most important thing that you want the university and town council to hear most clearly about Carolina North and transportation?

- Preserve neighborhoods
- Expect a world class solution
- Worried and skeptical
- Inclusive, progressive,
- Be what you profess

Neighborhood specific concerns- Kumar questions

1. Lack of speed limit enforcement. Reduce speed limit to 18 mph
 Speeding
 On street parking gets abused by commuters
 Increased traffic on Piney Mountain Rd
 Inappropriate on street parking
 Traffic volume, cut throughs
 N forest Hills as cut through
2. Need for traffic calming more than jus one. Stop at crosswalks
 No stopping at stop signs
 Congestion and noise
 Intersection of Piney Mountain – can we make left turn
 Lack of sidewalks
 Lack of sidewalks
 Speeding in neighborhood
3. Do not make one way – Pittsboro is a nightmare.
 Better public transportation, scheduling and accessibility
 Disruption of construction traffic
 Lack of traffic enforcement
 Need for bus and public transportation
 Parking in neighborhood
 No eminent domain on residential streets

NRG Focus Group #3
Coker Hills, Coker Hills West, and Lake Forest
8 people

1. When you think or hear about Carolina North, what transportation issues most interest or concern you or your neighborhood?

- Cut through traffic
- Increased traffic on Elliot and Lakeshore
- 4 lanes of Estes a concern
- Neighborhood streets will be more congested as dangerous as major arteries fill up
- Getting through key intersections at peak times – Estes and MLK
- Exiting on MLK from apartments
- School safety issues – walkers and pickups and drop offs

2. What are some strategies or solutions the town and university might consider to address these transportation issues?

- More turn lanes at intersections
- Traffic speed bumps
- Parking requirements at CN will be key
- Need more bike lanes
- Light rail
- Survey where employees are coming from???
- Need housing on tract

3. How would you like to see the town council represent these transportation issues to the university on behalf of your neighborhood?

- Ensure that state funding supports plan
- TIA needs to be regularly updated and tied to construction permits

4. What would you hope to get out of the May 3rd public forum?

- Net no impact on neighborhoods
- Need comprehensive solution
- Transportation is the major issue
- No truck traffic

5. What is the most important thing that you want the university and town council to hear most clearly about Carolina North and transportation?

- Reduce amount and speed of traffic on MLK
- Peace and tranquility
- Mobility and air quality = quality of life

Took Kumar's survey separately

NRG Focus Group #4

Notes from the North Forest Hills Focus Group

Traffic Concerns related to Carolina North

Conducted on 4/14/09

When you think or hear about Carolina North, what transportation issues most interest or concern you or your neighborhood?

- Average volume of traffic as well as congestion (peak volume)
 - MLK traffic *currently* backs up during rush hour, sometimes as far as Umstead.
- Air pollution
- Noise pollution
- Piney Mountain will be used a cut-through to a greater extent than it already is
 - Question: Has any data been collected on current use?
- MLK-Piney Mountain intersection
 - Pedestrian/bike/scooter safety
 - *Currently* need to cross five lanes to bus stops
 - Timing of light is already long.
 - Question: Are lights on MLK timed for the speed limit?
- Plans for widening Piney Mountain
- Safety of bike/scooter transportation on MLK
- Whether the potential impacts are being underestimated
- Increase in risky drivers (ages 18-25 years—least skilled, accident prone) locally

- What percent of total expected volume will they be?
- Construction traffic
 - Large vehicles with heavy loads (leads to potholes)
 - Debris hazards
 - Duration of construction
 - Also have work crews transporting themselves to site
- Delivery trucks
- Consistency in how MLK is developed
- Need completed TIA and public information and comment sessions before Development Agreement is signed
- Perception of inadequate information having been provided to neighborhoods to date

What are some strategies or solutions the Town and the University might consider to address these transportation issues?

- Increasing bus routes in interior neighborhoods
- Speed bumps, islands or stop signs on Piney Mountain
- Other traffic calming measures
- Need for legitimate bike lanes on MLK
 - Consider separate curbed areas as in Montreal
- Question: Where will the money come from for traffic calming measures?
- Question: What are Town's current and planned traffic demand management strategies?

How would you like to see the Town Council represent these transportation issues to the University on behalf of your neighborhood?

- Draw on neighborhood input explicitly ("Here's what we have heard...")
- Need safeguards for neighborhoods in the Development Agreement
- Would like to see comparisons of actual traffic numbers versus projected numbers at pre-determined intervals
 - Intervals should be based on occupancy levels or parking spaces

- Square footage is not a useful metric
- Special event traffic plus traffic related to regular uses (such as classes) should be considered
- Also need the ability to re-visit transportation issues periodically
- Want to see traffic mitigation (e.g., transit options, road widening, park and ride lots) completed *before* occupancy
- Expect occupancy geared towards specified uses (such as research labs), if the breakdown of those uses changes, mitigation strategies should be implemented
- “Perks” of development must be balanced against costs and drawbacks
- UNC should be expected to ameliorate impacts on neighborhoods
- Provide a technical translator for review of the TIA to the surrounding neighborhoods
- Assume a strong negotiating posture
- Innovation Center sets bad transportation precedent for the development
- Include discussion of all forms of transportation (e.g., helicopters or other aviation)
 - Question: Are there plans for a helicopter pad at Carolina North?

What is the most important thing that you want the University and Town Council to hear most clearly about Carolina North and transportation?

Top three concerns (identified by multiple participants)

1. Adequate and accurate information must be provided to residents and there must be a willingness to delay the Development Agreement or permits if it is not provided
 - a. Need traffic information within the time frame that the Development Agreement is being negotiated
2. Bike and pedestrian safety are paramount (Note: All transit riders are also pedestrians.)
3. Need adequate safeguards in the Development Agreement
 - a. Flexible yet detailed

- b. Set of triggers that are reasonable
 - c. Requires monitoring over time
 - d. Need public participation in identifying these (not just input sessions or hearings)
- Want decision makers to imagine real impacts in surrounding areas (such as increased cut-throughs)
 - Need a means of collecting data to track safety and traffic over time
 - Want evidence of a thoughtful process and that time has been taken to “do it right” (i.e., adequately assess traffic impacts and include safeguards in Development Agreement)
 - Refer to concerns in petition submitted by 180 residents who live in neighborhoods off Piney Mountain
 - Be proactive not just reactive in traffic management

What would you hope to get out of the May 3 public forum?

- Elected officials present, listening to resident concerns and asking questions
- Demonstrated commitment to fair, accurate and adequate information being required as basis for Development Agreement
- Have issues raised by someone knowledgeable about transportation
 - Way to demonstrate that we are educated and we are watching
- Like the idea of a roundtable discussion with themes at each table
 - Need note takers or other method of recording the process
 - Have an elected official at each table, as listener
 - May need a facilitator at each table
 - Might be good to have transportation “translators” at each table, perhaps from the Planning Board or the Pedestrian and Bike Safety Board
 - At a minimum, have Town transportation planner floating among tables, though there is a risk that he may get pulled deeply into one discussion
- Need to identify next steps in the process, particularly related to resident review of the TIA

- Question: Are or have residents been involved in the UNC design process for Carolina North as potential “users”?

Focus Group #5 Hillsborough Street

(Group Responses/Discussion)

1. When you think or hear about Carolina North, what transportation issues most interest or concern you or your neighborhood?

What strikes you about what people said?

There is a great deal of concern about the current quantity and speed of traffic on Hillsborough Street. The nature of the street is designed for speed, and previous efforts for traffic calming measures have not been adequate and have not been fully appreciated by the town. These concerns are greatly increased when thinking about Carolina North. There is great fear that the integrity of Hillsborough Street as a neighborhood street will be destroyed: Safety of pedestrians, noise, air quality, cut through traffic, speed, safety at bus stops, traffic increase.

There is also concern that Hillsborough Street will be made one way like Pittsboro Street or that eminent domain will claim the residents property like the events that took place on Mason Farm Road.

2. What are some strategies or solutions the town and university might consider to address these transportation issues?

Without worrying about the technical details, what would a good solution look like to you?

Effective traffic calming measures....more than just speed tables, such as a traffic circle at the entrance to Grove Park and other intersections. Stops at crosswalks and at the intersections of Mill Race & North Streets and the access to the Bolin Creek walkway. Reduction of speed limit (18-20 mph) and enforcement of speed limit. Limiting access to Hillsborough Street so that cut through traffic is reduced.

3. How would you like to see the town council represent these transportation issues to the university on behalf of your neighborhood?

What role should your neighborhood play?

Preserve walkability and residential nature of Hillsborough Street as laid out in the existing Comprehensive Plan. Provide sidewalks on both sides of the street as well as a bike thoroughfare. Traffic is not to exceed current capacity. Implement measures outlined in Item 2 above with traffic circles and stops at crosswalks, etc.

4. What would you hope to get out of the May 3rd public forum?

In your view, what would make the May 3rd public forum successful?

There is hope that Hillsborough Street will be recognized as a residential street through a historic neighborhood. There are 20 children living in homes on the top half of the street with more living near the bottom. The access to the Bolin Creek walkway is used by entire families. Current traffic calming measures are very inadequate and must be addressed now and in the future with respect to Carolina North traffic. "We want to be heard and we want to know we will be protected."

5. What is the most important thing that you want the university and town council to hear most clearly about Carolina North and transportation?

Any comments, questions, or observations based on our discussion?

"Preserve our neighborhood." See items 1-4. We want our needs and the needs of other neighborhoods connected to the Development Plan. No shortcuts. Be inclusive and transparent. To build community, we need dialogue. Carolina North is an asset. Now is an opportunity to make the outcome positive and successful.

NRG Focus Group #6

Ironwoods Neighborhood

1. When you think or hear about Carolina North, what transportation issues
 - Seawell School Road
 - Concern about kids going to school
 - No sidewalks now for kids to walk
 - Runners and bikers – no sidewalk or shoulder to use
 - Truck entrance for construction – where will it be?
 - MLK already crowded
 - Estes Ext already to crowded

2. What are some strategies or solutions the town and university might consider addressing these transportation issues?
 - Park and ride
 - Encourage bus ridership
 - Limit parking spots
 - Add more buses and night busses
 - Limit trucks to day time only – do not interfere with school schedule and school busses
 - Keep construction noise down

3. How would you like to see the town council represent these transportation issues to the university on behalf of your neighborhood?
 - Ironwoods residents think the survey was a great idea.
 - More involvement through IHOA
 - Stop and take a look at the overall project. How does the traffic flow fit into the lives of the people already using these roads?
 - Keep our neighborhood safe

4. What would you hope to get out of the May 3rd public forum?

- More information from the town
 - More information from CN rep
 - Better understanding of the initial traffic flow (what will happen in the next 5 years)
5. What is the most important thing that you want the university and town council to hear most clearly about Carolina North and transportation?
- Protect the Neighborhood from cars parking on the street other than owners
 - Protect the safety of the children going and coming from school
 - Respect the neighborhoods that already exist in the area
 - Traffic lights by schools – or at least a traffic director



www.nrg-nc.net