



US 1 Council of Planning Meeting February 27, 2008  
 Room 305 Raleigh Municipal Building

<b>US 1 Council of Planning – February 27, 2008 Meeting</b>		
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**MEETING NOTES**

**Welcome and Introduction**

Mr. Eric Lamb, Chair of the US 1 Council of Planning began with a welcome to the Council of Planning participants, followed by a brief introduction.

**LaScala Development/US 1 Superstreet Concept – Wake Forest**

Mr. Troy Peoples of Stantec and Ms. Christa Greene of Green Transportation presented the LaScala Development/US 1 Superstreet Concept. They first showed an NCDOT video of the US 15-501 project between Durham and Chapel Hill (Erwin Road and Europa Drive). The concept proposed for US 1 is for a “modified” superstreet concept; which allows for left turns off of US 1 onto the main access points for the proposed LaScala Development. A rendering of this was presented at the meeting (featuring US 301 in Rocky Mount). A demonstration was given in Vissum. The speed limits on US 1 could be kept at 55 mph. Mr. Peoples explained that proposal would only serve as a superstreet during mid-term improvement (for 5 to 10 years). Ms. Greene and Mr. Peoples also presented before the Council the superstreet demonstration along US 17 near Wilmington. Bulbouts are used to accommodate trucks. Mr. Peoples noted that superstreets concept complements both

intersection and interchanges; increase capacity with minimal construction costs (60% more capacity with standard geometry). The signals used are “two-phased” signals. Ms. Peoples explained how the superstreets concept uses the most up-to-date technology to reduce delay in conjunction with good engineering principles. The proposal for US 1 would relocate one of the existing crossovers near the proposed LaScala development and install a modified superstreet by doing a complex traffic impact analysis (TIA). The TIA shows that the superstreet will mitigate expected traffic operations based on approved future developments within that section of US 1. The Council presented questions to Mr. Peoples. Following Mr. Peoples answers, Mr. Lamb stated that the Council will hold any action on this item until the next meeting.

### **Proposed E-25 Elementary School – Wake Forest Segment**

Ms. Betty Parker of the Wake County Public Schools System addressed the Council with the site plan for an elementary school site to be built within the US 1 Corridor area. The challenge the school site has deals with access, site layout and road alignment issues. The proposed school site is within the Town of Wake Forest’s planning jurisdiction. Mr. Chip Russell, planning director for the Town of Wake Forest has reviewed the site plan; as well as met with Ms. Parker and Wake County Public School staff concerning the site plan (designated as E-25). The Council and Ms. Parker have reviewed various versions of site plans. The Council, Ms. Parker, the Wake County Planning Director, and the staff of the Wake County Public School System discussed the challenges posed by the site (i.e. adjacent property development, topography, driveway access, and frontage road alignment). The Council also examined the US 1 Corridor Plan in relation to that site. As a result, the Council highlighted the major issues for the site:

- Concerned with the proximity of the access point shown in the 227 sketch (as far as the 400 foot spacing) – needs more spacing.
- Generally okay with the alignment of the frontage road in relation to the US 1 Corridor Plan

Based on additional comments, there will be sidewalk connections to the school and surrounding properties as development occurs (particularly behind the shopping center). The site plan was found to be consistent with the US 1 Corridor Plan. Following brief discussion, Mr. Chip Russell moved approval of the E-25 site plan. Mr. Pat Young seconded in motion.

Vote: Ayes (All).

The recommendation will go to the Town of Wake Forest; therefore from this point forward, all actions to approve the site plan for permitting purposes must go through the Town of Wake Forest’s planning procedures. Should any changes to the site plan require input and review by the Council of Planning, Ms. Parker will make arrangements with Mr. Withrow.

### **US 1 Corridor Plan and Access Management Issues – Franklin County**

Mr. Pat Young, planning director of Franklin County addressed the Council of Planning by explaining the context of development along the US 1 Corridor; with four significant developments at least:

1. A flurry of retail (at least four) projects being built on the east side of US 1 in southern Franklin County, potential conflicts along the alignment of the US 1 Corridor Plan.
2. The potential hospital relocation to the west side of US 1 (in the vicinity of NC 96).
3. The development of an industrial park immediately north of the US 1 Corridor Study area.
4. More detailed representations by the North Carolina High Speed Rail representatives regarding road closures, grade crossings, and potential rail line alignments.

In light of those developments, Franklin County staff, along with staff and elected officials from the Town of Youngsville and Franklinton want to consider conducting a focused study that:

1. Looks at land use in more considerable detail as compared to the Corridor Study
2. Look at possibly modifying the existing Corridor Plan to address interim measures that could include the “Superstreet” concept.

3. Developing an implementation strategy (and critical path) that can be presented to the various county boards to have funded over time; with the possibility of retaining a consultant to address design aspects along the corridor, and
4. Potentially expanding the planning concept northward along US 1 to the Vance County

Franklin County has involved their district engineer Mr. Steve Winstead in the process, as well as Capital Area MPO staff. Mr. Young would like to get additional participation from members of the US 1 Council of Planning to advise Franklin County and guidance on how to handle developments. Mr. Lamb suggested that Mr. Young forward an email to the Council concerning future meetings in Franklin County so that Council members can determine if they can participate. Mr. Young also noted that the Franklin County Commissioners have adopted zoning regulations that require a setback to accommodate the needed right-of-way along US 1. The outstanding issues involve managing development near the proposed interchanges. The timetable to hire a consultant would occur by the 2010 UPWP.

Mr. Lamb suggested that at future meetings participants should include the district engineers from Franklin and Wake County; as well as Mr. Brendan Jones of NCDOT Maintenance Division.

#### Announcements

Mr. Lamb noted that within the draft 2009-2015 TIP there is a project that NCDOT has included to provide for turn-lane improvements at the New Falls of Neuse/US1/US1A intersection. The current budgeted cost is approximately \$100,000; and may include a public-private partnership.

Also, the City of Raleigh approved the plans for the Perry Creek Road project. The project widens Perry Creek Road from US 1 to US 401, with turn-lane improvements at US 1. That project will be under construction within the next year.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm