



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Planning Division

m e m o r a n d u m

TO: Laurel Lunt Prussing, Mayor

FROM: Elizabeth H. Tyler, AICP, Director, Community Development Director

DATE: July 10, 2008

SUBJECT: A resolution supporting the study of mobility enhanced development opportunities in Champaign-Urbana

Introduction

The Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District is preparing a major study to meet the region's 2025 Long Range Transportation Plan's goals for non-single occupant vehicle travel. As part of this study, a feasibility report is being prepared on opportunities for "mobility enhanced development" in the Champaign-Urbana region. The Springfield Avenue corridor between downtown Urbana and the University of Illinois campus has been identified as an area for further study. Urbana's 2005 Comprehensive Plan supports the concept of Springfield Avenue being a key transit link between downtown and the University of Illinois campus.

It is requested that the Urbana City Council approve a resolution supporting the study of this corridor to identify opportunities for mobility enhanced development. The City's contribution to this study would be staff time and technical assistance.

Discussion

The Champaign-Urbana Urbanized Area Transportation Study (CUUATS) has charged the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District (CUMTD) with developing strategies and services to meet the goals for non-single occupant vehicle travel in the region as set out in the region's 2025 Long Range Transportation Plan. CUMTD is accomplishing this by preparing a Mobility Implementation Plan. CUMTD has hired several consultants to carry out a multi-phased planning process and to prepare the plan. (See attached Work Plan.)

Phase 1 of the planning process includes preparation of several surveys, public planning sessions, and reports (see attached chart), including a study of the potential for "mobility enhanced development" in the region. Mobility enhanced development simply means developing in a way that provides real transportation options for its residents and users. The design of the development would ideally facilitate mass transit, carpooling, bicycling, and walking, in addition to providing for traditional automotive transportation. The built

form of mobility enhanced development is often thought of as “urban style” development, the two key elements of which are development density and mixed uses.

Guided by the 2005 Comprehensive Plan, City staff has identified the Springfield Avenue corridor between downtown Urbana and Lincoln Avenue as a potential area for mobility enhanced development. The Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map #8 includes a goal to “Promote Springfield Ave. as a key transit link from the downtown to campus” and identifies the future land use of the corridor as “Campus Mixed-Use.”

Consequently, in Phase 1 the Mobility Implementation Plan Steering Committee identified two corridors leading from the two downtowns to the University of Illinois campus to study mobility enhanced development opportunities. These two corridors are (1) White Street from downtown Champaign to campus, and (2) Springfield Avenue from downtown Urbana to campus. It is important to note that the University of Illinois plans to limit through traffic from crossing its campus and that this concept envisions traffic along these corridors between the campus and the two downtowns.

Based on Phase 1, a more detailed feasibility study for the two areas is proposed in Phase 2. This second phase will refine the previously identified opportunities and challenges for mobility enhanced development in the White Street and Springfield Avenue corridors. This refinement would work within the economic, physical, and social contexts of the corridor, including the community’s vision. It is anticipated this study would identify locations within the corridor for targeted growth for higher densities and mixed uses.

The City of Urbana is not being asked to contribute money to this mobility enhancing development study. Instead the City’s contribution is expected to be staff time and technical assistance.

Recommendation

City staff recommends that the Committee of the Whole review the attached Resolution and forward it to the City Council for approval.

Prepared by:

Robert Myers, AICP
Planning Manager

cc: Cynthia Hoyle, Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District

Attachments:

- Resolution Supporting the study of mobility enhanced development opportunities in Champaign-Urbana
- Mobility Implementation Plan Process Chart
- Mobility Implementation Plan Work Plan
- Mobility Implementation Plan Phase II

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-07-018R

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE STUDY OF MOBILITY-ENHANCED
DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN CHAMPAIGN-URBANA

(Including Urbana's Springfield Avenue Corridor)

WHEREAS, Champaign-Urbana Urbanized Area Transportation Study (CUUATS) has charged the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District (CUMTD) with developing strategies and services to meet the goals for non-single occupant vehicle travel in the region as set out in the region's 2025 Long Range Transportation Plan; and

WHEREAS, CUMTD is preparing a Mobility Implementation Plan for the region to meet these goals in the Long Range Transportation Plan; and

WHEREAS, Element 3 of the adopted Mobility Implementation Plan Work Plan is to define mobility enhancing development opportunities in the Champaign Urbana Region; and

WHEREAS, the Mobility Implementation Plan Steering Committee, including City of Urbana representatives, propose to meet this element of the work plan by defining opportunities for mobility enhanced development in two corridors leading from downtown Champaign and downtown Urbana to the University of Illinois campus; and

WHEREAS, the proposed study area in Urbana is the Springfield Avenue Corridor from Race Street on the east to Lincoln Avenue on the west; and

WHEREAS, the 2005 Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map #8 includes a goal to "Promote Springfield Ave. as a key

transit link from the downtown to campus" and identifies the future land use of the corridor as "Campus Mixed-Use"; and

WHEREAS, the City of Urbana's contribution to this study will be staff time and technical assistance.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Urbana City Council resolves that:

Section 1. The City of Urbana agrees to participate in development of a study of mobility enhancing development opportunities in Champaign-Urbana, including Urbana's Springfield Avenue corridor, to be prepared under the direction of the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District.

Section 2. The City of Urbana will provide input for the study through the Mobility Implementation Plan Steering Committee and contribute staff time and technical assistance for preparation of this study.

PASSED by the Urbana City Council this _____ day of _____, 2008.

Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk

APPROVED by the Mayor this _____ day of _____, 2008.

Laurel Lunt Prussing, Mayor