



Mebane City Council
Orange County Board of Commissioners
Joint Meeting
Whitted Facility Meeting Room
Thursday, September 15, 2016

The Mebane City Council and the Orange County Board of Commissioners met for a Joint Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 15, 2016 at the Whitted Facility Meeting Room, 300 West Tryon Street, Hillsborough, NC. Dinner was served at 5:30pm.

Mebane Councilmembers Present:

Mayor Glendel Stephenson
Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Hooks
Councilmember Everette Greene
Councilmember Jill Auditori
Councilmember Patty Philipps

Mebane Councilmembers Absent:

Councilmember Tim Bradley

Mebane Staff Present:

David Cheek, City Manager
Chris Rollins, Assistant City Manager
Lawson Brown, City Attorney
Franz Holt, City Engineer

Orange County Commissioners Present:

Chairman Earl McKee
Vice Chair Mark Dorosin
Commissioner Mia Day Burroughs
Commissioner Barry Jacobs
Commissioner Penny Rich
Commissioner Renee Price
Commissioner Bernadette Pelissier

Orange County Staff Present:

Bonnie Hammersley, County Manager
Travis Myren, Deputy County Manager
John Roberts, County Attorney
Howard Fleming, County Engineer
Peter Murphy, Public Transportation
David Stancil, Director of Parks & Recreation
Donna Baker, Clerk to the Board
David Hunt, Deputy Clerk to the Board

Chairman Earl McKee called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and gave a few opening remarks. Mayor Stephenson also gave a few opening remarks.

Mr. Fleming gave an update on the Efland Sewer to Mebane Phase 2 Extension project. Orange County has begun to transfer certain phases of utility construction consistent with the original and later amended joint utility service agreement. Much of the more recent water and sewer infrastructure work has been for economic development purposes in designated zones. Over \$5 Million in 'backbone' infrastructure has been completed. Morinaga was able to use one of the earlier infrastructure phases. An additional \$8 million of work is in process that will facilitate additional economic development potential and will permit the existing sewer flow from Efland to be transferred to Mebane. The project will be bid in the next couple months. It includes 8,300 linear foot of gravity flow lines, one (1) new lift station and 19,000 linear foot of sewer force main line including a jack and bore under I-85/I-40. Design has been coordinated with Mebane and its engineers. The project, due to its scope, will take approximately 15 months (projected completion in July 2018). An overview map (attachment 1a) and exhibit (attachment 1b) are attached.

Mr. Rollins added that currently Mebane is handling the routine maintenance on the Efland system and sewer flow now is being pumped to Hillsborough. After the pump station work is completed the switch over to Mebane will take place. Mr. Hooks questioned how many citizens this project will help. Mr. Cheek replied 400 households in Efland and possibly more in the future. Mr. Dorosin asked if their rates would change when switched to Mebane. Mr. Rollins stated they would not see a change in the rates.

Mr. Murphy gave a Transit Service Orange Public Transportation update. Orange County Public Transportation (OPT) is in the process of implementing bus expansion services. Services are supported by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) rural grant programs, a half-cent sales tax, vehicle tag fees, urban funding through the Durham Chapel Hill Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Burlington Graham MPO and fare receipts. OPT accepted delivery of seven new replacement buses during the summer 2015 and three additional replacement vehicles in the summer 2016. Older, infrequently used buses have been sold and all

new vehicles are in service. New bus operators were hired and trained to support both expanded and existing services. Screening and hiring continues for pending services.

Five new approved services include:

- Recent service additions

- August 2015: Orange-Chapel Hill Connector with expanded service to Cedar Grove – This is an Increased frequency to hourly service on the mid-day fixed route service that OPT operates on the Hillsborough-Chapel Hill route. This complements the peak hour service that is operated as GoTriangle Route 420, managed by Chapel Hill Transit under an agreement with GoTriangle.

- June 2016: Expanded Senior Center Service - Later Senior Center service was added on weekdays to provide additional service to the county's Senior Centers, particularly the Passmore Senior Center. Two route-deviation services are now provided at 3:30 pm in addition to 1:00 pm service times.

- Pending service additions

- Efland-Hillsborough Commuter Loop – Complementing the GoTriangle ODX peak hour commuter service between Mebane/Efland, Hillsborough and Duke/VA Hospital, downtown Durham, OPT will operate peak period/peak direction service from Efland to connect with the ODX at its Hillsborough stop, enabling Efland residents to connect to Duke and Durham. It also provides connecting service to the 420 Chapel Hill Route to UNC.

- Orange-Alamance Connector (US 70 midday) The Orange-Alamance Connector will be operated by OPT to complement the GoTriangle ODX service. It will provide mid-day service on weekdays between Mebane/Efland and Hillsborough. A Congestion mitigation and air quality improvement (CMAQ) Program Grant was applied for and final approvals were received in February 2016. Service is pending receipt of the grant-funded vehicle.

- Rural Deviated Zonal Routes - This combined service will provide general public service (no eligibility requirements) in the rural areas of Orange County on a 2 deviated fixed-route basis. Each of the three zones (Northeastern, Northwestern and Southern) will receive service two days per week.

Mr. Murphy talked in detail about specific routes as requested by commissioners. Route maps are attached.

Mr. Hooks spoke about the Piedmont Authority for Regional Transport (PART) and GoTriangle routes currently in Mebane. There was considerable discussion among both boards and staff in regard to the current transportation services in Mebane and Orange County. Mr. Murphy presented ridership data which helps staff to make adjustments that will enhance transportation services.

Ms. Hammersley stated that Perdita Holtz is not in attendance but she has been participating in the City of Mebane's planning efforts related to "Mebane by Design" comprehensive land development plan. Mr. Rollins presented an update on Mebane's Comprehensive Land Development Plan. He explained that Mebane began this plan in cooperation with the Piedmont Triad Regional Council planning staff and a 26 member advisory committee. Mr. Rollins highlighted Mebane's recent and current planning projects:

2014 Recreation Master Plan

2015 Bike & Pedestrian Plan

2016 Comprehensive Land Development Plan

2016 Capital Improvement Plan

2016 Comprehensive Transportation Plan

2016 Long Range Water & Sewer Study

2017 Traffic Separation Study with NCR, Norfolk South & NCDOT

All the plans led to one strategy, a cohesive vision for what Mebane will look like 20 years from now. He spoke of the Green Growth Toolbox, a grant Mebane received last year which supports the land development plan. Along with financial assistance, the Commission offers training opportunities and technical assistance to municipalities. In order to fulfill the Partners for Green

Growth Grant, Mebane's plan must include (1) an Open Space and Natural Resources Protection section; and (2) policy recommendations to protect and connect habitats. Mr. Rollins spoke of the numerous meetings, workshops and surveys in which the public has been involved during this planning process. He summarized the current population and growth and the projected population and growth. He concluded with a growth strategy overview for Mebane.

Commissioner Dorosin questioned if staff has worked on Mebane's infrastructure capacity in relation to the growth boundary. Mr. Rollins replied Darrell Russell, engineer with Alley, Williams, Carmen and King, Inc., is currently finalizing a long range water and sewer plan for Mebane.

Ms. Price asked how much residential growth Mebane expects on the east side carrying into Orange County. Mr. Rollins replied as jobs grow in that area people so will residential growth especially now since utilities are available. He explained when developers contact Mebane and inquire about development in Orange County, Mebane staff involves Orange County planning staff and Orange County Schools during the planning process.

Mr. Jacobs asked if Mebane has talked about reserving property for school sites. Mr. Rollins replied there have been discussions of reserving the Synthon property however the developer has not set aside the land for purchase. Mr. Jacobs encourage Mebane to write an ordinance requiring developers to set aside land for future school sites.

There was discussion about Perry Hills and the need to extend sewer service to that area. Water service is provided to that area by Orange Alamance Water. Mr. Rollins stated Mebane is willing to work with Orange County staff to evaluate what steps could be taken to address those needs in that area.

Mr. Hooks stated that infrastructure in Mebane is in great shape when looking at water and sewer but the two areas in Mebane with limited infrastructure are roads and schools.

David Stancil, Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation (DEAPR) Director, gave an update on Farmland Preservation and Open Space. The voluntary farmland preservation program started in 1992 to protect farmlands. There are approximately 11,000 acres in the program. He spoke about the conservation easement program as well, which is a perpetual program. The County has been able to protect some of the most prime and threatened farmland in Orange County and the focus has been in water supply/water sheds and also on farms that have a good conservation track record by doing this they are protecting water quality. Both programs have received a lot of interest and many easements have been secured with several partners in order to leverage grant funds.

Mr. Jacobs requested to add this item to the agenda as a follow up from a past inquiry by Mr. Bradley in regard to farmland preservation. He stated Orange County has the capability to assist Mebane, if interested. He added that partnering together could allow funds to go farther. He stated another partnering consideration would be recreation, since Orange County recently purchased more land near the soccer complex for expansion.

Ms. Price questioned, with Mebane's growth, has staff heard of any concerns with urbanization coming into rural areas. Mr. Stancil said in talking with property owners on High Rock Road there were some concerns with the future and their farms and whether or not they could coexist with expansion but no conflicts.

Ms. Auditori questioned if there are opportunities for voluntary agricultural districts in Mebane's jurisdiction. Mr. Stancil replied that Alamance County has voluntary agricultural districts. Typically the counties create these districts but municipalities can do this also.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

Glendel Stephenson, Mayor

ATTEST:

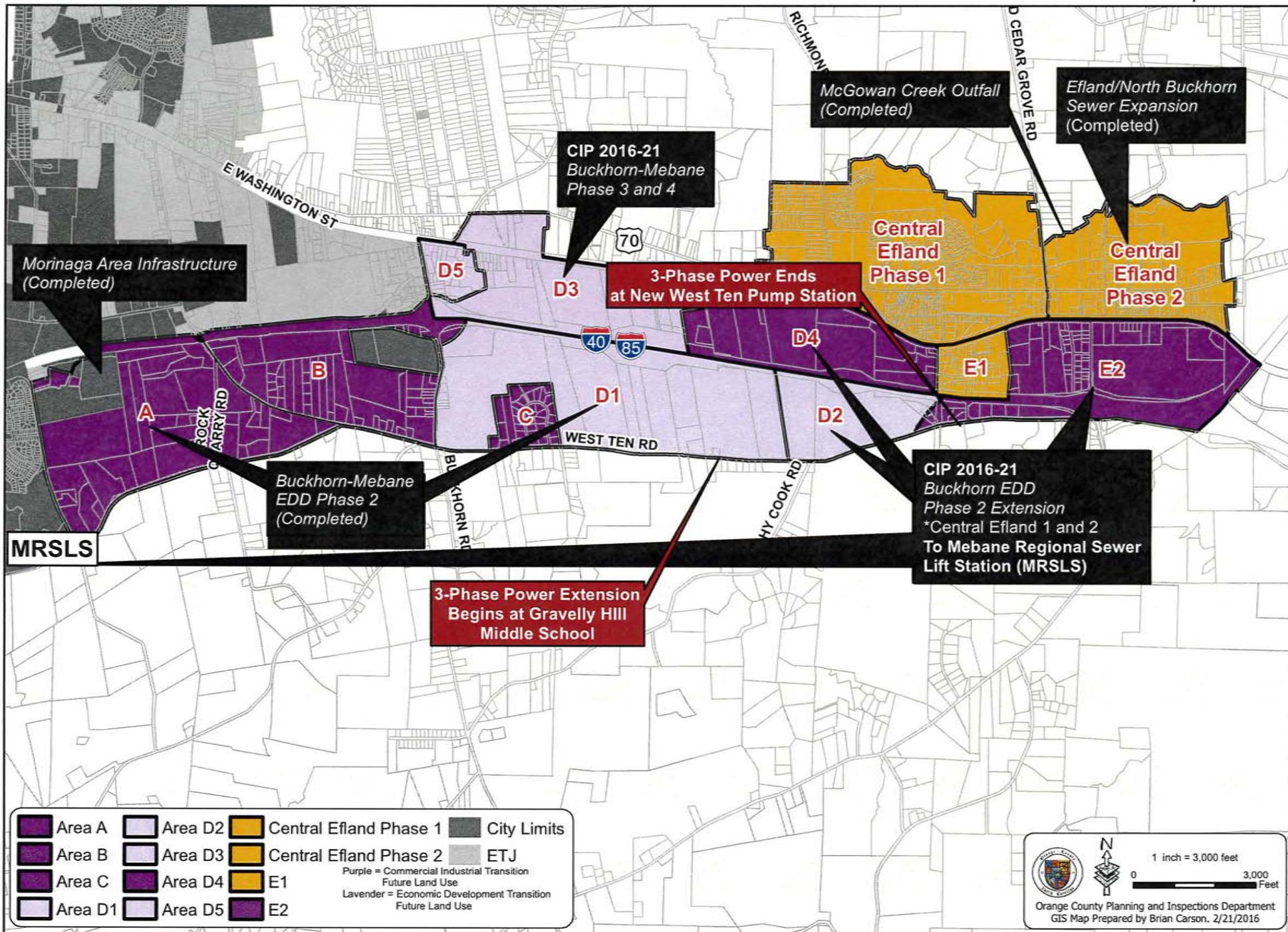
Stephanie W. Shaw, City Clerk

BOCC Exhibit - Buckhorn Mebane EDD, Efland Sewer to Mebane, Phase 2 Extension (Sheet 1 of 2)

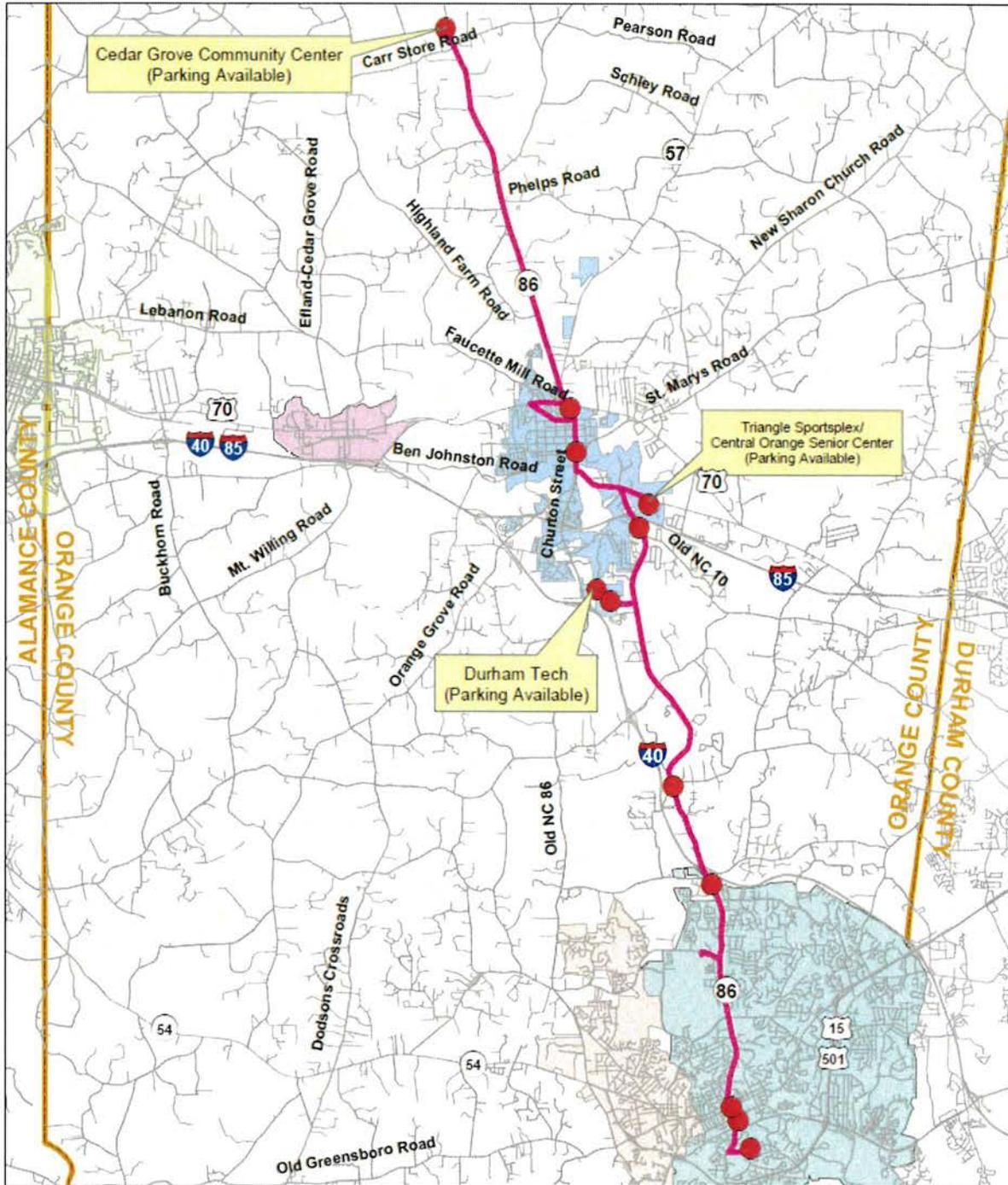


BOCC Exhibit - Buckhorn Mebane EDD, Efland Sewer to Mebane, Phase 2 Extension (Sheet 2 of 2)





Current Service Orange-Chapel Hill Connector



LEGEND

-  Municipalities/CDPs
-  Route Location
-  Road/Street
-  Stop

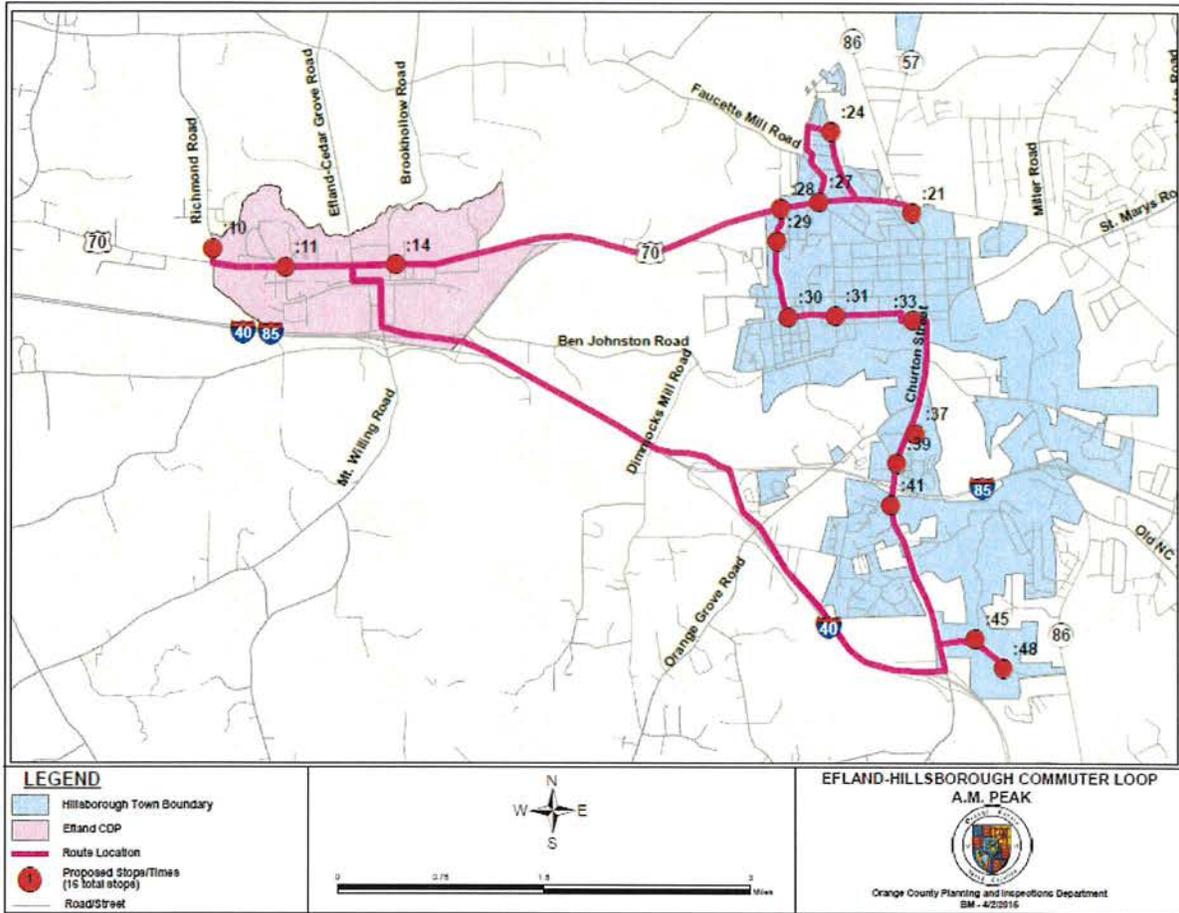


ORANGE - CHAPEL HILL CONNECTOR ROUTE AND STOP LOCATIONS



Orange County Planning and Inspections Department
B. Martin - 10/28/2015

Pending Service Efland-Hillsborough Commuter Loop



Pending Service Orange-Alamance Connector (US 70 midday)

