

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, February 25, 2014

Chapel Hill Transit to host public workshops

Chapel Hill Transit invites public participation in developing a strategic and financial plan to guide growth, development and investment for the transit system. Two identical public workshops are scheduled:

- * Thursday, March 6, 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.—Carrboro Town Hall (Board Room)
- * Monday, March 10, 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.—Chapel Hill Public Library (Meeting Room A)

The meetings will be structured in an open house format with small group discussions. Attendees will be able to view exhibits and provide feedback between 4:30 and 6:30 p.m. Presentations will be made at 4:45 p.m. and 5:45 p.m. for a plan overview and next steps.

Since 2002, Chapel Hill Transit ridership has doubled to about seven million riders annually, its fleet has expanded to 99 vehicles, and service hours have increased 30 percent. As demand continues to grow, the system faces challenges to maintaining or enhancing current levels of service as funding levels plateau and costs rise. Locally, transit continues to respond to the travel needs of the millennial generation and older adults while also supporting community goals. The development of a strategic and financial plan is an important step in protecting previous investments and setting a course of action for the future growth.

This strategic planning process is among the projects of DESIGN 2020, the implementation phase of Chapel Hill 2020, the community's comprehensive plan. It supports the theme of "Getting Around" and the goal to create a comprehensive transportation system. The planning effort also addresses the top two concerns expressed by residents in the 2013 Community Survey -- 1. Overall flow of traffic and congestion and 2. How well the Town is preparing for the future.

Watch for more outreach events, including web-based activities that will occur throughout the public planning process. Learn more at www.chapelhilltransit.org<<http://www.chapelhilltransit.org/>>.

The strategic and financial plan is being developed by Nelson\Nygaard Consulting Associates, Inc. Nelson\Nygaard is an internationally recognized firm committed to developing transportation systems that promote vibrant, sustainable, and accessible communities. Nelson\Nygaard recognizes that transportation is not an end by itself but a platform for achieving broader community goals of mobility, equity, economic development, and healthy living. Founded by two women in 1987, Nelson\Nygaard has grown from its roots in transit planning to a full-service, award-winning transportation firm with offices across the United States. www.nelsonnygaard.com<<http://www.nelsonnygaard.com/>>

Chapel Hill Transit is the public transportation provider that serves Chapel Hill, Carrboro and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. For complete information about CHT services, schedules, route changes or directions to the nearest CHT stop, visit us at www.chtransit.org<<http://www.chtransit.org/>>, email chtransit@townofchapelhill.org<<mailto:chtransit@townofchapelhill.org>> or call a CHT customer service representative at 919-969-4900(press 1).