

Carolina Planning

Summer 2011 Volume 36



Transportation + Accessibility

Carolina Planning

Summer 2011 Volume 36

From the Editors	2
An Interview with Governor James B. Hunt Jr. <i>Brika Eklund and David Daddio</i>	3
UNC DCRP Master's Project and Ph.D. Dissertation Titles 2010	50
Student Connection	53
<i>Daniel Brookshire, Matt Tomasulo, and Rachel Meyerson</i>	
Book Reviews	57
<i>Krista Holub, Kyle Vangel, and Lauren Wang</i>	
Final Thoughts	60
<i>Noreen C. McDonald</i>	

Features

Measuring Urbanity One Block at a Time: The Neighborhood Transit Readiness Scorecard	7
<i>Patrick McDonough, Jonathan Parker, and William Reynolds</i>	
Florida's Multiple Approaches to Addressing Rural Mobility	17
<i>Jay A. Goodwill</i>	
Bus Priority and Beyond in the Washington Metropolitan Region	23
<i>Monica Bansal</i>	
Transportation in North Carolina: Case Studies and Commentary from NCAPA Contributors	29
Introduction <i>Fleming A. El-Amin II</i>	29
Charlotte <i>Benjamin Miller, Tracy Newsome, and Daniel Gallagher</i>	31
Wilmington <i>Adrienne Walters</i>	33
Context Sensitive Solutions <i>Ann Hartell</i>	36
Environmental Justice <i>Brian Byfield</i>	38
Town of Chapel Hill Greenhouse Gas Emissions Annual Inventory Municipal Operations: 2005 Through 2009	41
<i>Brian C. Callaway</i>	

*Carolina Planning is a student-run publication of the Department of City and Regional Planning,
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

From the Editors

In a time of continuing fiscal constraint, all levels of government are struggling to meet the transportation needs of the public. At the same time, with greater environmental and social consciousness of the negative impacts of auto-congested highways, citizens are demanding more thoughtful infrastructure investments that unite communities rather than divide them.

Urban planners no longer view *mobility* as an end in itself when prioritizing transportation investments. Instead, the planning profession increasingly measures transportation outcomes in terms of *accessibility*. This approach entails more thoughtful and coordinated land use planning, engaged stakeholders, and multimodal transportation investments. Though the current national economic situation creates challenges in implementation, practitioners are capitalizing on partnerships, diverse funding sources, and innovative technologies to deliver economically efficient, socially just, and environmentally sustainable transportation options to a broad constituency.

This issue of *Carolina Planning* explores transportation in this increasingly complex and fiscally constrained environment. To introduce our issue, we hear words of wisdom from one of the most influential political figures in North Carolina history: Governor James “Jim” B. Hunt. In our interview with Governor Hunt, he draws on his 16 years of experience in the governor’s mansion to comment on the future of transportation in the state with particular focus on rail investment, highway maintenance, and economic development.

Patrick McDonough, Jonathan Parker, and William Reynolds introduce their “Neighborhood Transit Readiness Scorecard,” which Triangle Transit developed to assess a proposed regional light rail system. Based on a recent paper by Ewing and Cervero, their GIS-based tool reveals how density, diversity, and design in land use decisions contribute to the success or failure of transit and neighborhood walkability. Jay Goodwill highlights the importance of equity in rural transit provision. With special emphasis on transportation dependent populations, Goodwill outlines Florida’s leadership in implementing transit systems in small towns across the Sunshine State. Monica Bansal discusses the D.C. Metro Area’s implementation of a regional bus prioritization system. This cross-jurisdictional initiative demonstrates the importance of regional coordination, as well as the emergence of mode-neutral transportation funding.

Each year, *Carolina Planning* also features the work of practitioners from across North Carolina. In this issue, we identified four prominent national trends and sought writers that could encapsulate them with salient local examples. Fleming A. El-Amin II, President of the American Planning Association’s North Carolina chapter, introduces the piece with his thoughts on the pressing need for transportation investment in our state. Benjamin Miller, Tracy Newsome, and Dan Gallagher (Charlotte) describe the “complete streets” movement sweeping the country. Adrienne Walters (Wilmington) demonstrates how planners can prosper from alliances with the public health

community. Ann Hartell (N.C. State University) examines “context sensitive solutions” and the newfound emphasis on problem definition and stakeholder engagement at the early stages of infrastructure projects. Brian Byfield wraps up with a discussion of the current state of environmental justice efforts in transportation planning.

Continuing our long-standing tradition of recognizing exceptional graduate work at UNC-Chapel Hill’s Department of City and Regional Planning, we publish excerpts from the Best Master’s Project of 2010. Using an international protocol, Brian Callaway provides a comprehensive inventory of greenhouse gas emissions in the Town of Chapel Hill. We also bring you the latest campus news in our annual Student Connection piece and provide three student-contributed book reviews. To wrap up, we hear from one of our distinguished faculty, Noreen McDonald, as she offers her thoughts on how North Carolina can improve its multi-modal transportation networks through more municipal control over roads within local jurisdictions.

We hope that you take away something insightful and relevant to your work from this issue. Thank you for your readership and continued support of *Carolina Planning*.

Editors: Brika Eklund and David Daddio

Carolina Planning welcomes your comments, suggestions, and submissions. Please contact us at carolinaplanning@unc.edu. Also, visit our new website at <http://planning.unc.edu/cpj>.

Carolina Planning is published with generous financial support from the John A. Parker Trust Fund, the Department of City and Regional Planning at UNC-Chapel Hill, and the North Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association.



Cover photo by Brika Eklund. Image taken in Raleigh, N.C. along Hillsborough Street, the site of a major complete streets reconfiguration completed in 2010.

Printed by UNC Printing Services © 2011 UNC-Chapel Hill Department of City and Regional Planning. All rights reserved.