

**ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MEBANE CITY COUNCIL**

**JOINT MEETING  
DRAFT AGENDA**

BOCC/Mebane City Council Joint Meeting  
November 14, 2013  
Dinner & Meeting – 5:30 p.m.  
West Campus Office Building  
131 W. Margaret Lane  
Hillsborough, NC

- |               |    |   |
|---------------|----|---|
| (6:00 – 6:05) |    | Welcome, Call To Order, and Opening Comments (BOCC Chair and Mayor)   |
| (6:05 – 6:30) | 1. | Economic Development & Infrastructure Update  |
| (6:30 – 7:00) | 2. | Water & Sewer Availability and Future Plans   |
| (7:00 – 7:30) | 3. | Transportation <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Mattress Factory Road Study</li><li>b) Transit Plans - Fixed Route Bus Service</li><li>c) Mebane Bike and Pedestrian Plan</li><li>d) Transportation Improvement Plans</li></ul> |
| (7:30 – 8:00) | 4. | Parks and Recreation Master Plans   |
| (8:00 – 8:20) | 5. | School Facility Plans   |
| (8:20 – 8:45) | 6. | Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) White Furniture Update</li><li>b) Orange/Alamance Line Issues</li><li>c) Potential Bond Issuance</li></ul>   |

**ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MEBANE CITY COUNCIL  
JOINT MEETING**

**JOINT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS ABSTRACT**

**Meeting Date:** November 14, 2013

**SUBJECT:** Joint Meeting Discussion Items

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**DEPARTMENT:** Interim County Manager/City  
Manager/County  
Planning/County Economic  
Development/County  
DEAPR/City Recreation &  
Parks/County Financial  
Services

**PUBLIC HEARING: (Y/N)**

No
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**ATTACHMENT(S):**

As noted in "Background" section

**INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Michael Talbert, 245-2300; David Cheek, 563-5901; Craig Benedict, 245-2575; Steve Brantley, 245-2325; David Stancil, 245-2510; Dean Ray, 563-3629; Clarence Grier, 245-2450

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**PURPOSE:** To discuss topics of mutual interest between the governing boards of Orange County and the City of Mebane.

**BACKGROUND:**

**1. Economic Development & Infrastructure Update**

To recap the significant industrial recruitment success that occurred on September 3, 2013, Orange County, the City of Mebane and the State of North Carolina jointly announced that Morinaga America Foods, Inc. selected a 21-acre light industrial site (see Attachment 1) where the Company will build a 98,000 square foot candy production facility to make the "Hi-Chew" snack product, employ 90 workers and invest up to \$48 million. The project will pay its employees an average annual salary of \$38,000 and contribute an annual payroll of \$3.4 million to the community. Recruitment of this 114-year old major Japanese confectionary company over the recent 18 months involved a joint professional recruitment effort by Orange County and the City of Mebane amid a very competitive statewide and national site search by the company.

Morinaga America Foods will begin site work in March 2014 and work toward a completed factory by mid-2015. The site location in the Buckhorn Economic Development District is large enough to accommodate one or more additional plant expansions in the future, and there are signs the Company will eventually grow with additional phases of similar size. Infrastructure and related development issues (see Attachment 1) are now ongoing to support the project, to include:

- Public Hearings have now been completed to approve local financial incentives by the City of Mebane (October 7<sup>th</sup>) and Orange County (October 15<sup>th</sup>).
- Site annexation and rezoning by the City of Mebane (November 4<sup>th</sup>).
- Orange County's initial Public Hearing and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application process with the N.C. Department of Commerce is now underway to seek eventual reimbursement for 75% of costs (from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)) associated with extending water and sewer lines to the Morinaga site, and designing and engineering the 3,500 foot access road to be built by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT).
- Sewer to the site will connect to the new backbone main sewer line that is currently under construction between Mattress Factory Road and Ben Wilson Road, which is part of the County's \$4 million expenditure from the one-quarter (1/4) cent sales tax to fund infrastructure throughout the economic development districts.

In addition, the County's and Mebane's leadership has had several recent opportunities to jointly host visiting Japanese officials from Morinaga, to include Masao Hoshino (President of Morinaga America, Inc.) on October 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, and most recently, President Toru Arai (President of parent firm Morinaga & Co., Ltd., from Tokyo) on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **OTHER JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES**

The Orange County Economic Development office continues to market various properties within the Buckhorn Economic Development District, such as the Oakwood Business Center in Mebane, and the empty 51,400 square foot former Hancor manufacturing facility on U.S. 70 near Buckhorn Road, to other industrial investment prospects. These properties have been submitted to an increasing volume of new project inquiries originating from the North Carolina Department of Commerce, from the listing realtor, local developers and the Research Triangle Regional Partnership. The Orange County Economic Development office has a good dialog with the City Manager's office and staff in Mebane, and anticipates seeing additional prospect activity developing. Finally, increased effort is underway to prepare updated site maps and marketing materials, and identify new properties for development within Mebane's city limits and ETJ.

### **Buckhorn Mebane Economic Development District (EDD) Utilities Phase 2 Infrastructure Update**

Buckhorn Mebane EDD Utilities Phase 2 is a \$4 million dollar water and sewer project. Over 3 miles of 16" water main and over 3 miles of sewer gravity create 'backbone' utility infrastructure that will serve a 1,000 acre economic development zone primarily south of the interstate. However, a new water system loop from Buckhorn and West Ten Roads to Washington Street also improves a large 500-acre zone north of the interstate within Mebane's extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ).

Staff will provide any other information on these issues at the meeting, and the governing boards can discuss issues related to this item as necessary.

*Attachment 1 - Aerial Map and Proposed Infrastructure Map for Morinaga Facility*

## 2. Water & Sewer Availability and Future Plans

Additional sewer design and construction is underway in the Efland-Buckhorn-Mebane corridor to accommodate the change in Efland sewer flow from Hillsborough to Mebane as noted in the 2013 update to the interlocal utility service agreement. This is approximately 2 years away from completion and a transfer of sewer system ownership. In the interim, Orange County would like to discuss contracting with Mebane for maintenance before the system is transferred with customers and associated revenue.

Currently, the Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA) performs all routine pump station inspection and maintenance, line work maintenance and emergency on-call maintenance for the Efland Sewer System (System). This is a long standing contract that is renewed annually. Due to the System's upcoming shift in wastewater flow and operation to the City of Mebane, discussion may be appropriate regarding the City of Mebane possibly taking over this contract maintenance until the ownership and operation of the System is vested with the City. From an operational standpoint, it would give the City wastewater collection system personnel the opportunity to become familiar with the layout and operating needs of the System and pump stations before the City takes over full operation of the System. From a budget and management standpoint, the knowledge gained from the contract maintenance period should ease the transition to full operation of the System by removing many of the unknowns.

### **Long-term water resource availability**

Orange County has been reserving 'Level 2' water allocations from future Jordan Lake water capacity changes that are in progress. Although, Jordan Lake may be a viable source, the infrastructure cost to 'wheel' water through multiple utility entities needs to be investigated as to financially feasible from a capital cost and rate structure. Joint staffs will continue researching the best options for long term water supply for these economic development zones.

Staff will provide any other information at the meeting, and the governing boards can discuss issues related to this item as necessary.

*No Attachments*

## 3. Transportation

### **a) Mattress Factory Road Study**

The *Interchange Analysis and Corridor Study for Mattress Factory Road* was completed in November 2012. A modified diamond interchange design was recommended for the interchange design. The conceptual design in this study considers one bridge structure over I-40/85 at the new interchange with a 5-lane cross-section, and a bike lane and sidewalk. The interchange design would also require the relocation of a portion of the Industrial Drive Service Road.

The Buckhorn Road intersection was studied as part of the Mattress Factory Road Study. The study found that under future (2018) traffic conditions, Buckhorn Road at I-40 Eastbound Ramps are expected to operate at level of service (LOS) F during the weekday peak hours. The traffic study did not consider any future developments in the Buckhorn EDD, so the impact to Buckhorn Road could be notably greater than anticipated by the study. The first

development in the Buckhorn EDD is pending, with more anticipated pending completion of public water and sewer infrastructure in the area.

The I-85/40 New Interchange project is listed on the Burlington-Graham Metropolitan Planning Organization (B-G MPO) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). In order to receive approval of an interchange at the proposed location from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), additional studies and coordination would be required.

Staff will provide any other information at the meeting, and the governing boards can discuss issues related to this item as necessary.

*Attachment 3a-1 – Mattress Factory Road Study Area*

*Attachment 3a-2 – Mattress Factory Road Recommended Interchange Design*

### **b) Transit Plans - Fixed Route Bus Service**

Triangle Transit, in partnership with Orange County and City of Mebane staff, is refining logistical implementation details associated with the planned Mebane-Efland-Hillsborough-Durham express bus route (with Route 420 connections to Chapel Hill). A handful of potential park-and-ride locations have been identified in Mebane near I-85/40 as well as along NC 119 (5<sup>th</sup> Street) between I-85/40 and downtown Mebane. The existing Z-Bowl commercial site in downtown Mebane was also identified as a potential site. Sites investigated for a potential park-and-ride in Mebane near I-85/40 include:

- 1) Mebane Medical Park/Alamance Regional Medical Center;
- 2) Tanger Outlets;
- 3) Lowes Foods Shopping Center; and the
- 4) Walmart Shopping Center.

There may be an opportunity for Triangle Transit to partner with the Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation (PART) to implement a joint facility to serve both the Orange County/Triangle Transit regional express route and PART's future plans for connections from the Burlington and Mebane areas to the Triangle region. Other park-and-ride locations in Efland and Hillsborough have been narrowed to a short-list for potential implementation. The final specifics of the proposed route will be shared with the City of Mebane and Orange County BOCC in January 2014. Implementation of this route may begin as early as spring or summer of 2014 depending on the speed at which capital improvements can be made to facilitate the service. Research has shown that there are over 1,400 people in the Mebane zip code who work at Duke and UNC.

Staff will provide any other information at the meeting, and the governing boards can discuss issues related to this item as necessary.

*No Attachments*

### **c) Mebane Bike and Pedestrian Plan**

The City of Mebane and BGMPO staff have chosen Alta Greenways and are preparing a contract to submit to NCDOT for review and comment. This project should start this winter and be completed in the spring of 2014. The plan is to develop a comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian plan including: 1) an inventory of existing bicycle and pedestrian facilities; 2) a phasing plan for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure; 3) an analysis of existing and viable programs; 4) design standards for incorporation into Mebane's subdivision /development ordinance; 5) a multi-faceted public outreach strategy; and 6) a strategic and comprehensive blueprint of implementable infrastructure, policy, and programmatic recommendations.

Staff will provide any other information at the meeting, and the governing boards can discuss issues related to this item as necessary.

*No Attachments*

### **d) Transportation Improvement Plans**

The Strategic Mobility Formula (SMF) is contained in the Strategic Transportation Investments (STI) Legislation. Burlington-Graham MPO's current application of the new STI policy allows a total of 20 Highway and 20 bike/pedestrian projects to be submitted for quantitative scoring and evaluation under P3.0. Burlington-Graham Metropolitan Planning Organization (B-G MPO) members submitted 24 local highway projects and 35 local Bike/Pedestrian projects for consideration and review. The total Highway submittals includes 15 existing Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) projects currently in the database and 5 new projects recommended by B-G MPO staff (4 new projects were not recommended). The total Bike/Pedestrian projects were reduced to 20 recommended by B-G MPO staff (15 new projects were not recommended). Two (2) Public Transportation Projects are being recommended – a park-and-ride lot in the Mebane/Buckhorn Economic Development District (EDD), and another near the Guilford/Alamance County line. Following approval by the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), recommended projects will be sent to NCDOT evaluation and scoring prior to the MPO making any ranking or scoring decisions. New projects not recommended are proposed by MPO staff for additional study and/or consideration in the next cycle of TIP project selection

Staff will provide any other information at the meeting, and the governing boards can discuss issues related to this item as necessary.

*Attachment 3d-1 – BGMPO Highway Projects*

*Attachment 3d-2 – BGMPO Bike and Pedestrian Projects*

*Attachment 3d-3 – STI Implementation Schedule*

## **4. Parks and Recreation Master Plans**

Both the City and County are currently in the midst of creating new Parks and Recreation Master Plans. The City of Mebane is currently reviewing the first draft of its master plan. Orange County has completed its Community Needs Assessments and public input sessions, and the Parks and Recreation Council and staff are finalizing the master plan for presentation in January. The handout from the County public input sessions, which includes a summary of

some of the survey results, possible findings, and a few ‘test’ recommendations, is provided as Attachment 4.

Both plans will include reference to the importance of collaboration and the relationship between municipal and County master plans. The City and County both have representatives on the Intergovernmental Parks Work Group, which fosters communication about facilities and programs and collaboration opportunities. County and City staff will present an overview of the status of the plans.

Staff will provide any other information at the meeting, and the governing boards can discuss issues related to this item as necessary.

*Attachment 4 – Master Plan 2030 Public Input Session Handout*

## **5. School Facilities Plans**

### **Future Orange County Schools Elementary School Siting Process**

Orange County and the City of Mebane have been pursuing collaborative planning in areas of mutual interest. Discussions between Orange County Schools (OCS) officials and County officials conclude that a new elementary school may be needed for the district before the School Adequate Public Facility Ordinance (SAPFO) projection of 2022-23. As a result, the Orange County Planning and Inspections Department is initiating the school siting process outlined in the “Policy on Planning and Funding School Capital Projects”, approved by the Board of County Commissioners in 2000, in order to begin the pre-planning phase.

Due to the continuing growth concentrated around the City of Mebane, past discussions have suggested the next OCS elementary school should be sited within eastern Mebane. This analysis will focus on three zones within Mebane’s utility service area. The process will include the development of criteria based on national, state, and local guidelines, as well as utilizing smart growth principles and input from planning partners in order to analyze sites that will be the most suitable for an elementary school site. In addition, the analysis will include a ranking system based on potential site improvement costs, land use compatibility, and environmental constraints. Once the evaluation has been completed, staff will submit the analysis to the Orange County Board of Commissioners, Orange County Board of Education and City of Mebane in order to allow the process to continue as outlined in the “Policy on Planning and Funding School Capital Projects”. By implementing this analysis and including the County’s planning partners, staff anticipates that the final evaluation will provide a valuable resource tool to be used by the Board of County Commissioners and the Board of Education for future land banking purposes in eastern Mebane.

Staff will provide any other information at the meeting, and the governing boards can discuss issues related to this item as necessary.

*Attachment 5 – Future School Site Zones*

## 6. OTHER

### a) White Furniture Update

The White Furniture project is a planned multi-use redevelopment of an historic mill located in downtown Mebane, North Carolina. The property will accommodate 149 market-rate apartments and approximately 10,000 square feet of office and commercial space. This space will house small businesses, start-up companies, and entrepreneurs. The property will have amenities such as a business center, pool, and fitness center. The project will use federal historic tax credits and the North Carolina historic mill tax credit. Construction is expected to commence in February 2014. This project received a formal Invitation to Bid from HUD a few months ago. This allows the developer, Mike Hill with D3 Development in Durham, NC, to have 120 days to submit a project.

*Attachment 6a – White Furniture Company Plan*

### b) Orange/Alamance Line Issues

Although the elusive 164-year old boundary location has been re-described, development patterns when employing the county line do not necessarily create efficiency in public service provision and neighborhood character.

Two areas remain problematic – Mill Creek in Mebane and the Morrow Mill area in southwest Orange County. Both areas were thoroughly discussed during the years of work with Alamance County, but the line amendment criterion did not fit well with those areas.

The process to accommodate a change at this time would be more focused than the earlier processes. The likely option would be a specific sponsored local bill for a defined area. The legislative session would be 2015, but prior work would be necessary.

As many are well aware, although this is not an annexation issue, the legislature is sensitive to moving people from one jurisdiction to another (i.e. Orange to Alamance or vice versa). Jointly the staffs will explore the best process for the change with legislators and attorneys. With these matters, the counties are the primary parties because of the changes in county based services (i.e. emergency services, taxes, voting, courts, etc.), but the City of Mebane's role with residents in the Mill Creek area will be paramount.

After conducting further research, joint staff will outline the intended process for a county boundary line amendment.

*No Attachments*

### c) Potential Bond Issuance

Over the past few months, the Board of County Commissioners has discussed the need for a future bond referendum to fund some County and school long-range capital needs.

The County maintains excellent bond ratings.

S&P - AAA  
Fitch - AAA  
Moody's - Aa1 positive outlook

The anticipated issuance of general obligation bonds will be for two of the County's largest projects – a New County Jail Facility and Middle School #5 for the Chapel Hill - Carrboro City School Districts total a combined \$73.2 million dollars and both projects are included in the current County Capital Investment Plan for the fiscal years 2015 - 2020.

An additional project that has been discussed is Elementary #8 for Orange County Schools, but this project is not scheduled until FY 2021-2022.

County staff along with representatives of Davenport and Company, LLC presented information on the County's debt affordability and capacity as for future debt issuances recently in a joint meeting with both School Boards. Based on the County's current financial position, and in order to afford the additional debt, the County would potentially have to increase the property tax rate 2.82 cents for the new debt service.

This projected tax increase would not include any future other operating expenditure increases and/or any future operating expenditure increases related directly to the new facilities and schools being built.

The Board of County Commissioners has commenced preliminary discussions and will be starting finalize its decisions regarding the potential bond referendum in the near future.

There will be a financial impact in future years as decisions are made to proceed with bond referendum and issuing debt for future County and School projects. All projects that are being considered are currently in the County's Capital Investment Plan.

It is currently expected that projects totaling \$100 million will be financed with the issuance of general obligation or limited obligation bonds over a period not to exceed 20 years. At current municipal bond interest rates, the total combined debt service is estimated to be \$6.7 million annually. This would represent 4.18 cents on the current property tax rate.

*No Attachments*

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** There is no direct financial impact associated with discussion of these topics. There are no action items requiring formal decisions.

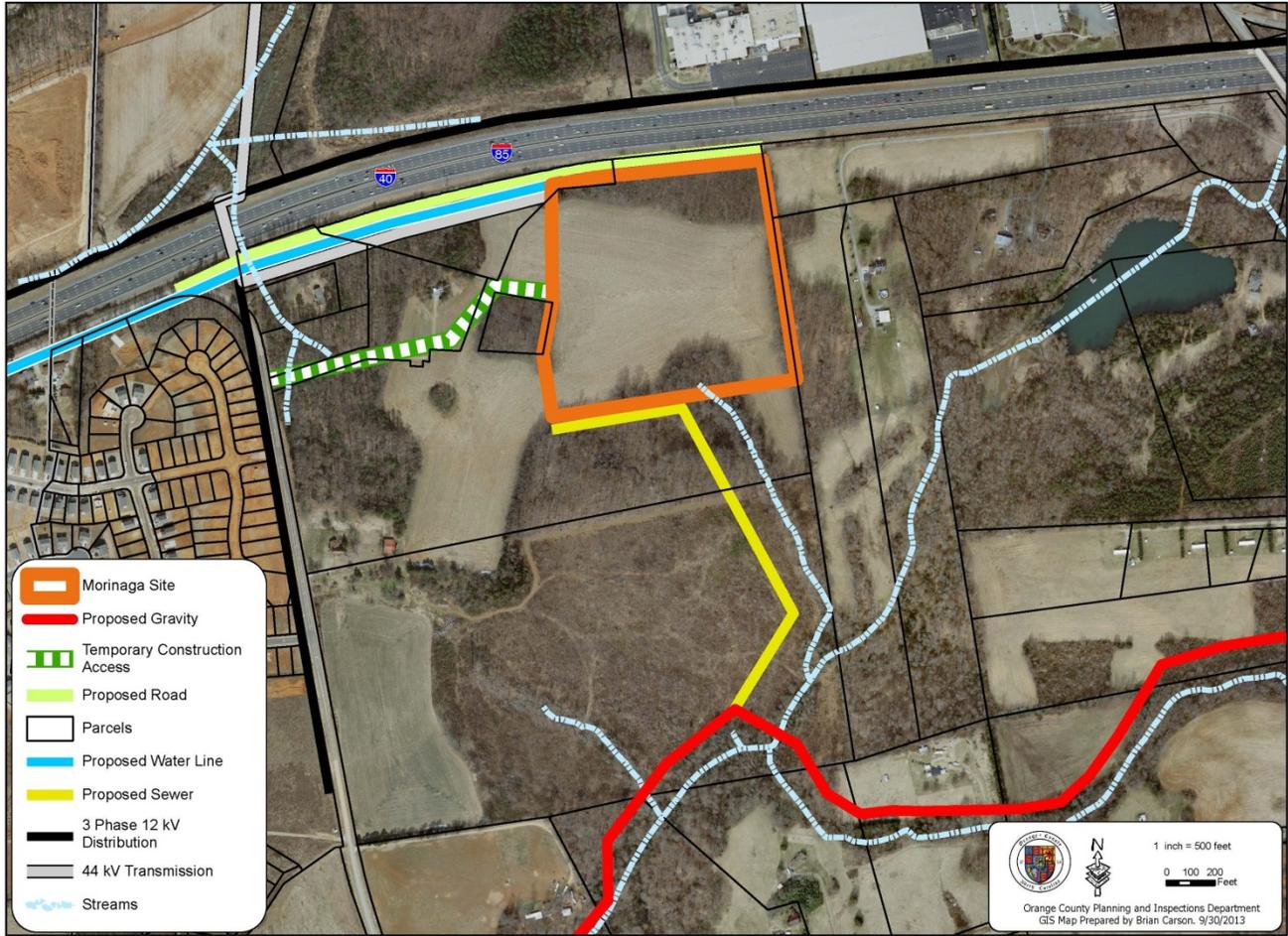
**RECOMMENDATION(S):** The Managers recommend the governing boards discuss the topics listed and provide appropriate direction to the respective staffs.

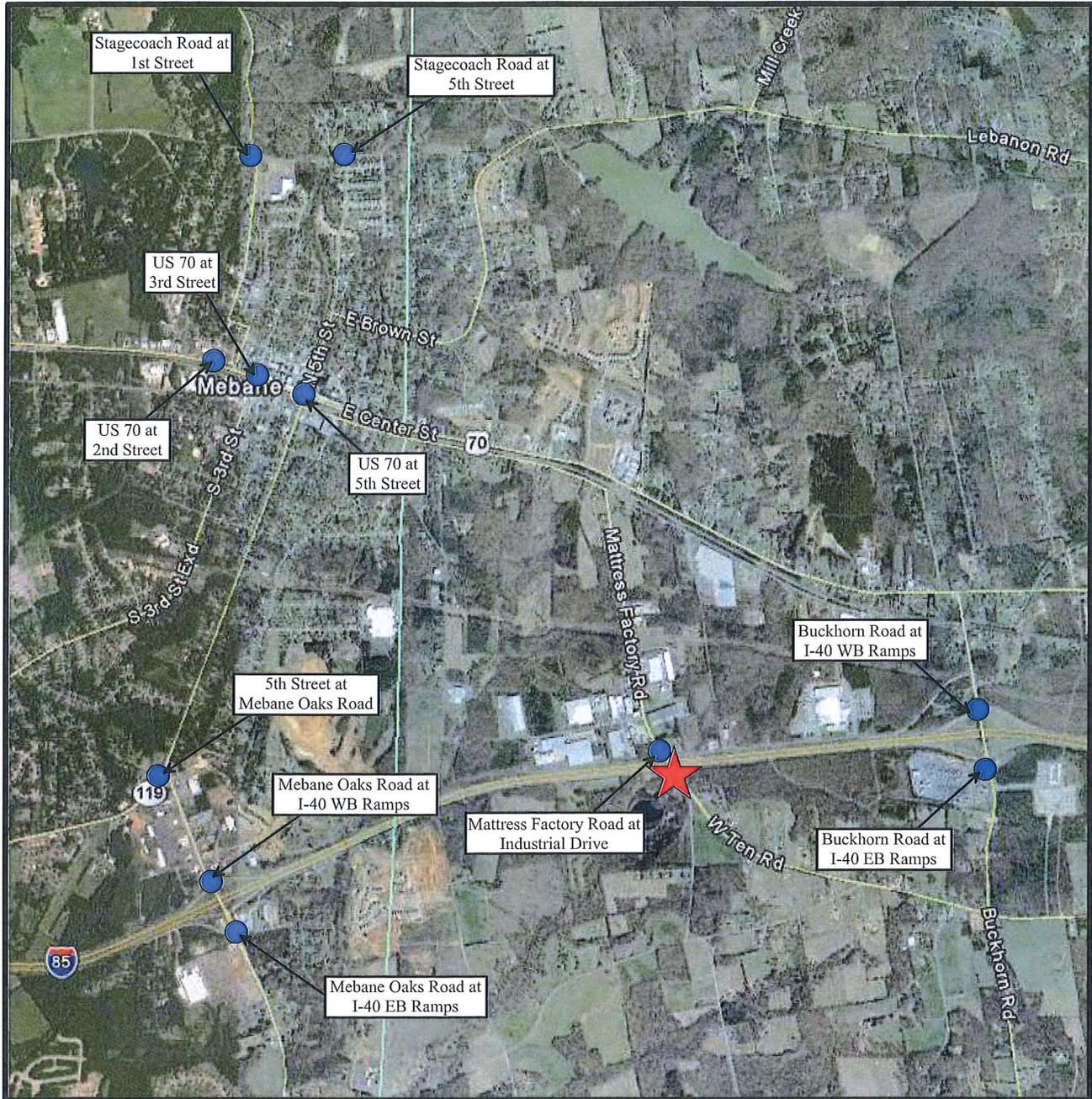
Attachment 1

Aerial View of Site:



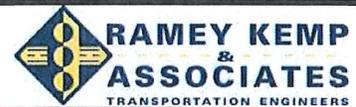
### Site and Proposed Infrastructure for Morinaga Facility (Conceptual Layout)





**LEGEND**

- Existing Study Intersections
- ★ Potential Interchange



*Mattress Factory Road  
Mebane, North Carolina*

Site Location Map

Not to Scale

Figure 1



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TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERS

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Mattress Factory Road  
Fig. 7 : Interchange Alternative  
Mebane, North Carolina

NC 62 Bypass	Village of Alamance	East of the existing NC 62
NC 62 Widening	Burlington	Church Street to Mebane Street
NC 54 Widening	Burlington	Maple Avenue to US 70
Graham Hopedale Road Widening	Burlington	Providence Road to US 70 /Church Street
US Highway 70 Widening	Burlington	Westbrook Ave to Greensboro MPO
Tucker Street Interchange	Burlington	I-85/40 New Interchange
Rockwood Avenue Extension	Burlington	Church Street to Webb Ave
Rural Retreat Extension	Burlington	University Dr to Springwood Church Road
St. Mark's Church Road @ US 70	Burlington	Intersection Improvement
NC 61 Gibsonville Bypass	Gibsonville	University Drive to County Farm Road
Southern Loop	Graham	NC 62 to NC 87
Hwy 54 at NC 49/E Elm St and at Riverbend Rd	Graham	Intersection Improvements at two intersections in corridor
NC 119 Section A	Mebane	I-85 to Mrs. White lane
NC 119 Section B	Mebane	Mebane Rogers Road to Mrs. White Lane
Mattress Factory Road Interchange	Orange County	I-85/40 New Interchange
Church Street Widening	Burlington	5th Street to Kitchin Street (center turn lane)
Graham Hopedale Road @ US 70	Burlington	Intersection improvements
Mebane Oaks Road Interchange Modification	Mebane	New ramp/relocate north bound exit ramp /Brundage Lane
Trollingwood Road Connector	Mebane	Trollingwood Road to Governor Scott Road
I-85/40 Frontage Road	Orange County	(south side)Ben Wilson Rd to Mattress Factory/West Ten Road
Mattress Factory Road Extension	Orange County	East Washington Street to US 70
Buckhorn Road Widening	Orange County	US 70 to West Ten Road
Lebanon Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements (est. over \$1mil) evaluated as highway project	Orange County	North Frazier Road to Stagecoach Road
Williamson Avenue Widening	Elon / Burlington	St. Marks Church Road to TBD
<i>New Projects for NCDOT Evaluation/ Scoring</i>		
<i>New Projects for Local Needs List / Study</i>		

Graham Hopedale Road	Burlington	Hanover Road to Mebane Street
Church Street	Burlington	Graham Hopedale Road to Sellars Mill Road
Church Street	Burlington	Beaumont Avenue to Graham Hopedale Road
Graham Hopedale Road	Burlington	McKinney Street to Ashland Drive
Main Street	Burlington	Kitchin Street to East Kime Street
Hatch Street	Burlington	Lakeside Avenue to Rauhut Street
Church Street	Burlington	Fisher Street to Beaumont Avenue
Tarleton Avenue	Burlington	Country Club Drive to Sunset Drive
Front Street	Burlington	Rosalyn Drive to Atwater Street
Tarleton Avenue	Burlington	Front Street to Edgewood Avenue
Tarleton Avenue	Burlington	Front Street to Davis Street
East Haggard Avenue	Elon	Phoenix Arms Apartments to NC Hwy 87
West Haggard Avenue	Elon	Manning Avenue going west to Cook Road (future bridge)
South Williamson Avenue	Elon	Sunset Drive to US 70/South Church Street
Manning Avenue	Elon	University Drive to West Haggard Avenue
Westbrook Avenue	Elon	University Drive to S. Church St. (Hwy. 70)
Oak St/Trollinger/Lebanon Avenue intersection	Elon	Cross Walk improvements
University Dr. (Hwy 100)	Elon	Extend multi use path
Westbrook Avenue/Alamance Street	Elon	University Drive/Cook Road to Springwood Avenue
Steele Street	Gibsonville	Springwood Avenue to Whitsett Street (Hwy 61/100)
Springwood Avenue	Gibsonville	Elm Street to Smith Street (Gibsonville Cemetery)
Whitsett Street	Gibsonville	Steel Street to Bethel Street
Town Branch Rd	Graham	NC 49 (E Elm St) to Teer Rd
NC 87 (S Main St)	Graham	SR 2183 (Ivey Rd) to SR 2100 (E Gilbreath St)
NC 87 (W Elm St)	Graham	Poplar St to NC 87/54 (E Harden St)
NC 54 (E Harden St)	Graham	N Marshall St to E Pine St
NC 87 (S Main St),	Graham	SR 2183 (Ivey Rd) to SR 2316 (Thompson Rd)
NC 54 (E Harden St)	Graham	E Pine St to SR 2183 (Ivey Rd)
E Parker St (SR 2396)	Graham	NC 49 (E Elm St) to SR 1719 (Pomeroy St)
S Maple St (SR 2424)	Graham	SR 2389 (W Interstate Service Rd/Auto Park Dr) to Ward St
NC 54 (E Harden St)	Graham	SR 2183 (Ivey Rd) to SR 2109 (Cooper Rd)
Rogers Rd (SR 2309)	Graham	NC 87 (S Main St) to Thompson Rd

Pedestrian Intersection Improvements	Graham	NC 87 (S Main St) and Pine St; NC 54(E Harden St) and N Marshall St; NC 54 (W Harden St) and SR 2424 (N Maple St); W Pine St and SR 2424 (S Maple St)
Pedestrian Intersection Improvements	Graham	SR 1716 (N Main St) and Albright Ave; SR 1716 (N Main St) and Guthrie St/N Maple St/W Hill St; SR 1716 (N Main St) and SR 2396 (E Parker St); SR 1716 (Washington St) and SR 1716 (Providence Rd)

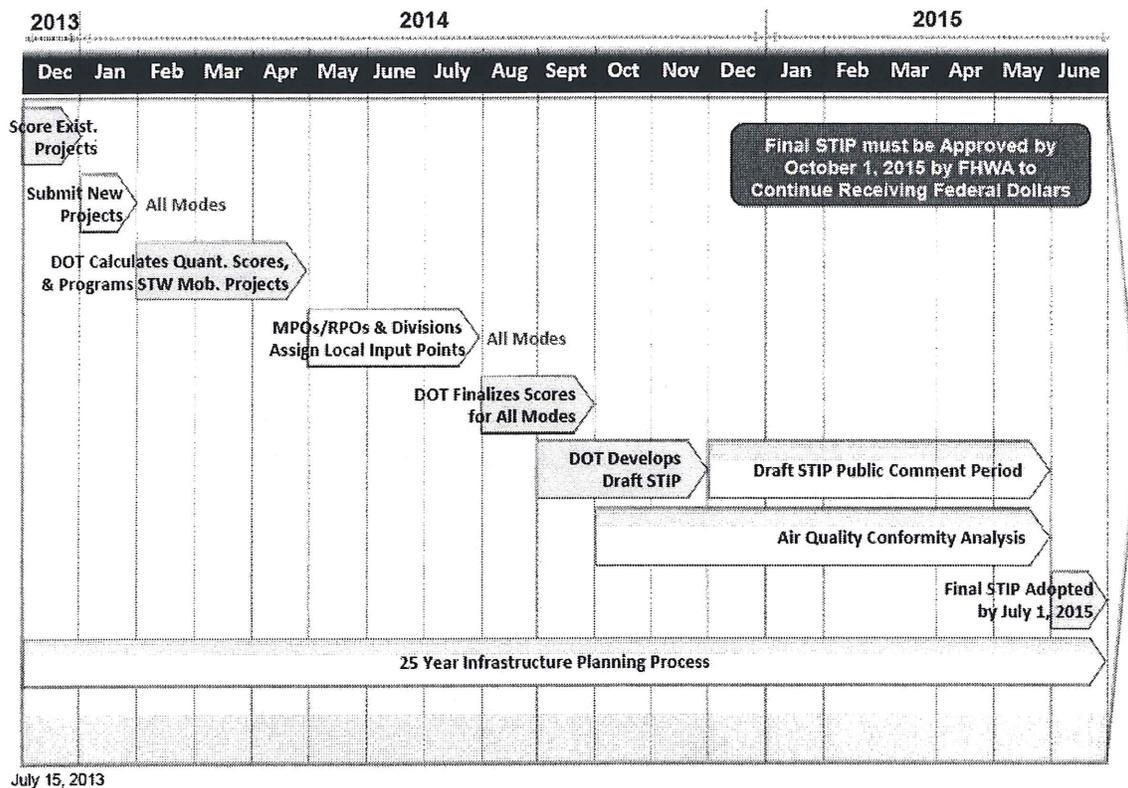
Attachment 3d-3

**STI Quick Reference Sheets – Implementation Schedule**

Below is the expected schedule for implementation of STI/P3.0. It may change as more information is available.

- Jan 1, 2014 Quantitative Scores for existing projects released.
- Jan 1-31, 2014 New projects may be submitted
- Feb 1 - April 30, 2014 Quantitative Scoring of new projects
- May 1, 2014 Release of Quantitative scores for new projects.
- May 1, 2014 Release of Programmed Statewide Mobility projects
- May 1 - July 31, 2014 Local Input submitted for Regional Impact and Division Needs projects
- Aug 1 - Sept 30, 2014 Final scores for all modes developed.
- Sep 1 – Nov 30, 2013 Program Development develops Draft STIP
- Oct 15, 2014 Draft STIP information available for non-attainment areas
- Dec 3, 2014 Draft STIP released for Public Comment
- Dec 3, 2014 May 1, 2015 Public Comment Period for Draft STIP
- June 4, 2015 NC Board of Transportation expected approval
- July 1, 2015 Legislative Approval of new STIP.
- September 30, 2015 Deadline for approval of MPOs TIP

**Prioritization 3.0 Schedule**



## Orange County Parks and Recreation

### Master Plan 2030 – Public Input Session Handout

September 24 / October 3 / October 10

#### What's Going On?

Orange County's master plan for parks and recreation is 25 years old and in need of update. The plan, which includes recommendations and planned actions for the future, has served the county well and many of the things called for in 1988 have come to pass, but it is time to chart the course for the future and develop a new plan.

#### What Do We Know?

As part of the new master plan creation, three different community needs assessment surveys have been conducted, and 832 persons have responded. Here is a brief summary of what the results show:

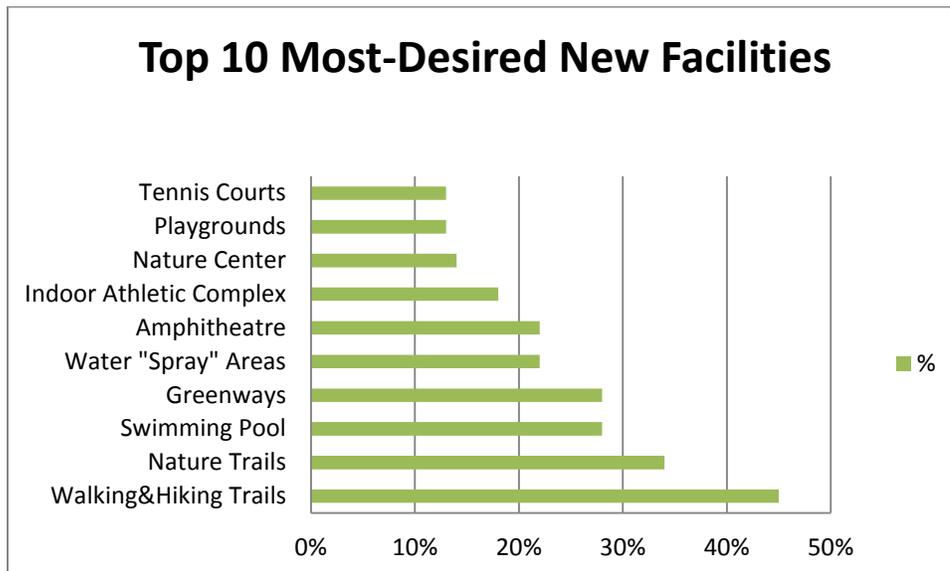
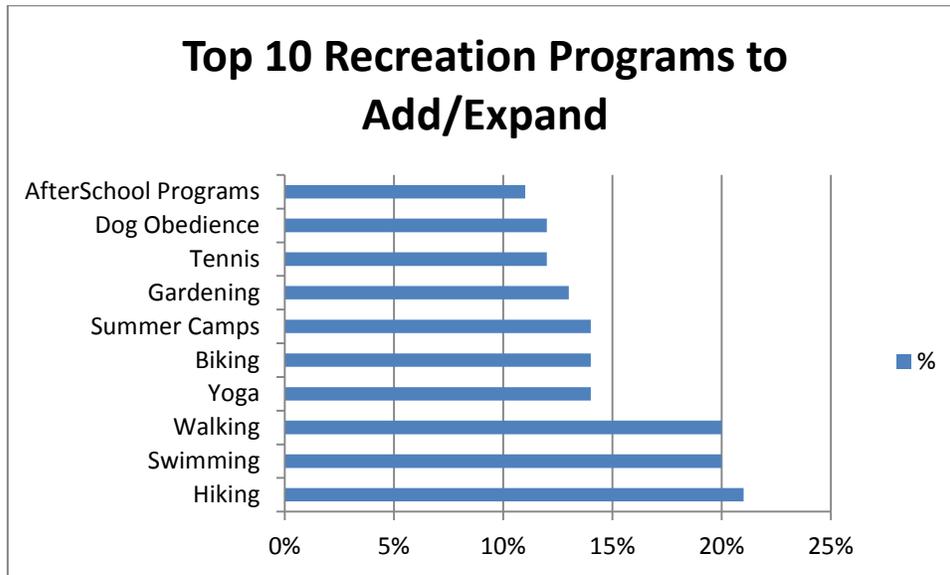
- The most commonly-used County facilities are the Sportsplex and Central Recreation Center in Hillsborough, Little River Regional Park, and Eurosport Soccer Center.
- **82%** of those surveyed think the County should expand active outdoor recreation opportunities.
- **79%** think the County should expand low-impact/passive recreation opportunities.
- **89%** said the County should expand or provide a trail system linking various areas of the county.
- Between **89% and 94%** feel County facilities are safe, well-maintained and well-operated.
- **93%** think that parks and recreation programs enhance economic health of the community, and **96%** think they enhance the physical and mental well-being of residents.

#### Most Popular Recreation Programs

1. Youth Soccer
2. Youth Basketball
3. Open Gymnasium
4. Little River Trail Run
5. Volleyball

Most Popular Special Events

1. Egg Hunt
2. Halloween Spooktacular
3. Fishing Rodeo
4. Earth Day Fair



## Possible Findings of the Community Needs Assessment and Research

### *Existing Parks and Recreation Facilities and Programs*

1. County residents overwhelmingly approve of the way current parks and recreation facilities are operated and maintained. They feel safe in these facilities, and find them easy to get to and accessible. County staff are seen as helpful and professional.
2. In the 15 years since the County opened its first park, additional park facilities and recreation centers have been created that serve a variety of community needs – and get high marks for providing quality opportunities to recreate – but maintenance and equipment replacement needs are on the horizon for some facilities.
3. The County has successfully acquired parkland and constructed parks in low-income and minority communities over the past 15 years, providing a needed outlet for physical activity, reflection in nature and outdoor recreation that meets social, mental and physical needs for both individuals and the public.
4. Residents believe strongly that park facilities and recreation programs:
  - a. Enhance economic health of Orange County;
  - b. Enhance physical and mental well-being of residents, and
  - c. Help reduce crime.

### *Future Park and Recreation Facilities and Programs*

5. There is strong interest among county residents to expand both active recreation and low-impact recreation opportunities (especially hiking, walking and biking trails, and a swimming pool).
6. Residents are less sure and largely split on whether the County should pursue indoor facilities for arts/leisure activities, but somewhat more in favor of additional indoor athletic facilities.
7. Some residents are unsure about whether future athletic programs or parks are needed, but among those expressing an opinion, a significant majority favor new programs and parks.
8. The highest levels of interest in new/expanded programs are for walking, hiking, swimming, biking, summer camps and yoga.
9. Likewise, the top choices for new parks facilities are walking trails, nature trails, biking trails, greenways, a swimming pool and water parks.
10. Residents are almost universally supportive of funding new parks and recreation facilities through grants and corporate donations.
11. Residents express strong support for financing future parks and recreation opportunities through voter-approved bonds or existing local taxes. There is less support for charging user fees, and increasing local taxes (other than property taxes) is not a desired solution.
12. The County has successfully acquired sites for new parks identified in the 1988 Master Plan, with the exception of the Bingham District, and four new parks are projected in the County's Capital Investment Plan, along with additions and improvements to existing parks.
13. The creation of nature preserves in important natural areas of the county offers an opportunity for public access and low-impact recreation in addition to protection of natural resources.

### *Opportunities and Challenges*

14. The County has in recent years seen success in pursuing public/private or public/non-profit partnerships for new facilities, and should continue to pursue these opportunities where mutually-beneficial.
15. With the County having land-banked several park sites for future use, and little room for new parks inside the town borders, there may be unprecedented opportunities for partnerships between County and towns for developing new park or recreation facilities.
16. There are likely also financial benefits to coordination and collaboration among the towns and County for future parks.
17. While not growing at the rate of the 1970's-1990's, the County continues to be a very-desirable place to live with a high quality of life, and population growth is expected to continue, adding another 36,000 residents by the year 2030. These new residents will likely be split between persons in the towns and those in the rural and suburban areas of the County.

18. The County's Lands Legacy Program has wiped out the parkland deficit identified in 1999, and secured a number of future parks, open spaces and nature preserve sites at strategic locations for future needs.
19. The 1988 Master Recreation and Parks Plan served the County well as a blueprint for future needs, and most of the facilities and programs anticipated in that plan have been built, secured or implemented. Many of the basic philosophical and physical tenets of that plan are still valid. However, a solution to a park site for Bingham Township remains to be addressed.
20. Opportunities for coordinated school/park planning with the school systems appear to exist.

### Informal Discussion of "Straw" Recommendation Ideas

***Important Note:*** No recommendations have been developed at this time. The following list of possible recommendations is a discussion draft to help the Parks and Recreation Council and staff "test" some possible recommendations for the Master Plan.

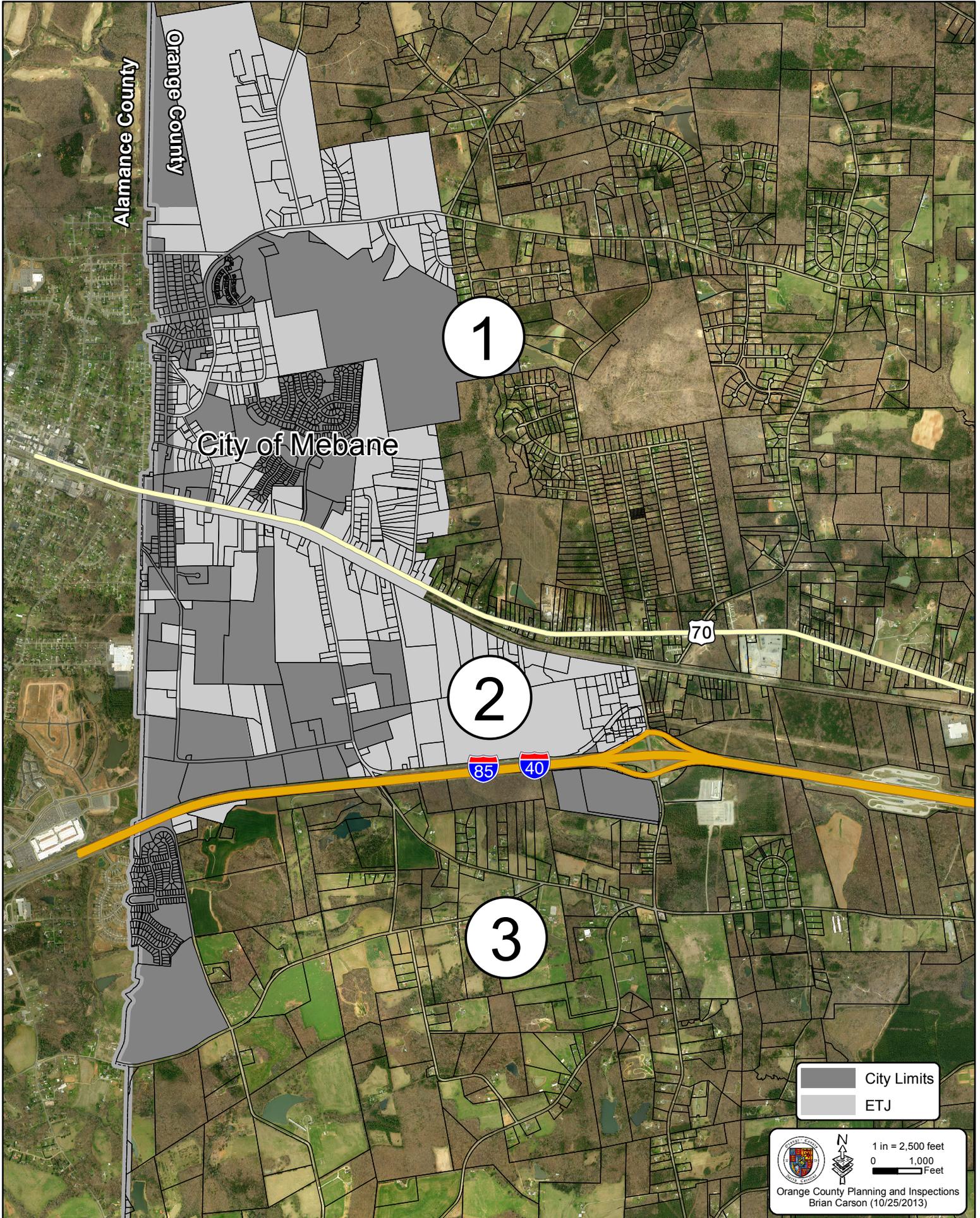
1. Enhance and protect our investment in existing park and recreation facilities.
2. Build the planned future parks at Blackwood Farm, Millhouse Road and Twin Creeks.
3. Build hiking and biking trails at planned future parks and build nature trails at the planned Seven-Mile Creek Nature Preserve and the New Hope Preserve (Hollow Rock).
4. Build an outdoor swimming pool in north-central or west-central Orange County.
5. In some manner, whether on rural rustic trails or along rural roadways, complete the Orange County section of the NC Mountains-to-Sea Trail.
6. Link town trails and parks to County parks via trails?
7. Ensure some type of park facilities in Bingham Township, either through the acquisition and construction of a new park or through existing recreation opportunities.
8. Look into creating expanding programs in areas such as trail-hiking and walking for health, and swimming lessons with Sportsplex or in conjunction with the towns.

### Discussion Topics

- What do you think of the possible "straw" recommendations?
- Do you agree with the 20 Findings drawn from the surveys and research?
- What, in your mind, are the most important things for the County to focus on in the areas of parks and recreation programs?
- Final thoughts?

*Want to share thoughts and comments online or by email? Go to [http://orangecountync.gov/deapr/parks\\_master\\_plan.asp](http://orangecountync.gov/deapr/parks_master_plan.asp) and click on the comments link, or you can email us at [deapr@orangecountync.gov](mailto:deapr@orangecountync.gov). Or call 919-245-2510.*

# Future School Site Zones





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