

Town of Hillsborough and Orange County Joint Planning Historical Background

Town of Hillsborough/Orange County Urban Transition Area Task Force

The coordinated planning process towards joint planning began in 2004 with the appointment of a joint Urban Transition Area Task Force which sought to identify areas around the Town of Hillsborough that could be serviced by water and sewer. An impetus to study this issue was that the Town of Hillsborough's Primary Service Area for water and sewer services, as contained in the Water and Sewer Management Planning and Boundary Agreement (a joint agreement between Orange County, OWASA, and the Towns of Chapel Hill, Carrboro, and Hillsborough adopted in 2001), extended far beyond the Town's extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) and exceeded the Town's capacity for providing these services. The Urban Transition Area Task Force completed its work in early 2005 when the County and Town accepted the resulting Principles of Agreement and Map. Since the task force was not able to identify specific areas for water and sewer services, one of the Principles was for the two governments to jointly contract the services of a consultant to prepare a Joint Strategic Growth Plan.

Town of Hillsborough/Orange County Strategic Growth Plan – Phase I

In early 2006, the Town and County embarked upon a Strategic Growth Plan with the assistance of a steering committee and retained consultant Clarion Associates. The project culminated with a Strategic Growth Plan Report in late 2006 and became known as "Phase I" of the Hillsborough-Orange County Strategic Growth Plan as the plan called for additional work to be done and preparation of an Interlocal Agreement.

Town of Hillsborough/Orange County Strategic Growth Plan – Phase II

Phase II of the Strategic Growth Plan, which was to prepare an Interlocal Agreement, began in the Spring of 2008 with the appointment of a Hillsborough-Orange County Interlocal Agreement Steering Committee tasked with developing an agreement to promote coordinated planning in central Orange County between Orange County and the Town of Hillsborough. Clarion Associates was retained to coordinate the committee and draft the agreement. The committee completed its work, including a robust public input meeting schedule, in early 2009 and the Interlocal Agreement was adopted December 15, 2009.

Future implementation of the Agreement will result in:

- adoption of a Joint Land Use Plan (map and text),
- creation of Urbanizing Areas with underlying County authority with Town of Hillsborough Zoning Administration,

- adjustment of the Town's Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (abandonment of some existing ETJ by the Town and the County granting new ETJ), and
- amendments to the County's Zoning Ordinance and Atlas, as well as Subdivision Regulations.