

Alice Gordon Bio - August 2011

Alice Gordon received a B.Sc. in Psychology from The Ohio State University and a Ph.D. in Psychology from Stanford University. A former research psychologist at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, she specialized in the study of children's language development at the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute.

Alice Gordon and her family have lived in Orange County since 1972. She has been married over forty years to Alan, who is a former Professor and Chair of the Department of Computer Science at Duke University. They reside just outside of Chapel Hill and Carrboro in the joint planning area of Orange County, and have two grown children, Jennifer and David. Since Alice and Alan now have two granddaughters, there are three generations of her family living in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro area.

Alice was elected Orange County Commissioner in 1990, and re-elected in 1994, 1998, 2002, 2006, and 2010. She has served as Chair and Vice Chair of the Board of County Commissioners. Before becoming a commissioner, she was Chair of the Orange County Planning Board, President of the Chapel Hill Carrboro PTA Council, and Second Vice President of the League of Women Voters.

While serving as a member of the Board of County of Commissioners, her work has focused on the areas of public education, environmental protection, and regional transportation. She chaired the Schools and Land Use Council, the county-wide group of elected officials that crafted the Schools Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance to plan ahead for future school needs. She served as the commissioner liaison to the county's Water Resources Committee and the Commission for the Environment, two groups she was instrumental in creating. She chaired the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization's Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), which is the policy decision-making board of that organization, and has also served as Chair of the Triangle Transit Board of Trustees, the regional public transit agency.

She is currently a member of the Triangle Transit Board of Trustees, the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization's TAC, and the county's Intergovernmental Parks Work Group. She also serves as a member of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners' Environment Steering Committee and the National Association of Counties' Environment, Energy and Land Use Steering Committee. More information about Alice's work can be found on her website, www.alicegordon.com.

In 2006 Leadership Triangle honored Alice with the Goodmon Award for Exemplary Regional Leadership by an Elected Official for her contributions in the areas of environmental protection and regional transportation. She also received an award from the Orange-Chatham Group of the Sierra Club for her contributions in the area of transportation.

Two of the initiatives for which Alice provided leadership have received national planning awards. The first initiative is the creation of the county's nationally recognized "Lands Legacy Program," the first comprehensive county land acquisition program in North Carolina. In the spring of 1998, Alice proposed the creation of this program, as well as a new county department to focus on environmental protection, and both were later implemented by the Board of County Commissioners. In 2007 the Lands Legacy Program won the Excellence in County Planning Award from the American Planning Association and it was also a finalist for the Leadership in Conservation Award from the National Association of Counties and the Trust for Public Land.

The second initiative is in the area of regional transportation. As Chair of the Transportation Advisory Committee of the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO) in 2007 and 2008, Alice helped lead the effort to create the 2035 regional long range transportation plan that will guide transportation planning in the Triangle. The DCHC MPO is the regional organization responsible for transportation planning for the western part of the Triangle, while the Capital Area Planning Organization (CAMPO) is responsible for the eastern part of the Triangle. In 2009 the two metropolitan planning organizations were honored with a national award for their collaborative efforts in creating a joint 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), the first joint LRTP for the region. The National Award for Outstanding Achievement in Metropolitan Transportation Planning was presented to the DCHC MPO and CAMPO by the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations, which commended this collaborative effort as an example of exemplary practice within the planning process.