



ATTACHMENT 7A

October 8, 2008

Edison H. Johnson, Jr., PE, FITE
Executive Director, N.C. Capital Area MPO
127 W. Hargett St., Suite 406
Raleigh, NC 27601

Dear Ed:

On behalf of the Research Triangle Foundation, I am writing to request that TIP Project U-4410 RTP Access Routes be amended to provide for the construction of the last two remaining sections of roadway which will complete the basic road network for the Research Triangle Park.

These two missing links are shown on the attached map and include a .7 mile extension of Louis Stephens Drive which will connect to a project being undertaken by the Town of Cary. With this connection, Louis Stephens will provide an alternative north-south arterial from Cary into RTP. The second is a .4 mile extension of Little Drive to connect to a new section of roadway which is being built by a private developer from NC 55 to the RTP western boundary. Connecting Little Drive to NC 55 will enable employees from companies in the southern portion of RTP such as Cisco Systems, NetApp, Fidelity Investments, BiogenIdec and Credit Suisse to have access to a major node of commercial and residential development. Together the companies in the southern portion of RTP currently employ over 7600 people and have plans to expand their employment to 18,000 over the next several years.

The total cost of the combined projects is estimated to be \$6,000,000 of which the Research Triangle Foundation has committed to provide one-third (\$2,000,000) in addition to providing the design costs (\$650,000) and right of way. The remaining funding is proposed to be provided by \$400,000 from state contingency funds, \$800,000 from SB 622 Economic Development funds and \$2.8 million from TIP Economic Development Program funds (U-4500).

TIP Project U-4410 was established in approximately 1998 as a means of using NCDOT economic development funds to construct the access roads in RTP to position the Research Triangle Foundation to attract new businesses to the developing Wake County portion of RTP. The intent of the project was that the Research Triangle Foundation would provide the design and right of way and would up-front the construction costs. Once a site was sold, then NCDOT would reimburse RTF for 2/3s of the construction and construction

administration costs. In order to accommodate NCDOT's cash-flow, these reimbursements were often spread out over 3 or more years at no interest to NCDOT. Prior to the creation of Project U-4410, the Research Triangle Foundation could not request Industrial Access funds or Economic Development road funds until a company had committed to acquire a parcel. This situation made it very difficult to assure companies that the access roads would be constructed in time to accommodate their schedules. Project U-4410 provided the mechanism by which the Research Triangle Foundation could respond quickly to a company's need for access. Over the past ten years, the following roads have been built under U-4410: Kit Creek Road from Cisco's initial site to NC 55; Development Drive from Ericsson's initial site to Louis Stephens Drive; Louis Stephens Drive from Hopson Road to Little Drive; and Little Drive from Louis Stephens Drive to Davis Drive. A current project, the extension of Hopson Road from Louis Stephens to NC 55, is under construction and is funded through U-4410 but in this case the Research Triangle Foundation is reimbursing NCDOT for the construction costs since part of the project is outside RTP. Through U-4410 NCDOT has spent \$12.6 million for construction of RTP access roads and the Research Triangle Foundation has provided \$14.3 million in design, construction and right of way.

Please let me know if I can provide you with any additional information.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth H. Rooks

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING AN ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION TO THE
N.C. CAPITAL AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)
FY 2009-2015 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

On motion made by Mayor _____ seconded by Mayor _____ and upon being put to a vote, duly adopted, the following resolution to amend the North Carolina Capital Area MPO FY 2009-2015 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP).

WHEREAS, the Transportation Advisory Committee has reviewed the Fiscal Year 2009-2015 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program dated August 20, 2008 and found the need to amend it; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Advisory Committee has found that the proposed amendment conforms to the purpose of the North Carolina State Implementation Plan for maintaining the National Ambient Air Quality Standards in accordance with 40 CFR 51 and 93; and

WHEREAS, the Capital Area MPO Long-Range Transportation Plan has a planning year of 2030, and meets all the requirements in 23 CFR 450; and

WHEREAS, the Capital Area Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program is a subset of the currently conforming Capital Area MPO Long-Range Transportation Plan; and

WHEREAS, 93.126 defines the amendment as exempt from the requirement to determine conformity; and

WHEREAS, the N.C. Capital Area MPO has received the letter to request that TIP Project U-4410 (Research Triangle Park Access Routes), shown as "Exhibit 6A" attached hereto and made a part of this document;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Advisory Committee that the Capital Area Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program for fiscal years 2009-2015, dated August 20, 2008 be amended as shown in "Exhibit 6A", on this, the 19th day of November, 2008.

Joe Bryan, Chair
Transportation Advisory Committee

Ed Johnson, Capital Area MPO Director
Transportation Advisory Committee Clerk

County of Wake
State of North Carolina

I, Diane Wilson, a Notary Public for Wake County, North Carolina, do hereby certify that on this, the 19th day of April, 2006, before me personally appeared Joe Bryan and acknowledged the due execution of the foregoing instrument.

Witness my hand and official seal, this the 19th day of November, 2008.

(Official Seal)

Notary Public

My commission expires January 26, 2011