



## Council Sub-Committee on Transportation at Obey Creek

*Sub-Committee Meeting – February 26, 2015 from 4:00-6:00pm  
in the Planning conference room (third floor) of Town Hall*

**Sub-Committee Members:** Council Members Ed Harrison, Maria Palmer, and Lee Storrow

**Invited attendees:**

- Town Staff: David Bonk, Brian Litchfield, Kumar Neppalli, Mary Jane Nirdlinger, Mila Vega, and Megan Wooley
- NCDOT Staff: Chuck Edwards
- Advisory Board/Commission Members: Rainer Dammers, Eric Hyman, and Michael Parker
- Applicant Team: Ben Perry, Scott Murray, and Roger Waldon

**Purpose of the meeting:** To provide information for the Sub-Committee's consideration regarding transportation improvements external to the Obey Creek site.

**Purpose of the Sub-Committee:** To provide the Council with a recommendation regarding transportation improvements for the Obey Creek development agreement.

### Proposed Meeting Agenda

- **Introductions**
- **Public Comment**
- **Review of information and recommendations**
  - Roadway – See Attachments 1, 2, and 3.
  - Bicycle and pedestrian – See Attachment 4.
  - Transit – See Attachment 5 and 6.
- **Next Steps**
  - Set time for next meeting – Proposed: Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-5:00pm
  - Next meeting topics:
    - Improvements at the intersection of 54/15-501.
- **Public Comment**
- **Adjourn**

**Attachments:**

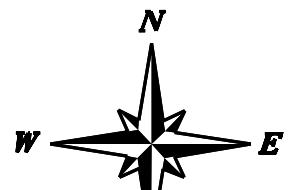
- Attachment 1: Alternative 1 – Design by Toole Design Group
- Attachment 2: Image of intersections at Obey Creek
- Attachment 3: Draft Diagrams for US 15-501 and NC 54 Intersection
- Attachment 4: South Columbia Street and Otey's Road Safety Review and Concept Design – Memorandum from Toole Design Group
- Attachment 5: Service Capacity Diagrams
- Attachment 6: Obey Creek –Detailed Transit Analysis Update – Memorandum from HNTB

**Toole Design Group – Alternative 1 (12/5/14)**



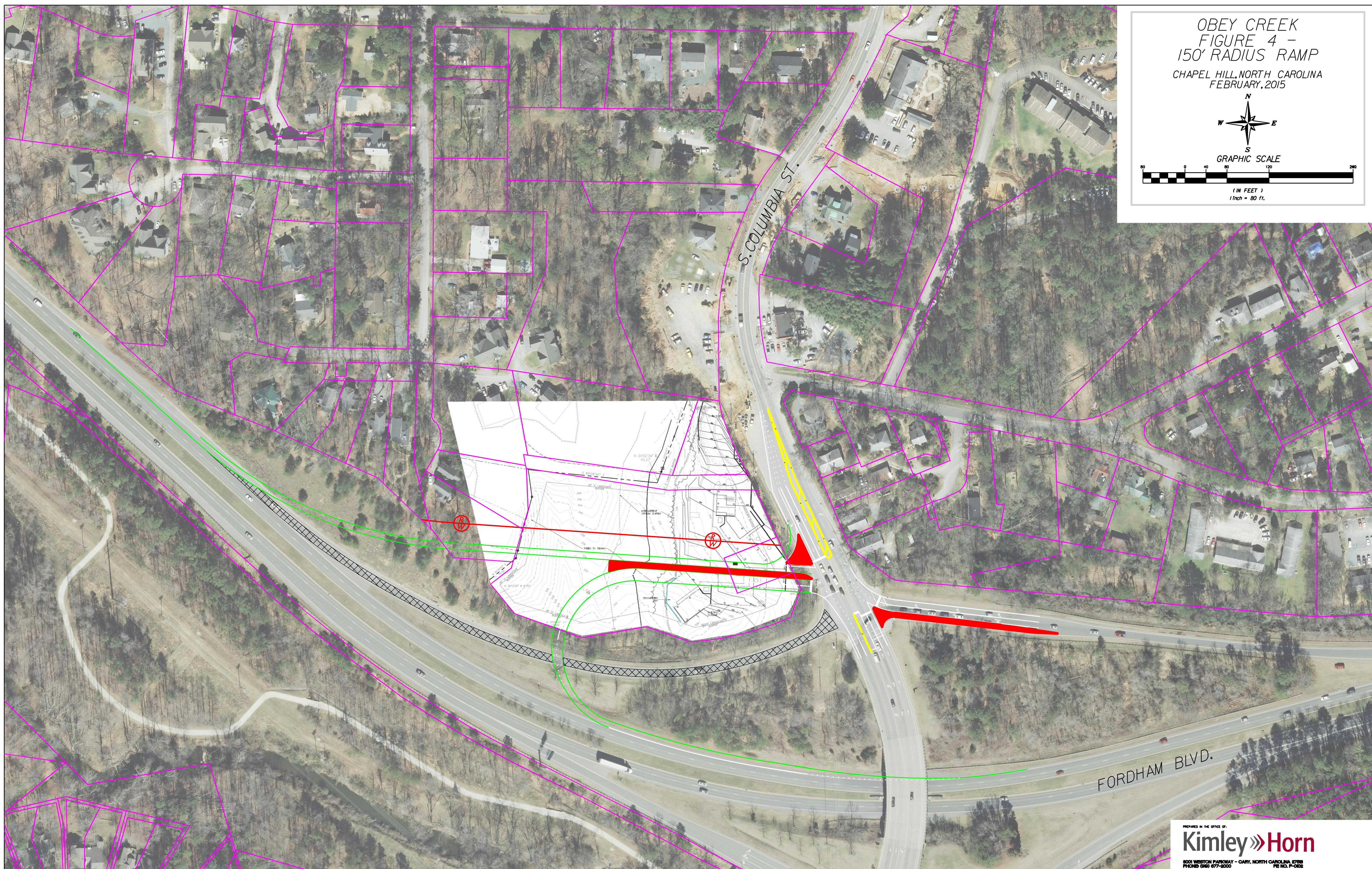


OBEY CREEK  
FIGURE 4 -  
150' RADIUS RAMP  
CHAPEL HILL, NORTH CAROLINA  
FEBRUARY, 2015

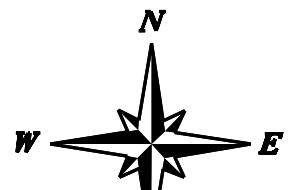


GRAPHIC SCALE

1 IN FEET  
1 inch = 80 ft.



OBEY CREEK  
FIGURE 5 –  
120' RADIUS RAMP  
CHAPEL HILL, NORTH CAROLINA  
FEBRUARY, 2015

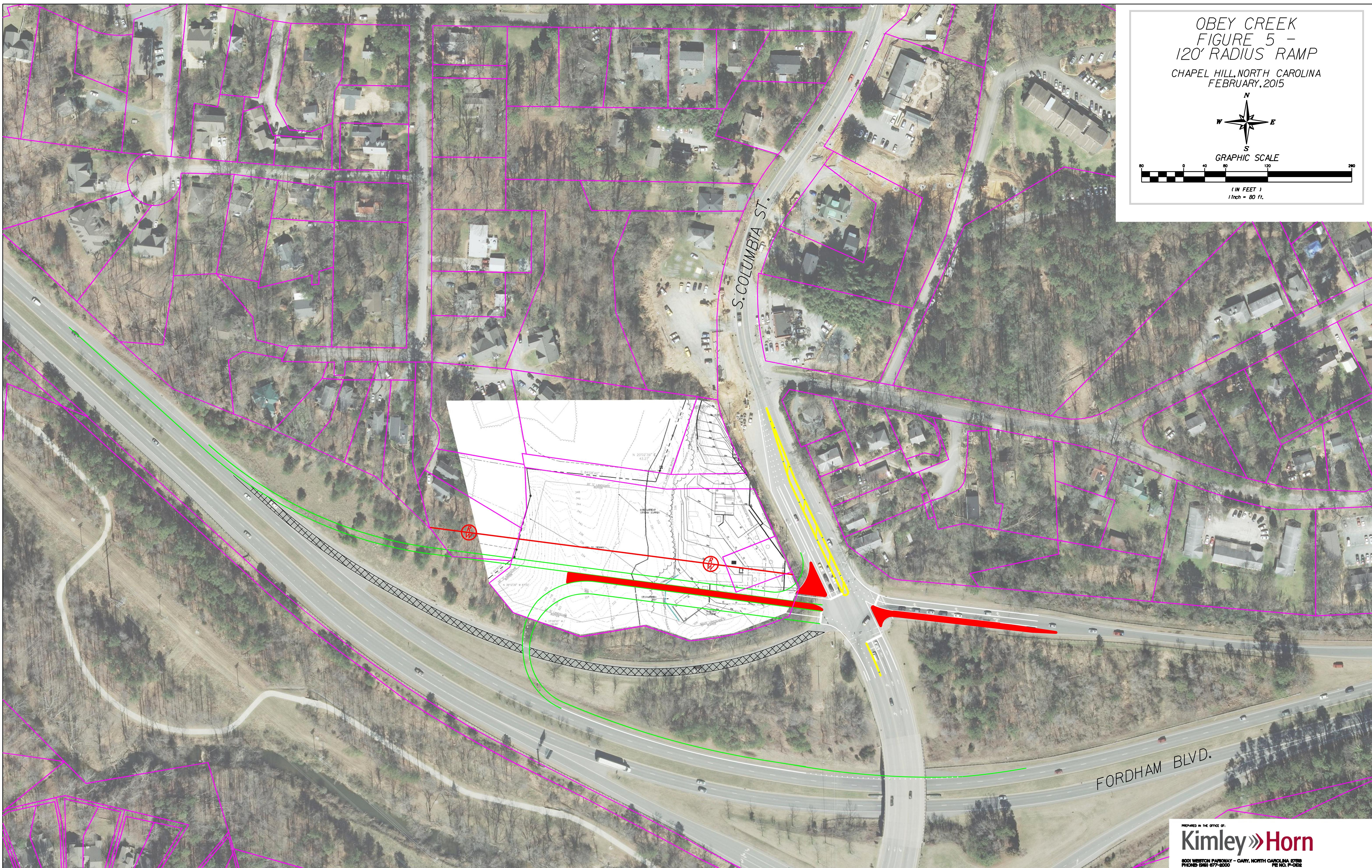


GRAPHIC SCALE

80 0 40 80 120 200

(IN FEET)

1 inch = 80 ft.





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## MEMORANDUM

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**Date:** January 06, 2015  
**To:** David Bonk, Kumar Neppalli, PE  
Town of Chapel Hill, North Carolina  
**From:** Bill Schultheiss, PE  
**Re:** South Columbia Street and Otey's Road Safety Review and Concept Development

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Toole Design Group (TDG) was retained by the Town of Chapel Hill to review a concept design developed by Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. (KHI) at the northern intersection of South Columbia Street at Fordham Boulevard (attached as exhibit 2), to develop concept design alternatives for South Columbia Street from Purefoy Road to Culver Road, and to develop a crossing improvement concept for Otey's Road at Fordham Boulevard.

The intersection changes are being proposed to reduce potential motor vehicle delays at this intersection in the year 2022 which partially result from the construction of the Obey Creek Mixed Use Development project. A traffic impact study conducted by HNTB Corporation projects a change from Level of Service (LOS) of E to F during the evening peak period at this location in the year 2022 based on traffic forecast and industry standard traffic modeling. The intersection is forecasted to operate at a LOS C during the morning and mid-day periods. It would likely be operating at a higher LOS (A, B, or C) during non-peak periods where traffic volumes are reduced. The traffic study developed by HNTB and the concept design developed by KHI did not provide an assessment of existing pedestrian and bicyclist conditions nor did it provide recommendations for any improvements for those modes.

The intent of this review and concept development process is threefold:

- 1) To identify existing safety and access challenges for pedestrians and bicyclists which were not discussed in the report or concept drawing;
- 2) To review potential operational or safety challenges that may result from the proposed KHI design for all modes of transportation;
- 3) To develop concepts and recommendations which address existing and potential future pedestrian and bicyclists' safety and access as well as to implement goals identified in the 2014 Town Bicycle Master Plan.

## **Review of Existing Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety Challenges**

TDG completed a bicycle master plan for the Town in June of 2014<sup>1</sup> and for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC) in October 2014<sup>2</sup>. Both plans identified a number of short and long term improvements along South Columbia Street between the proposed Obey Creek development and Purefoy Road (purple line in figure below). The plans also recommended the development of an alternative bicycle route to the UNC campus via the Morgan Creek Greenway, Morgan Creek Road, and Otey's Road (orange line). The Morgan Creek Greenway will also create an additional route to Carrboro once completed (blue line). The following graphic illustrates these three routes:



With increasing development south of Fordham Boulevard at Southern Village and Obey Creek, additional bicycle and pedestrian traffic is anticipated. The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) recently widened South Columbia Street north of Purefoy Road to add bicycle lanes and sidewalks on both sides of the street. The Chapel Hill bicycle plan identified the intersections with the Fordham Boulevard entrance and exit ramps as locations in need of spot improvements for bicyclist safety. These intersections are designed with large curb radii exposing bicyclists to high speed motorist conflicts. These intersections also have an incomplete pedestrian network (sidewalks, curb ramps, crosswalks, signals). ***Exhibit 1 illustrates key access and safety challenges for bicyclists and pedestrians.*** Additional safety challenges include:

- Absence of street lighting along South Columbia Street
- Missing sidewalks along the east side of the street south of Fordham Boulevard
- Free flow right turn lane that allows high speed turns for northbound right turn onto Fordham Boulevard
- The size of the intersections increase exposure of bicyclists and pedestrians to turning traffic and allow traffic to turn at higher speeds
- Incomplete trail connections through Merritt's Pasture to allow alternate route to UNC Campus via Morgan Creek Road
- Missing crossings to allow pedestrians and bicyclists to cross South Columbia Street
- Unclear delineation of bicyclists path through merging areas reduces clarity of right-of-way at start of right turn lanes

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.townofchapelhill.org/town-hall/departments-services/design-chapel-hill/connected-community/the-chapel-hill-bike-plan>

<sup>2</sup> <http://move.unc.edu/bike/bike-plan/>

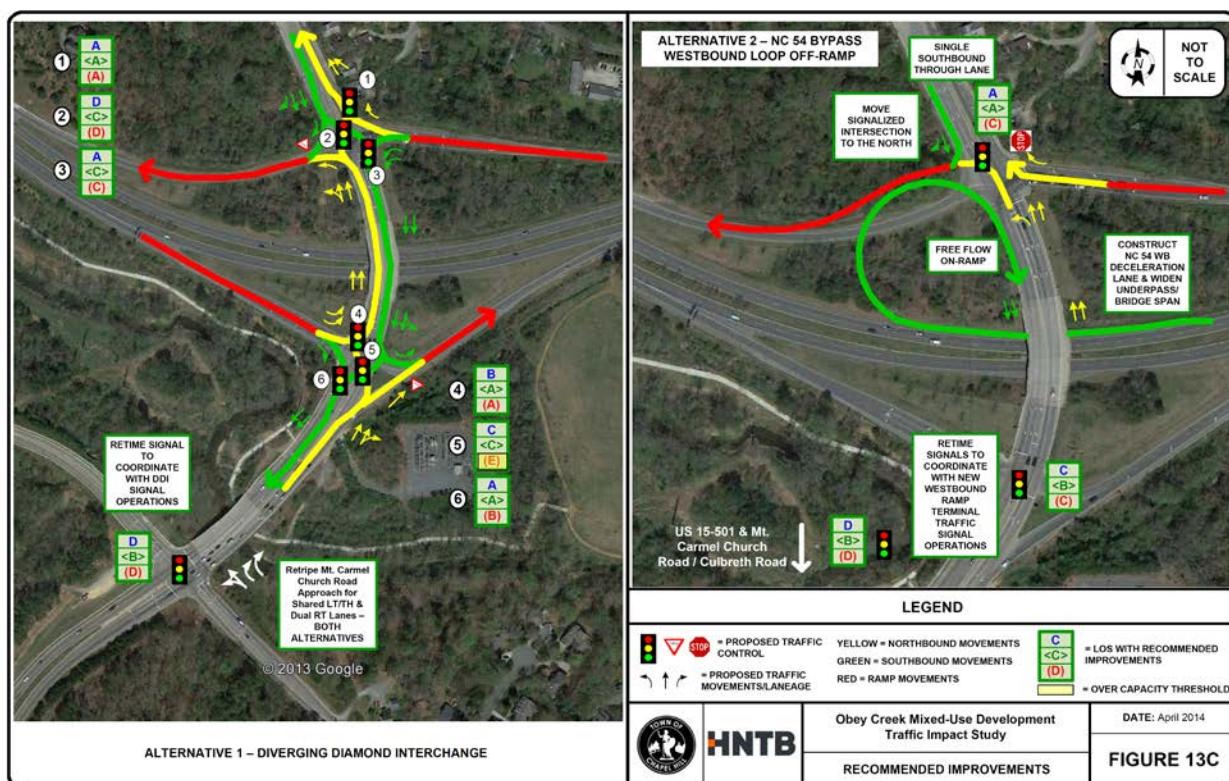
The deficiencies identified in Exhibit 1 are based on direct observation by TDG staff, a review of the proposed KHI alternative, and input provided from the public through the Town and University Bike Plans.

## **Review of HNTB Traffic Impact Study and KHI Concept Design**

The HNTB study evaluated potential impacts for motor vehicle traffic mobility within portions of the Town that could result from a combination of regional growth in traffic and traffic generated by the Obey Creek project. The report does not provide recommendations for addressing the safety or access challenges that exist today or may be created by some of the proposed roadway changes for bicyclists or pedestrians. The study projected increasing traffic through the year 2022 to assess potential impacts on motorists LOS at intersections along South Columbia Street and other locations within the Town.

Due to the projected increases in traffic volume, the northern intersection of South Columbia Street at Fordham Boulevard was identified as potentially operating at a failing LOS (F) during evening peak periods. To reduce motor vehicle delay, HNTB identified the following two potential options at this location:

- 1) Diverging Diamond Interchange (image on left)
- 2) Construction of new free flow ramp for westbound to southbound traffic (image on right)



It is important to note the HNTB traffic study identifies heavy vehicles as being 3% of the future southbound off-ramp traffic flow at this location. During the PM peak period the traffic flow is estimated to be approximately 536 vehicles which equates to approximately 18-20 trucks per hour. The study does not provide information on the type of heavy vehicle traffic which can range from a small delivery or trash type truck (SU type) to buses (BUS), or larger tractor trailer type trucks (WB-50 and WB-62). The WB-62 is a common truck size and a standard design vehicle to accommodate heavy

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vehicle turns on interstate and limited access roadways and is an appropriate design vehicle for this location.

### **Review of Diverging Diamond Interchange Option (DDI) - HNTB Alternative 1**

The DDI interchange design significantly reduces motor vehicle conflicts, reduces some potential conflicts with pedestrians and bicyclists while possibly intensifying others, and increases traffic capacity<sup>3</sup>. While these changes may improve motor vehicle flow they generally degrade safety and access for bicyclists for two primary reasons:

- 1) They typically require pedestrians and bicyclists to travel in the middle of two streams of moving traffic in a shared use path. This can be uncomfortable if the path is less than 14 feet in width and feels like you are moving through a loud traffic canyon as shown in the photo as a barrier wall is required to protect the users.
- 2) These designs also are typically constructed with two to four free flowing ramps for motorized traffic to achieve the time saving efficiencies for motorists.



*Figure 1 - DDI in Springfield, MO. Source FHWA DDI Informational Guide*

While these facilities can be shown to reduce delays for people walking or bicycling, those reductions in time are contingent on proper yielding behavior by motorists as they cross the unsignalized, free-flow ramps. In particular ramps where motorists are accelerating to access Fordham Boulevard are likely to present safety challenges for pedestrians and bicyclists. Motorists are less likely to yield where they are accelerating onto a highway ramp. If multiple approach lanes provided, multiple-threat crashes are likely to result which can result in serious injury to pedestrians or bicyclists. It is not clear from the HNTB report if multiple lanes would be required for the entrance and exit ramps.

The approach geometry required for the motor vehicle travel lanes as they approach the entrance and exit ramps may generally not be sharp enough to reduce approaching vehicle speeds at the crosswalk to 10 or 15 mph which would increase yielding behavior. The FHWA DDI Guidebook lists many additional challenges for bicyclists and pedestrians which are difficult to mitigate without compromising the travel time and safety benefits intended for the motorist.

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<sup>3</sup> [http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/intersection/alter\\_design/pdf/fhwasa14067\\_ddi\\_infoguide.pdf](http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/intersection/alter_design/pdf/fhwasa14067_ddi_infoguide.pdf)



Figure 2 - DDI in Springfield, MO. Source FHWA DDI Informational Guide. Accelerating free flow ramps are circled green, decelerating ramps are circled red.

This type of interchange is not recommended in an urban area unless the following are provided:

#### Single Lane Approach Design Strategies

- Manage free flow ramp approach speeds to result in 10 to 15 mph speeds by providing raised crosswalks and tight curb radii
- Provide minimum 14 foot wide shared use path for crossings under 200 feet. As crossings lengthen beyond 200 feet, consider providing additional buffer width with vegetation to increase comfort.

#### Multiple Lane Approach Design Strategies

- Elimination of free flow ramp approaches with signals
- Provide minimum 14 foot wide shared use path for crossings under 200 feet. As crossings lengthen beyond 200 feet, consider providing additional buffer width with vegetation to increase comfort.

#### Review of Kimley-Horn Free Flow Ramp – HNTB Alternative 2

Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. (KHI) developed three concept designs at the northern intersection of South Columbia Street at Fordham Boulevard. These exhibits all provide variations of free flowing off-ramp approaches to South Columbia Street, with the only difference being the radius of curvature for the off ramp from Fordham Boulevard. For purposes of this review, only Figure 3 is assessed. ***The KHI design is attached as Exhibit 2.*** This figure provides additional geometric design detail as compared to the HNTB alternative 2 graphic. The design recommends the provision of:

- free flowing southbound right turns onto Fordham Boulevard
- free flowing southbound right turns onto South Columbia Street to reduce motorists delays and to ensure vehicles do not back up onto Fordham Boulevard.

The design conforms to AASHTO guidelines but fails to consider the impacts on pedestrians and bicyclists by emphasizing motorist mobility over the mobility and safety needs of other users. It is not an appropriate design for an urban area where bicyclist and pedestrians are routinely present on the roadway and the crossing has been previously identified as a major barrier to non-motorized travel. This is an increasingly urbanizing area in close proximity (approximately 1 mile) to the heart of the Town of Chapel Hill and the UNC Campus.

The free flow ramps are designed to accommodate a WB-62 tractor trailer truck turning into its own travel lane without encroaching onto other lanes to maintain the free flow capacity of the lane. This results in the need to provide a 60 to 70 foot radius turn which allows smaller vehicles to turn at higher speeds, lengthens crossing distances, and flattens the viewing angle between the turning motorist and approaching bicyclists and motorists on the South Columbia Street. The combination of these factors reduces safety for pedestrians and bicyclists and on the South Columbia Bridge, reduces safety between motor vehicles that may need to merge across higher

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speed traffic to change lanes<sup>4</sup>. The concept does not provide any detail for existing safety deficiencies for pedestrians and bicyclists could or would be addressed. This design is not recommended for implementation without further modifications.

## **TDG Proposed Alternatives to Address Bicycle and Pedestrian Needs**

TDG developed 3 design concepts to allow further exploration of opportunities to improve pedestrian and bicyclist deficiencies identified in this memo and in the bicycle master plan.

***The TDG concepts are attached as Exhibit Three*** and are briefly described below. The concepts apply the following principals:

- balance the required objective of improving motorist mobility (as measured by LOS in the year 2022) with the safety and mobility needs of pedestrians and bicyclists who are more vulnerable roadway users;
- balance the need to provide a design that allows large vehicles to turn with the safety and mobility needs of pedestrians and bicyclists;
- modifies the KHI design for proposed Fordham westbound exit ramp to provide two approach lanes to minimize the likelihood of traffic backing up onto Fordham Boulevard;
- maintain the proposed access restrictions proposed by HNTB at the northern intersection of South Columbia Street and Fordham Boulevard;
- maintain access for larger vehicles up to the WB-62 design vehicle, but allows them to use all available width of receiving lanes to turn to minimize curb radius at corners;
- complete the missing pedestrian and bicycle network to provide routing options;
- minimize crossing distances;
- employ design techniques to improve the comfort of pedestrians and bicyclists recognizing they are vulnerable roadway users;
- reduce or eliminate locations with free flow traffic across bicycle and pedestrian conflict points;
- promote yielding by turning motorists through reduced corner radius;
- minimize exposure of bicyclists to merging or crossing traffic with pavement markings reducing the size of the area of conflict;
- highlight areas of conflict with green bicycle lanes and marked crosswalks ;
- use regulatory signs to notify motorists of responsibility to yield to pedestrians and bicyclists;
- narrow traffic lanes to cost effectively achieve lower vehicle speeds and provide additional space to allocate to bicyclists and pedestrians;
- recommend street lighting to improve safety of all users at locations of potential conflict.

### **Alternative 1**

Alternative 1 depicts modest changes to the KHI design. The slip ramp designs remain in place for the southbound and northbound on-ramps to Fordham Boulevard. Adjustments to curbs are recommended to remove free flow traffic from the proposed westbound to southbound off ramp.

- Signal, stop control, or yield control for each on and off ramp is recommended in that prioritized order of consideration to ensure pedestrians and bicyclists have safe crossing opportunities;
- Modify intersection geometry for the northern intersection of South Columbia Street at Fordham Road to:

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<sup>4</sup> [http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/nchrp/nchrp\\_w208.pdf](http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/nchrp/nchrp_w208.pdf)

- allow a WB-62 to utilize the full width of the receiving roadway for turns, (recognizing this is a small percentage of the traffic);
- consider restriction of right-turn-on red for trucks which will need larger gaps in traffic if the dedicated receiving lane is not provided;
- to reduce likelihood vehicles queue into the through lanes on Fordham Boulevard<sup>5</sup> the westbound to southbound off ramp provides a double right turn lane (shown on concept); this may require trucks to control both lanes to make the right turn;
- It may be further necessary to lengthen the deceleration lane from Fordham Boulevard east of the the South Columbia Bridge. It appears space is available if the travel lane can be located in close proximity to the existing bridge support column.
- A median refuge is provides for the new northern crosswalk;
- Modify intersection geometry for the southern intersection of South Columbia Street at Fordham Boulevard;
  - Improve trail connections to Morgan Creek and Fan Branch Trails by widening sidewalk on the west side of the street and constructing new trail access on the east side of the street;
  - Add crosswalks to north and east legs of intersection
- Provide new trail connection through Merritt's Pasture connecting to Morgan Creek Road;
- Provide buffered bicycle lanes where space allows in accordance with the bicycle master plan recommendations by:
  - Use of 10 foot travel lanes adjacent to buffer;
  - Use of 10 foot left turn lanes.
- Provide green bicycle lanes at locations of conflicts with complementary regulatory signs notifying motorists are to yield to bicyclists prior to them merging or turning across the bike lane;
- Provision of crosswalk on the south side of Culver Road across South Columbia will improve ability of pedestrians and bicyclists to access the trail head.
- Provide street lighting at all intersections to improve visibility.
- While not shown in the drawings, consideration should be given to providing a raised crosswalk at the southbound and northbound on-ramp slip right turn lane crossings;
- The concept does not include provision of bicycle lanes on Mount Carmel Church Road which are included in the Town Bicycle Master Plan. Addition of these lanes would require widening the road 12 feet beyond existing pavement widths.



Buffered bike lane with 10 foot travel lanes on 45 mph arterial on Shields Street in Fort Collins, CO



Green bike lane within conflict area  
Seattle, WA



Raised crosswalk at slip right turn lane  
Boulder, CO

## Alternative 2

Alternative 2 depicts includes many of the recommendations from Alternative 1, but provides a higher level of change by removing all slip ramp designs. Additionally for southbound bicyclists, the bicycle lane is replaced by a

<sup>5</sup> This was based on preliminary modeling by HNTB of a controlled approach versus free flow

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curb protected bicycle lane. The curb protected bicycle lane replaces the extended merging area with a single conflict point the combined bicycle and pedestrian crossing. The design of the corner promotes yielding by reducing bicyclists approach speeds and motorists turning speeds.

## **Interim Alternative**

An interim alternative was developed to allow the implementation of Alternative 1 with changes restricted to pavement markings and signs. This concept removes all curb changes thus it does not address many of the pedestrian needs.

## **Otey's Road Crossing of Fordham Boulevard Concept**

The Town and UNC bicycle plans recommended development of a pedestrian and bicyclist crossing of Fordham Boulevard. Provision of a safe crossing at this location would create an additional crossing between South Columbia Street and Manning Drive for non-motorized travel. Fordham Boulevard acts as a significant barrier to non-motorized travel as Manning Drive and South Columbia streets are separated by more than one mile. To safely cross Fordham Boulevard it will be necessary to modify the median to provide refuge, channelize traffic turning onto and off from Fordham Boulevard, and to install a traffic signal to stop traffic on Fordham Boulevard. The traffic signal can potentially be Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon or a full traffic signal. Given the lower volume of pedestrian and bicycle traffic likely this location it is recommended a relatively short response be provided to reduce the likelihood of users crossing against the light as gaps in traffic appear. The maximum wait time is suggested at 30 seconds. If this is not achievable, it is advisable the signal at least be coordinated with the signal at Manning Drive.

- Crossing island improvements for bicyclist and pedestrians within the median
- Sidewalk improvements
- Proposed location for channelizing islands on Otey's Road
- Proposed HAWK signal on Fordham Boulevard



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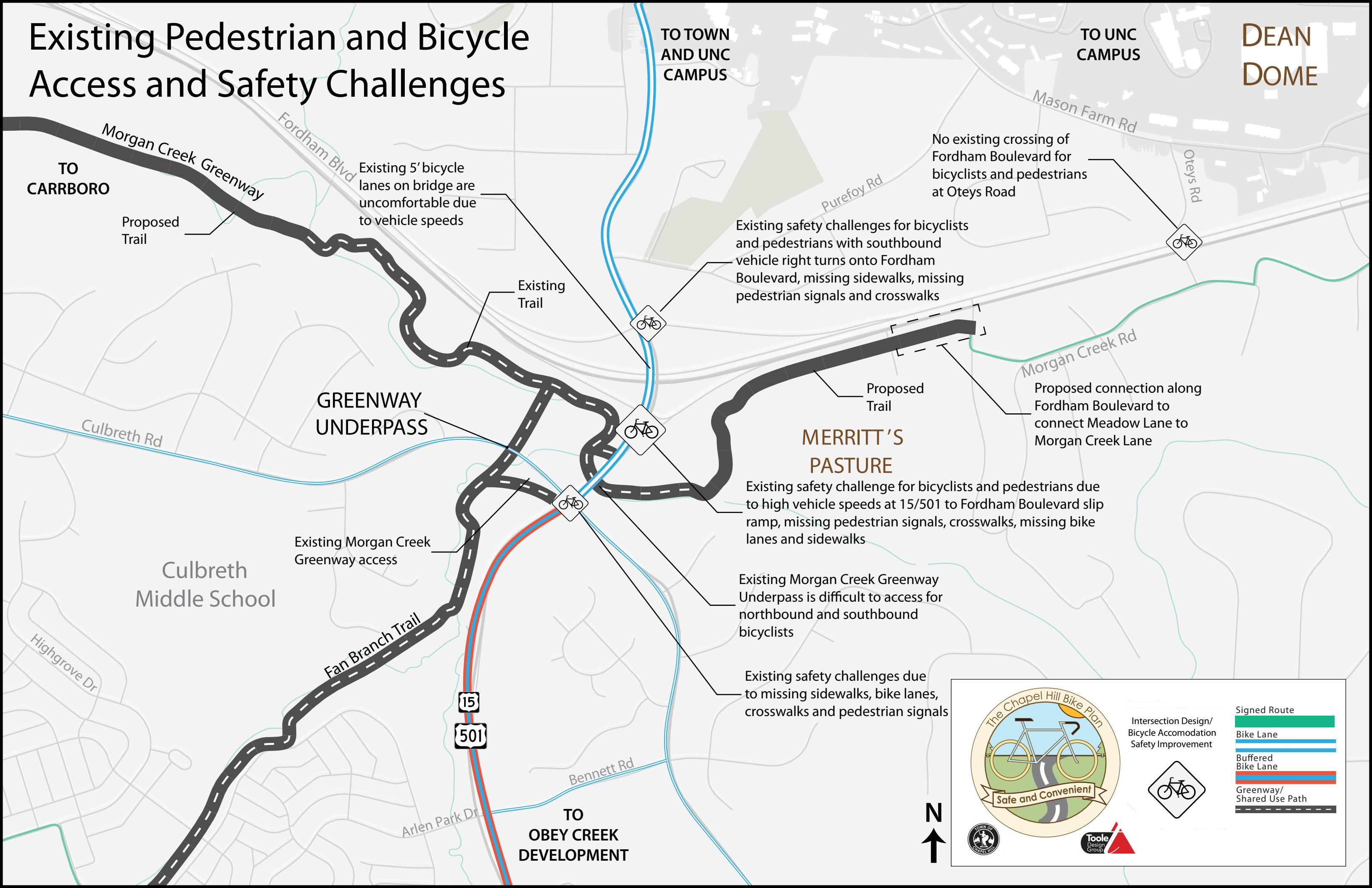
## EXHIBIT ONE

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Existing pedestrian and bicycle access and safety challenges

# Existing Pedestrian and Bicycle Access and Safety Challenges

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DOME

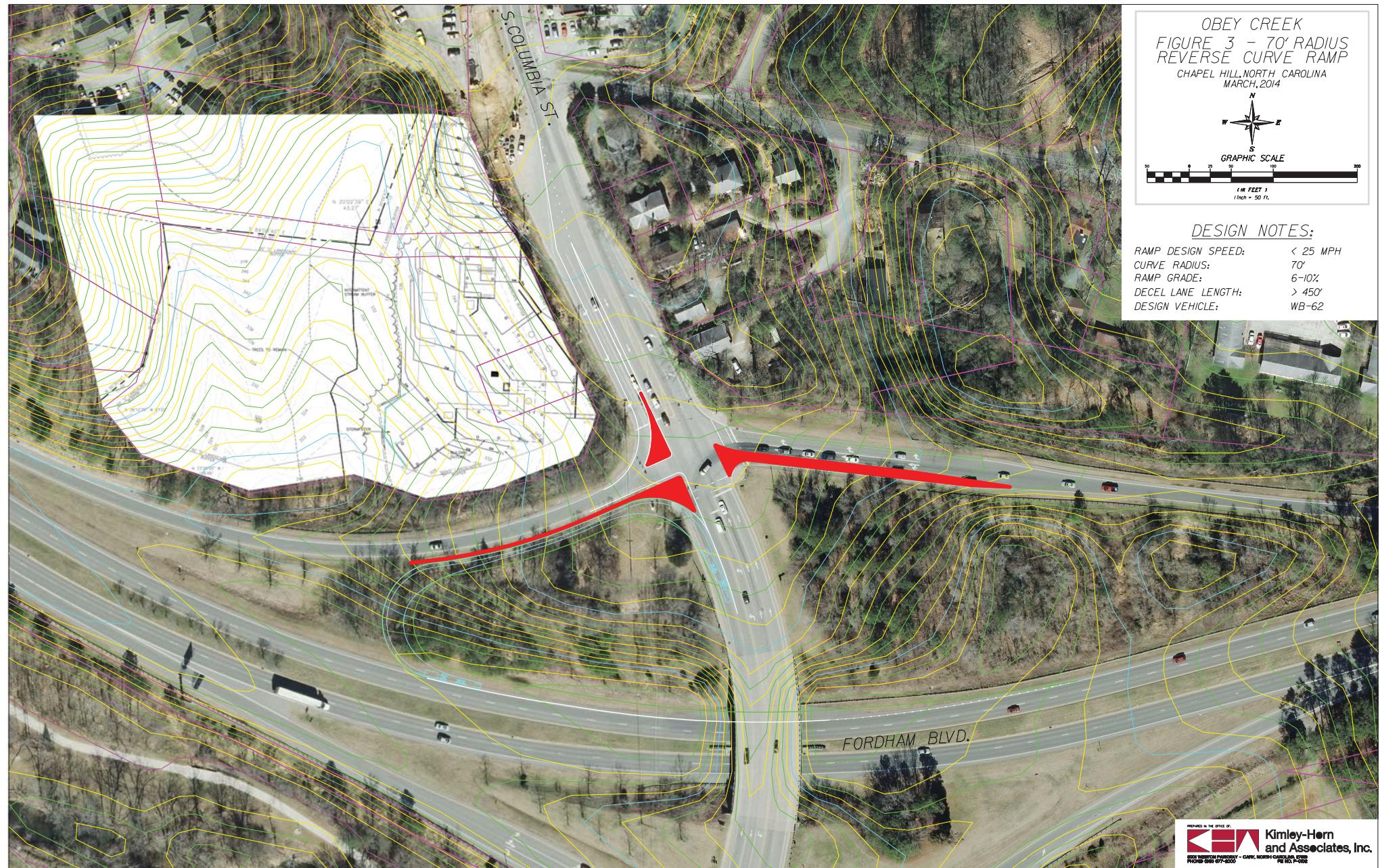


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## EXHIBIT TWO

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Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. intersection design concept for the northern intersection of South Columbia Street at Fordham Road



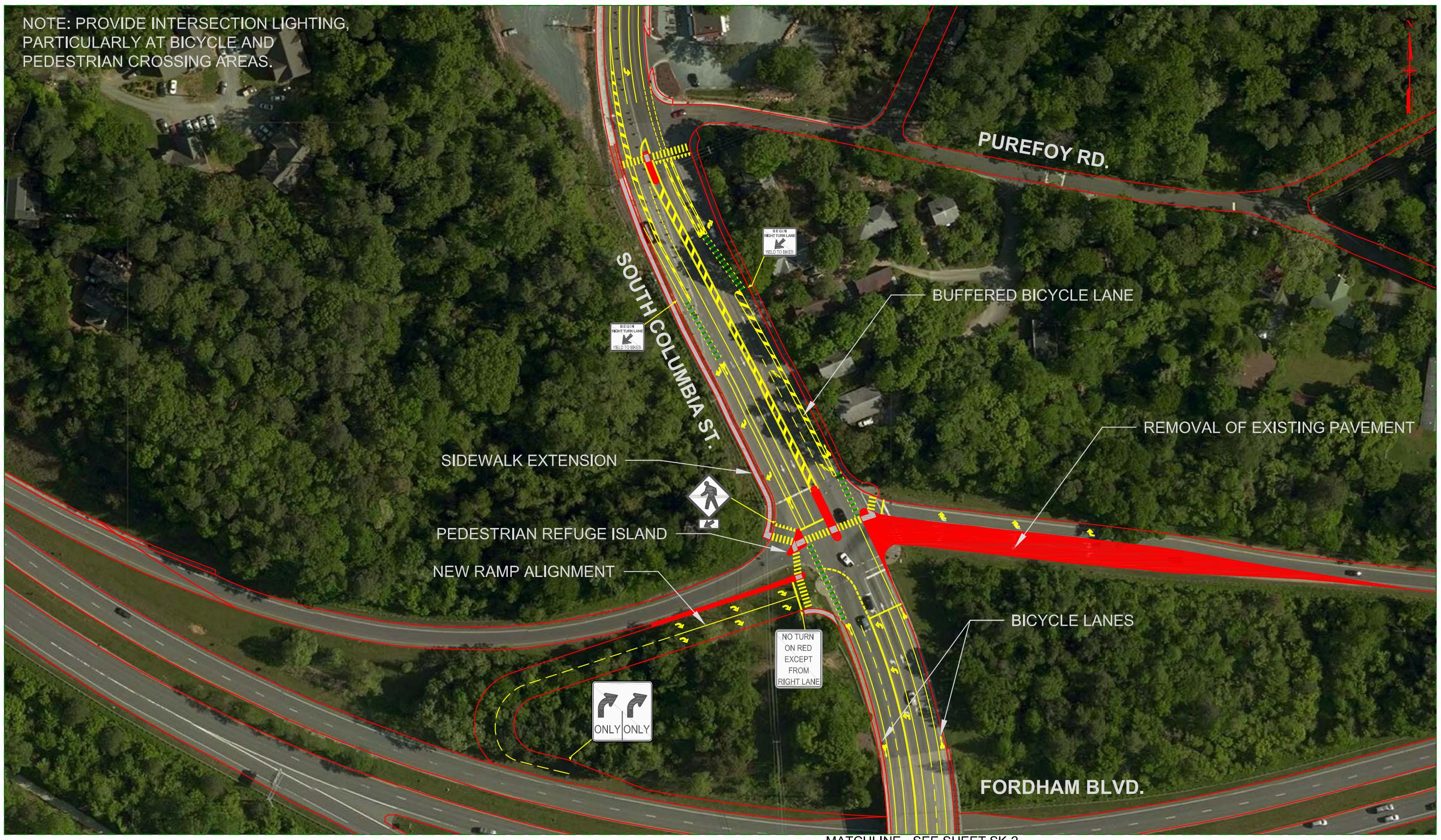
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## EXHIBIT THREE

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Toole Design Group Concepts for South Columbia Street, Otey's Road, and Autoturn exhibits

NOTE: PROVIDE INTERSECTION LIGHTING,  
PARTICULARLY AT BICYCLE AND  
PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AREAS.



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**TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL  
ALTERNATE INTERSECTION DESIGN CONCEPTS  
SOUTH COLUMBIA STREET - ALTERNATE 1**



REV. 1:  
REV. 2:  
REV. 3:  
DESIGNED: JAC  
DRAWN: JAC  
CHECKED: WS  
DATE: 1/6/2015

sheet name:  
S. COLUMBIA AT  
FORDHAM BLVD  
WESTBOUND RAMPS  
drawing number  
**SK-1**  
sheet number  
1 of 13



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 EASTBOUND RAMPS  
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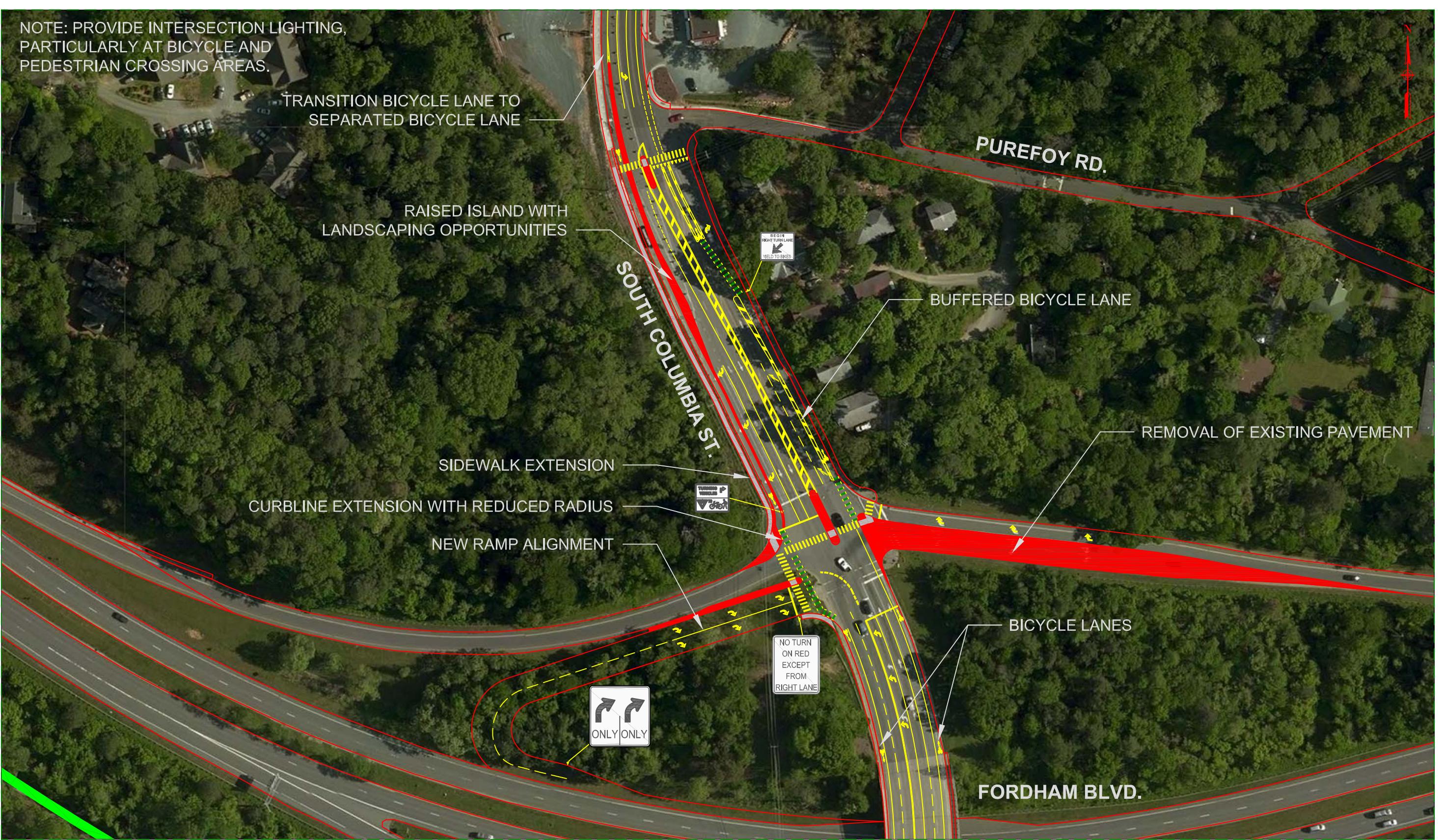
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 SHEET NUMBER  
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**TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL  
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DRAWN: JAC  
CHECKED: WS  
DATE: 1/6/2015

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FORDHAM BLVD  
WESTBOUND RAMPS  
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**4** OF **13**



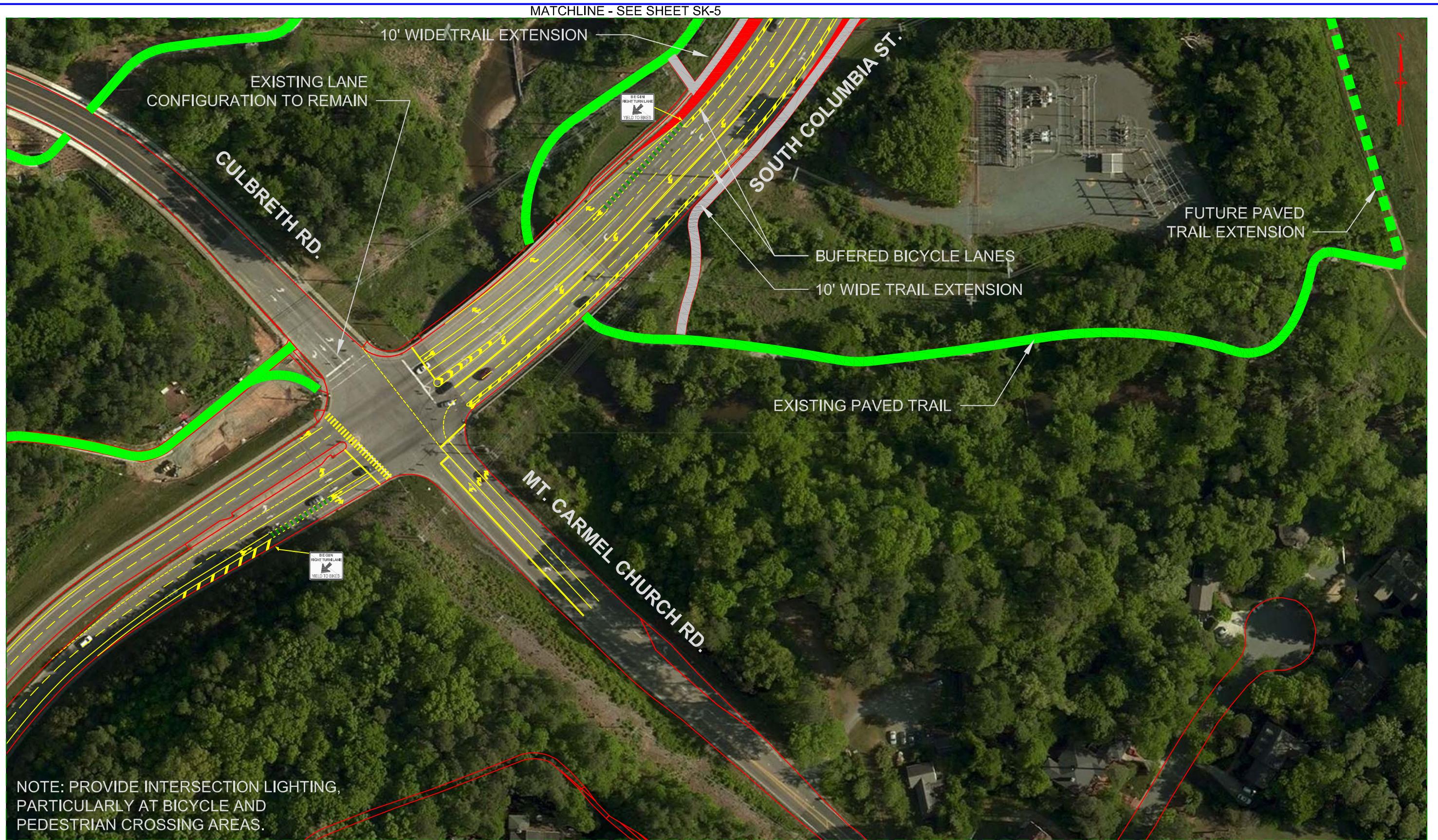
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**TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL  
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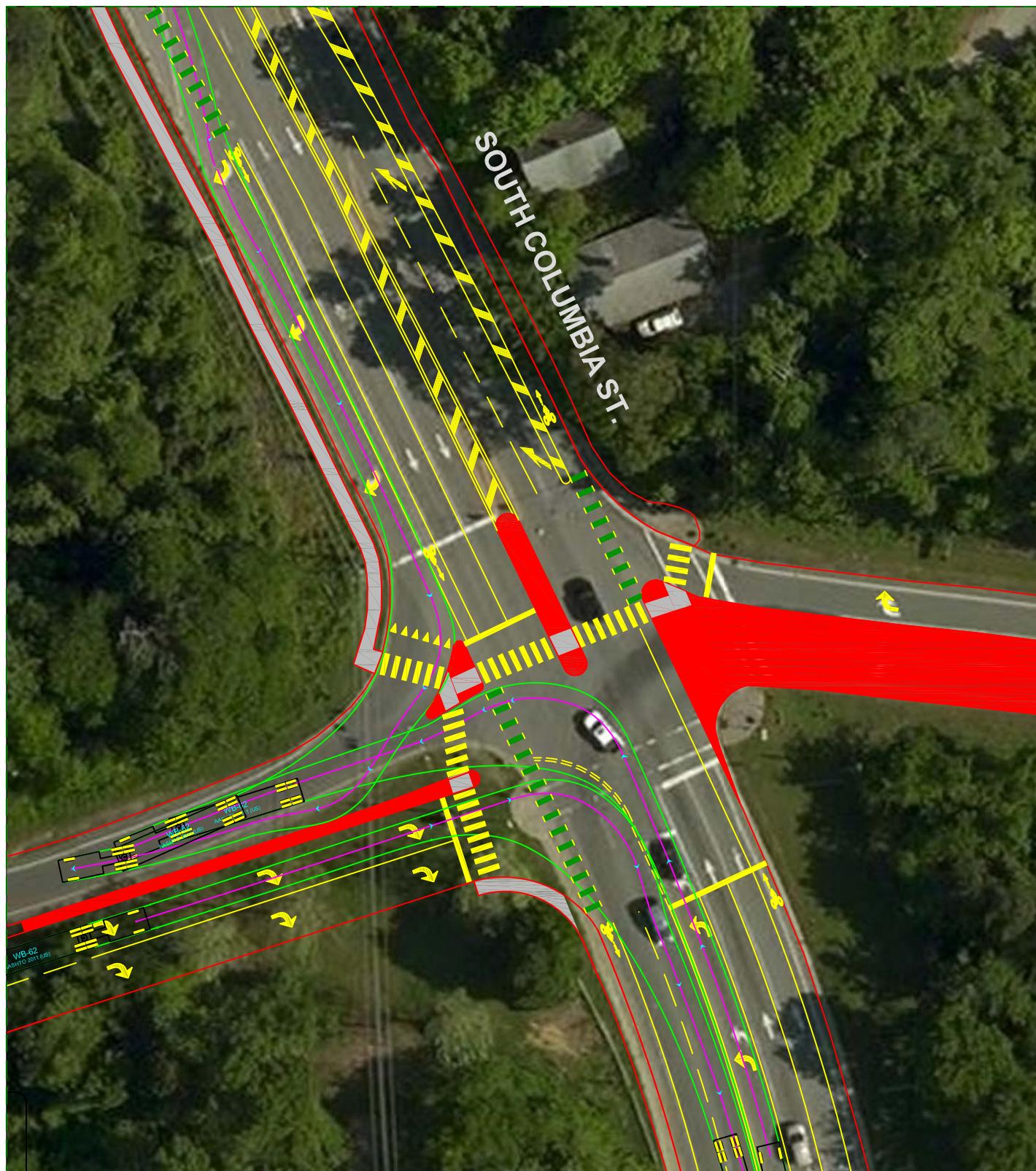
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**TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL  
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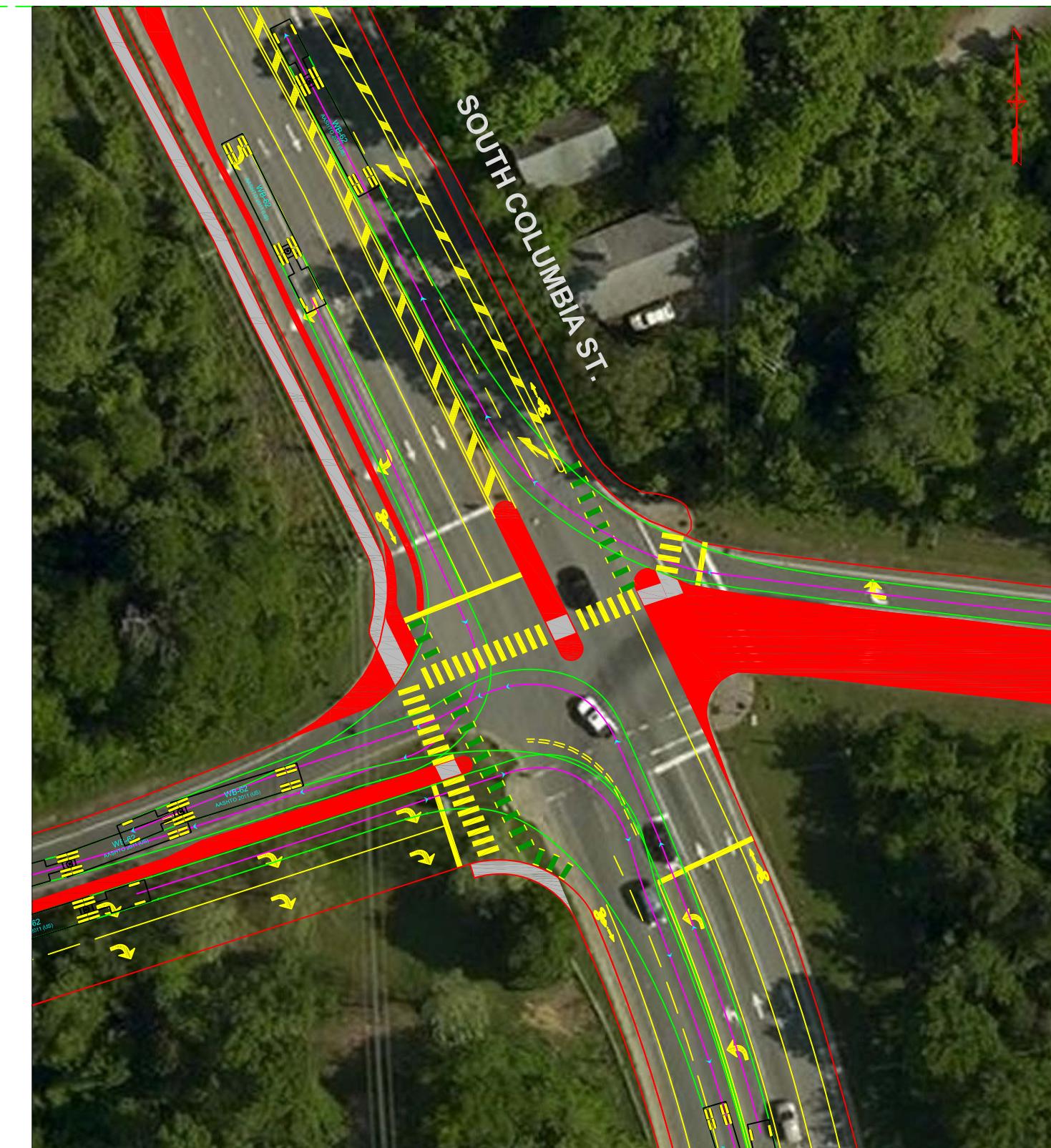


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**6** OF **13**



ALTERNATIVE 1:WB-62 TURNING MOVEMENTS



ALTERNATIVE 2: WB-62 TURNING MOVEMENTS



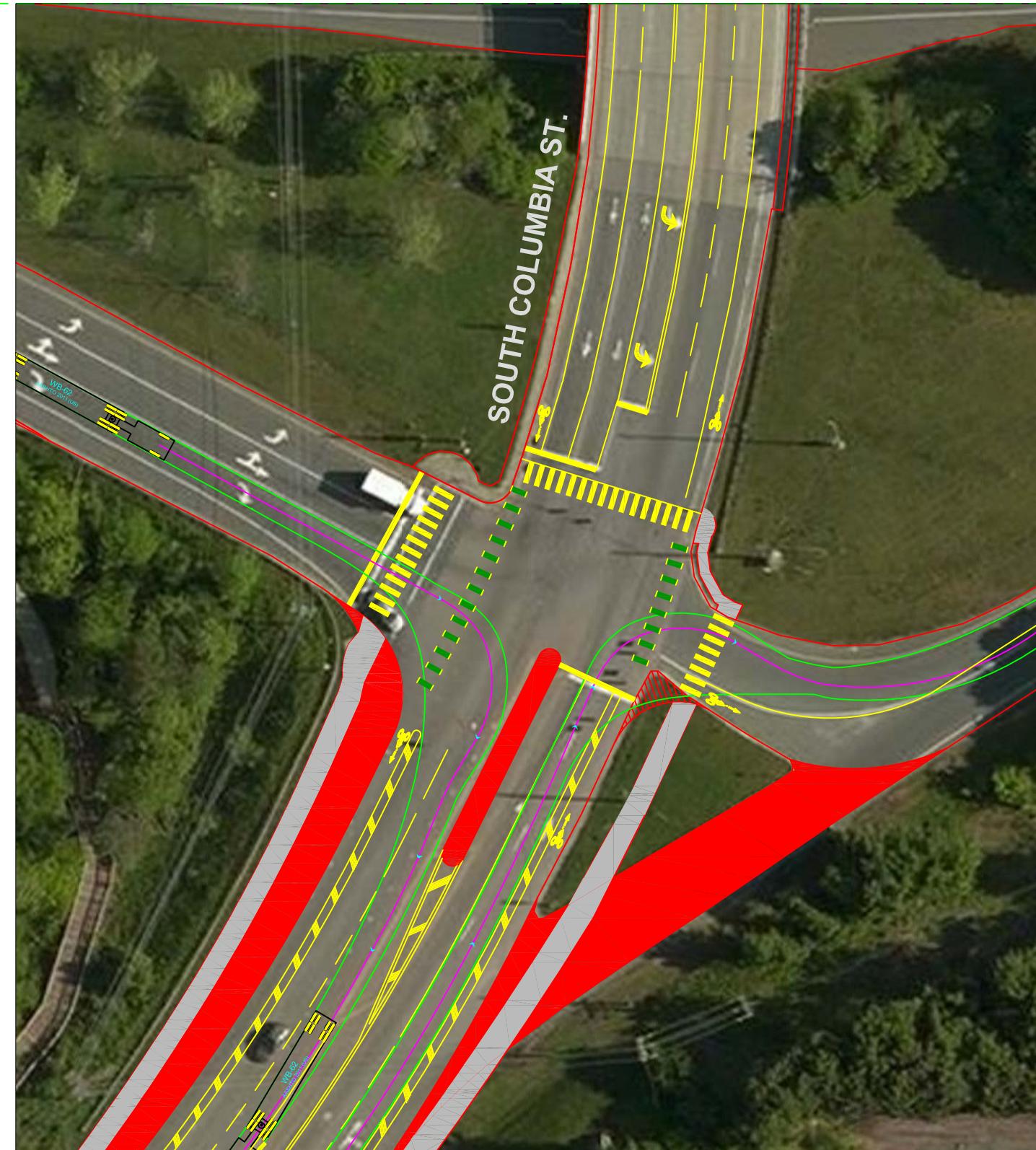
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**TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL  
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SOUTH COLUMBIA STREET -TURNING MOVEMENTS**



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WESTBOUND RAMPS  
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 SHEET NUMBER  
**7** OF **13**



### ALTERNATIVE 2: WB-62 TURNING MOVEMENTS

NOTE: ALTERNATIVE 1 TURNING MOVEMENTS ARE THE SAME FOR VEHICLES ENTERING FROM FORDHAM BLVD. AND MATCH EXISTING CONDITIONS FOR VEHICLES EXITING TO FORDHAM BLVD.



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### TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL ALTERNATE INTERSECTION DESIGN CONCEPTS SOUTH COLUMBIA STREET -TURNING MOVEMENTS



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SHEET NAME:  
S. COLUMBIA AT  
FORDHAM BLVD  
EASTBOUND RAMPS  
DRAWING NUMBER  
**SK-8**  
 SHEET NUMBER  
**8** OF **13**



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**TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL  
ALTERNATE INTERSECTION DESIGN CONCEPTS  
SOUTH COLUMBIA STREET - INTERIM CONDITION**



REV. 1:  
REV. 2:  
REV. 3:  
DESIGNED: JAC  
DRAWN: JAC  
CHECKED: WS  
DATE: 1/6/2015

SHEET NAME:  
S. COLUMBIA AT  
FORDHAM BLVD  
WESTBOUND RAMPS  
DRAWING NUMBER  
**SK-9**  
SHEET NUMBER  
**9** OF **13**



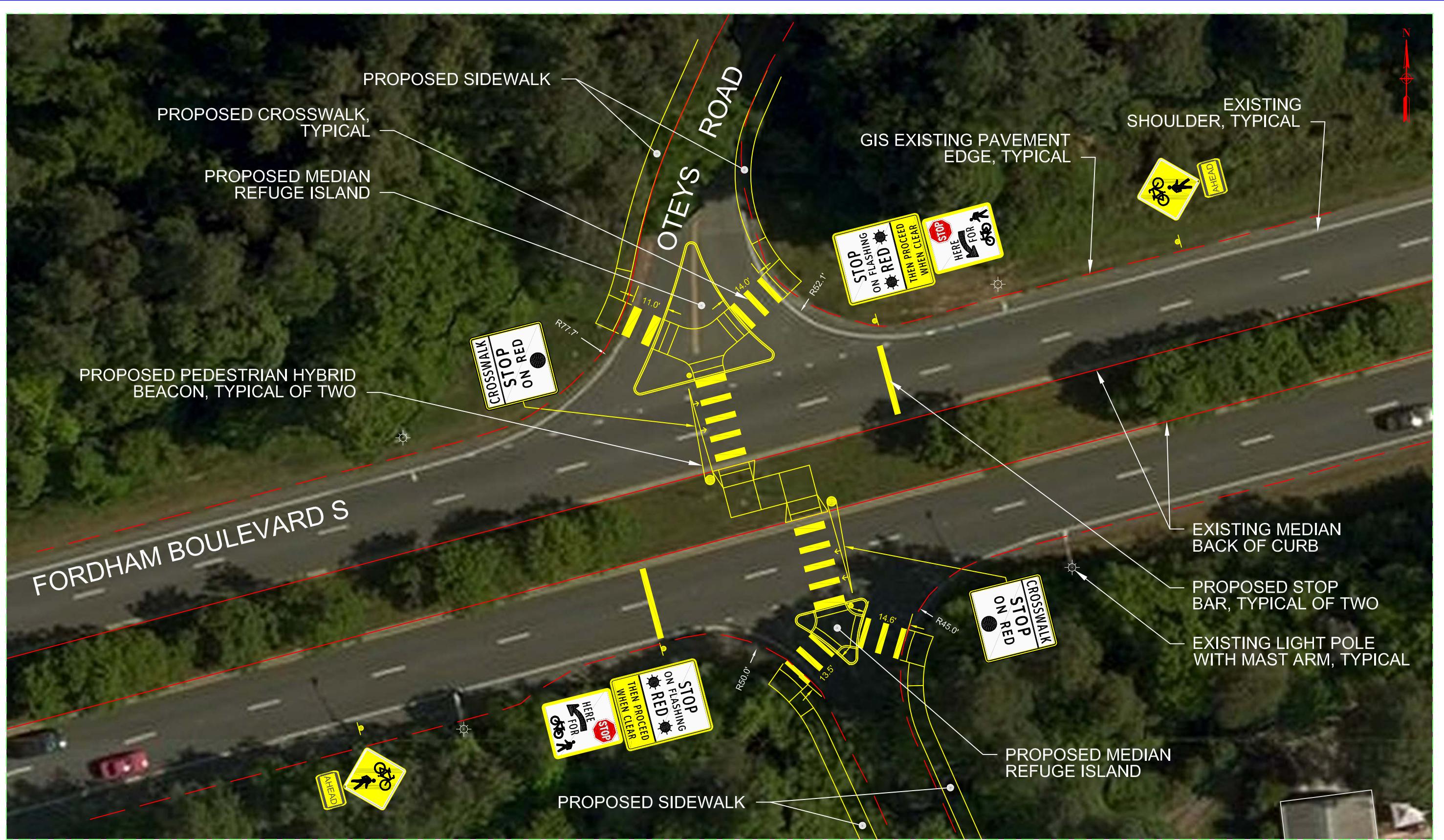
8484 GEORGIA AVENUE, SUITE 800, SILVER SPRING, MD 20910  
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**TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL  
ALTERNATE INTERSECTION DESIGN CONCEPTS  
SOUTH COLUMBIA STREET - INTERIM CONDITION**



REV. 1:  
REV. 2:  
REV. 3:  
DESIGNED: JAC  
DRAWN: JAC  
CHECKED: WS  
DATE: 1/6/2015

SHEET NAME:  
S. COLUMBIA AT  
FORDHAM BLVD  
EASTBOUND RAMPS  
DRAWING NUMBER  
**SK-10**  
SHEET NUMBER  
**10** OF **13**



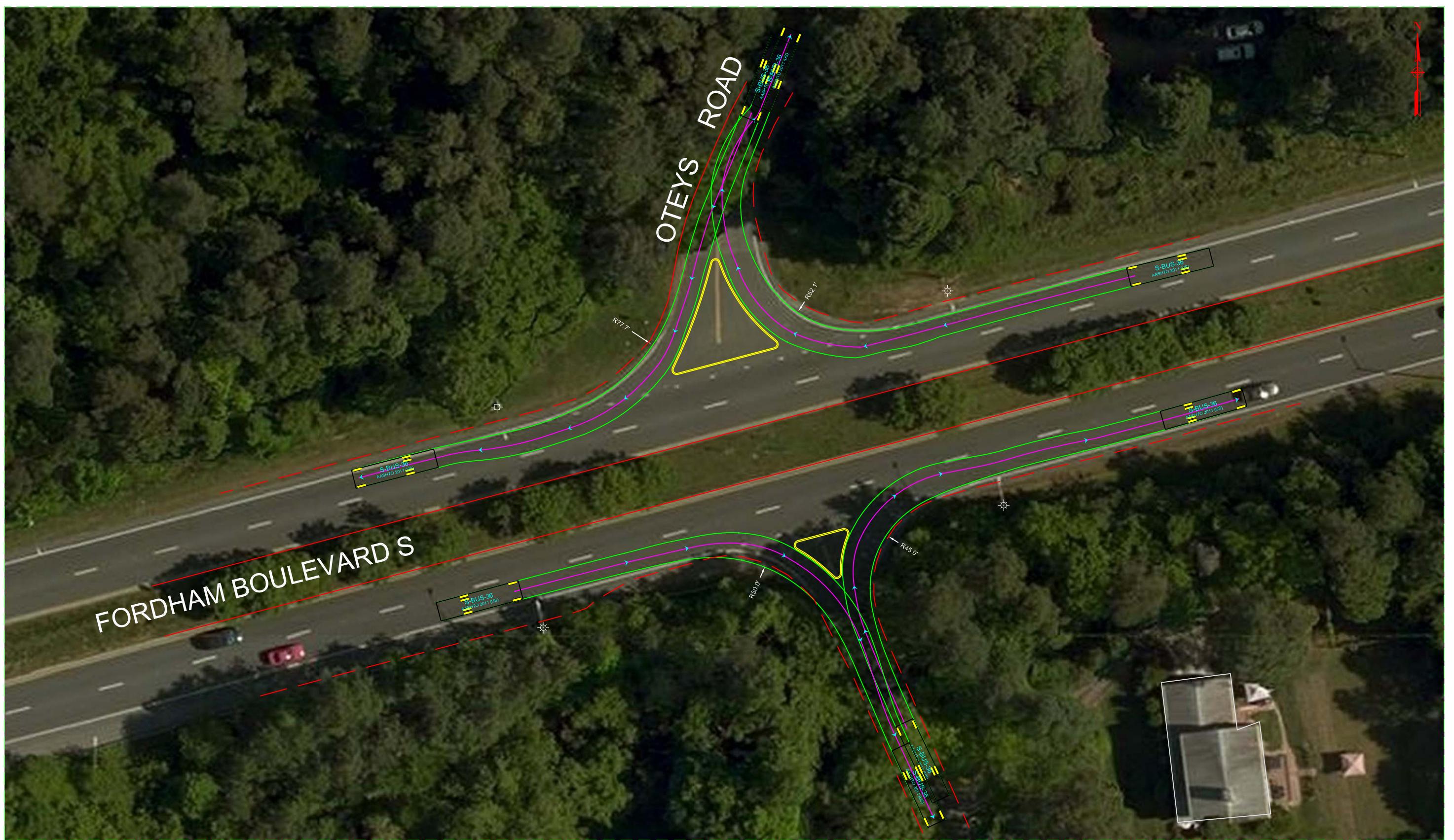
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 PHONE: (301) 927-1900 FAX: (301) 927-2800  
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**TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL  
 ALTERNATE INTERSECTION DESIGN CONCEPTS  
 OTEYS ROAD PROPOSED CROSSING**



REV. 1:  
 REV. 2:  
 REV. 3:  
 DESIGNED: EM  
 DRAWN: EM  
 CHECKED: WS  
 DATE: 12/22/2014

SHEET NAME:  
 Oteys Road  
 Proposed Condition  
 DRAWING NUMBER  
**SK-11**  
 SHEET NUMBER  
**11** OF **13**



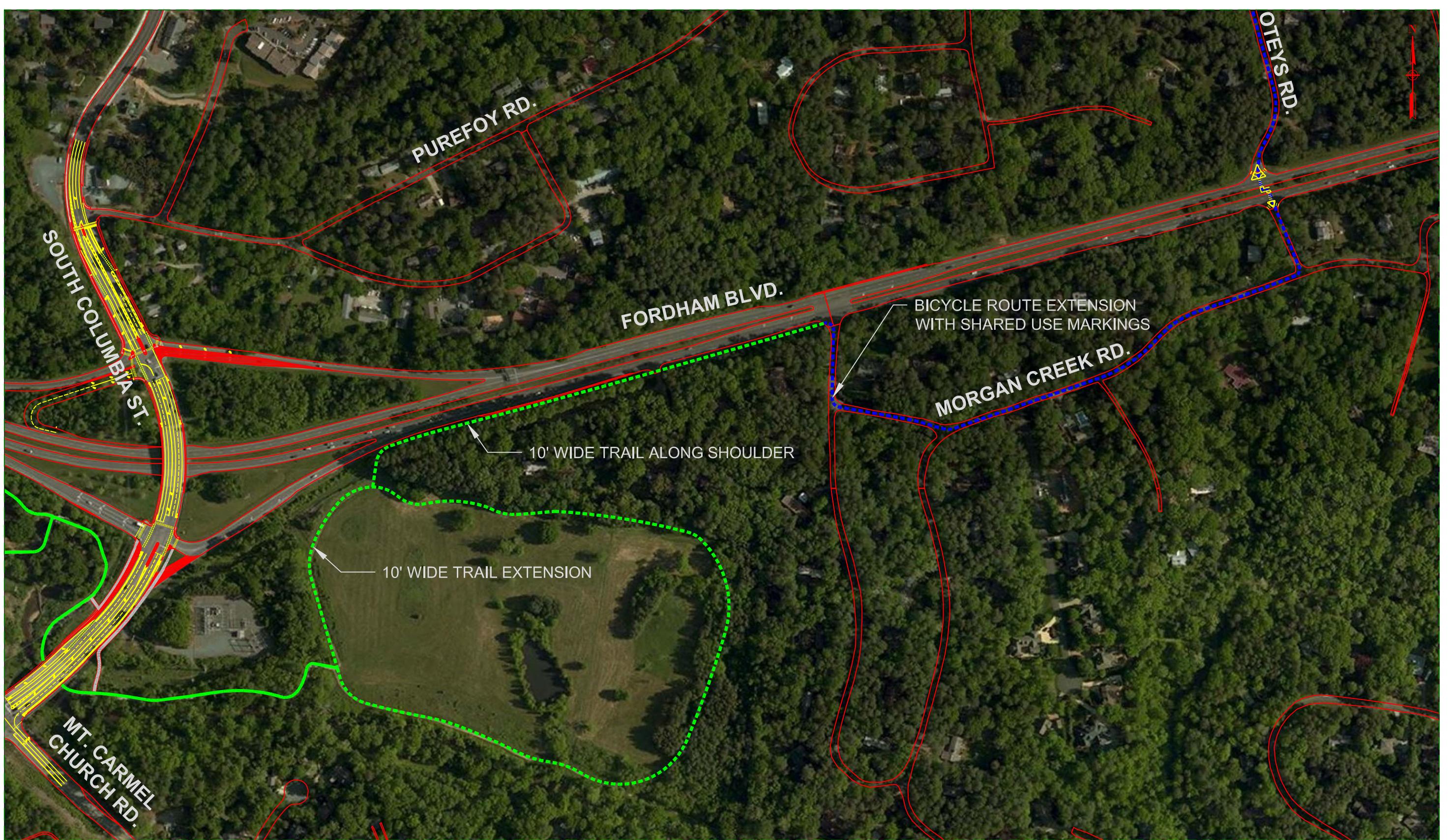
8484 GEORGIA AVENUE, SUITE 800, SILVER SPRING, MD 20910  
 PHONE: (301) 927-1900 FAX: (301) 927-2800  
[www.tooledesign.com](http://www.tooledesign.com)

**TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL  
 ALTERNATE INTERSECTION DESIGN CONCEPTS  
 OTEYS ROAD AUTO TURN FOR A SCHOOL BUS-36**



REV. 1:  
 REV. 2:  
 REV. 3:  
 DESIGNED: EM  
 DRAWN: EM  
 CHECKED: WS  
 DATE: 12/22/2014

SHEET NAME:  
 Oteys Road  
 Autoturn Exhibit  
 DRAWING NUMBER  
**SK-12**  
 SHEET NUMBER  
**12** OF **13**



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**TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL  
ALTERNATE INTERSECTION DESIGN CONCEPTS  
SOUTH COLUMBIA STREET TO OTEYS ROAD BIKE ROUTE**



REV. 1:  
REV. 2:  
REV. 3:  
DESIGNED: JAC  
DRAWN: JAC  
CHECKED: WS  
DATE: 1/6/2015

SHEET NAME:  
S. COLUMBIA ST TO  
OTEYS RD  
DRAWING NUMBER  
**SK-13**  
SHEET NUMBER  
13 OF 13

# MLK AM Northbound Transit Service Capacity Used

(Obey Creek TIA Projections)

2014

2022 No Build

2022 Build



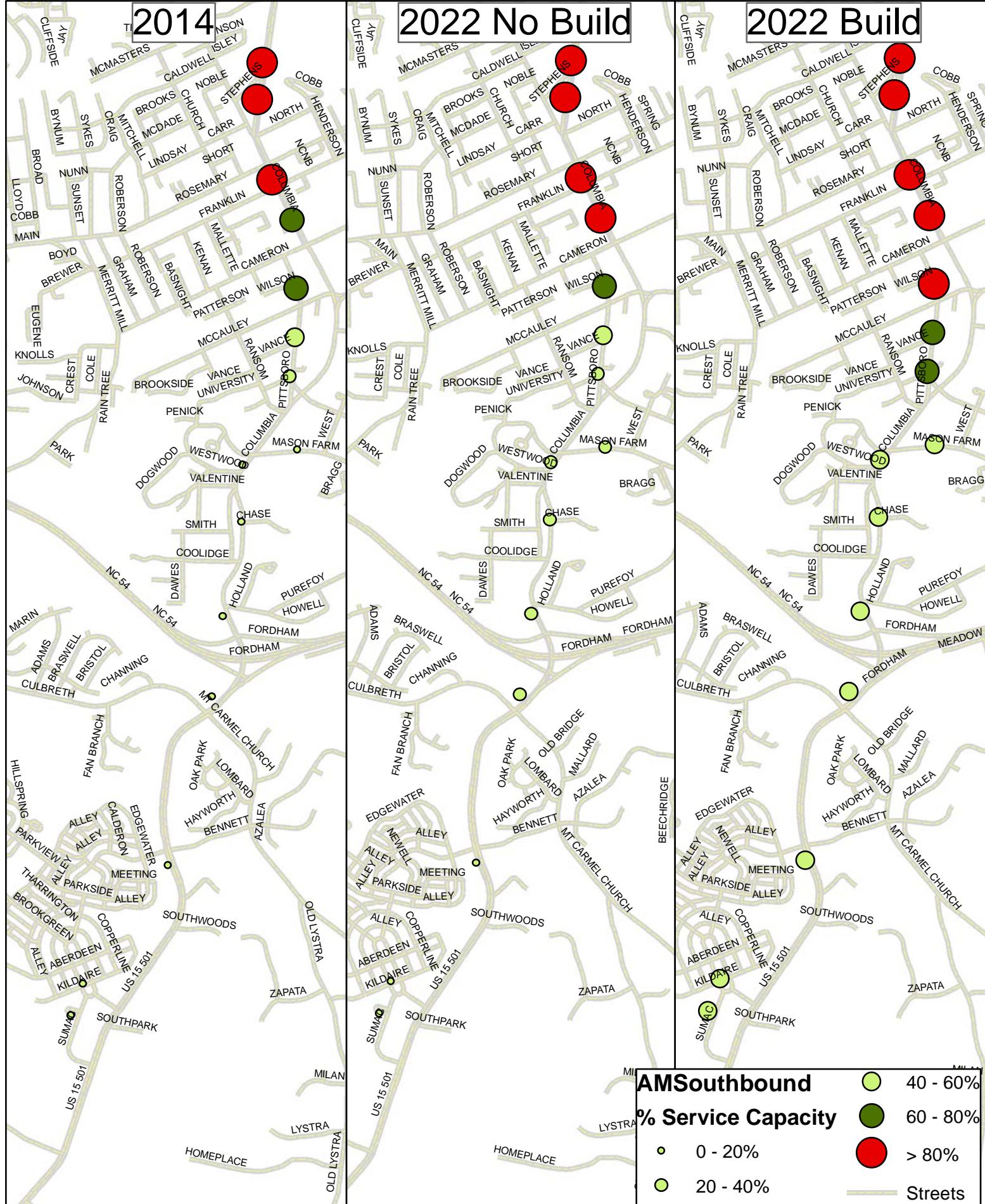
# MLK AM Southbound Transit Service Capacity Used

(Obey Creek TIA Projections)

2014

2022 No Build

2022 Build



# MLK Noon Northbound Transit Service Capacity Used

(Obey Creek TIA Projections)

2014

2022 No Build

2022 Build



# MLK Noon Southbound Transit Service Capacity Used

(Obey Creek TIA Projections)

2014

2022 No Build

2022 Build



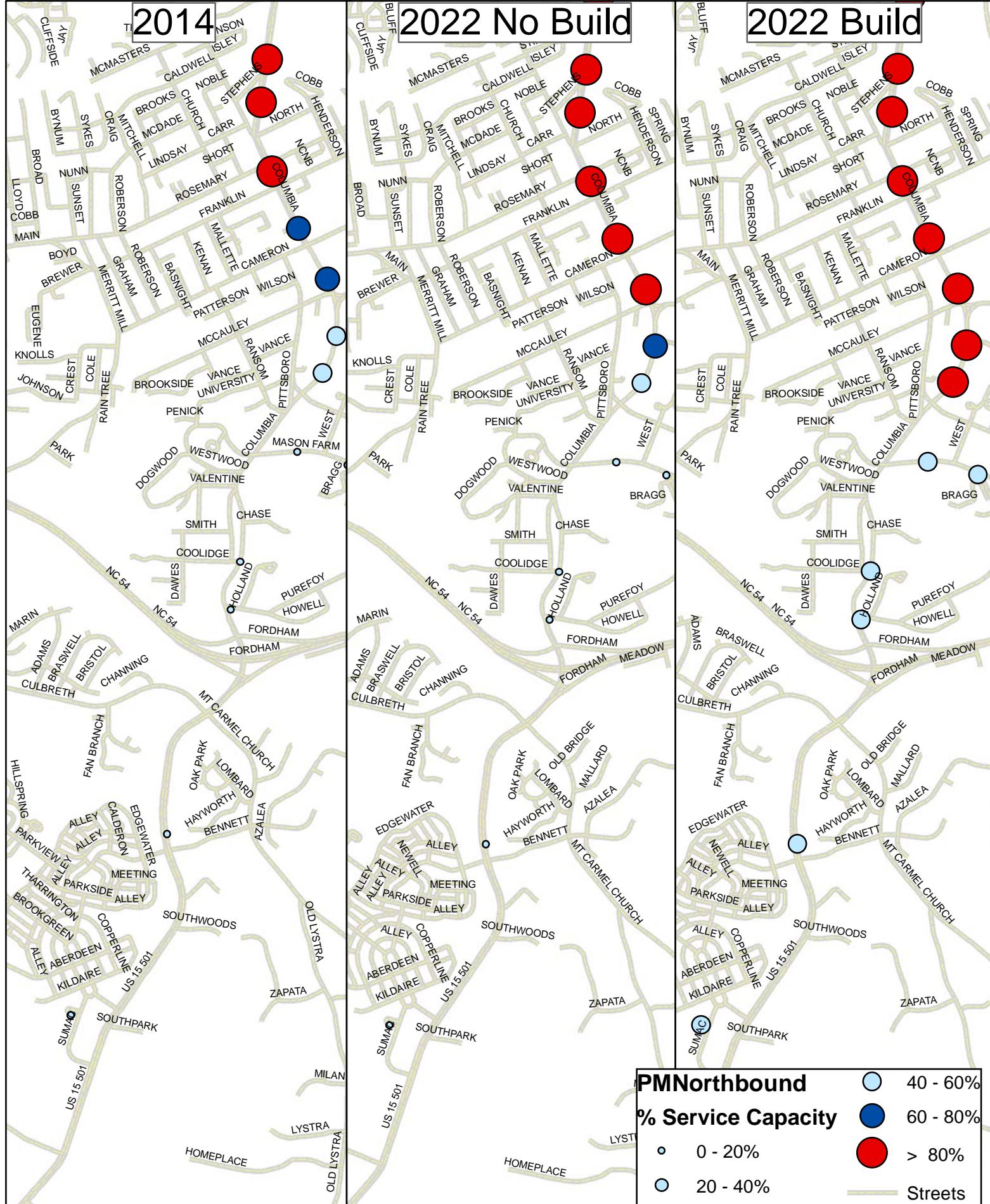
# MLK PM Northbound Transit Service Capacity Used

(Obey Creek TIA Projections)

2014

2022 No Build

2022 Build



NOTE: Projected ridership based on Obey Creek TIA (HNTB, 2014).

Service Capacity = 80% of maximum loading capacity threshold. Maximum loading capacity = 80% of maximum load capacity.

Maximum Load Capacity = Maximum allowed passenger load. Graduated symbols have been standardized to allow for comparison of maps.

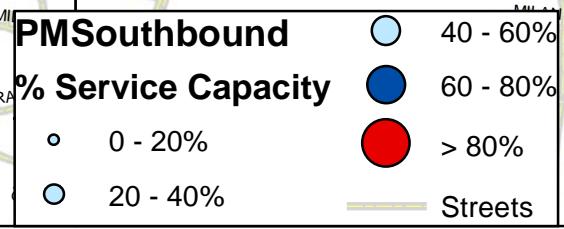
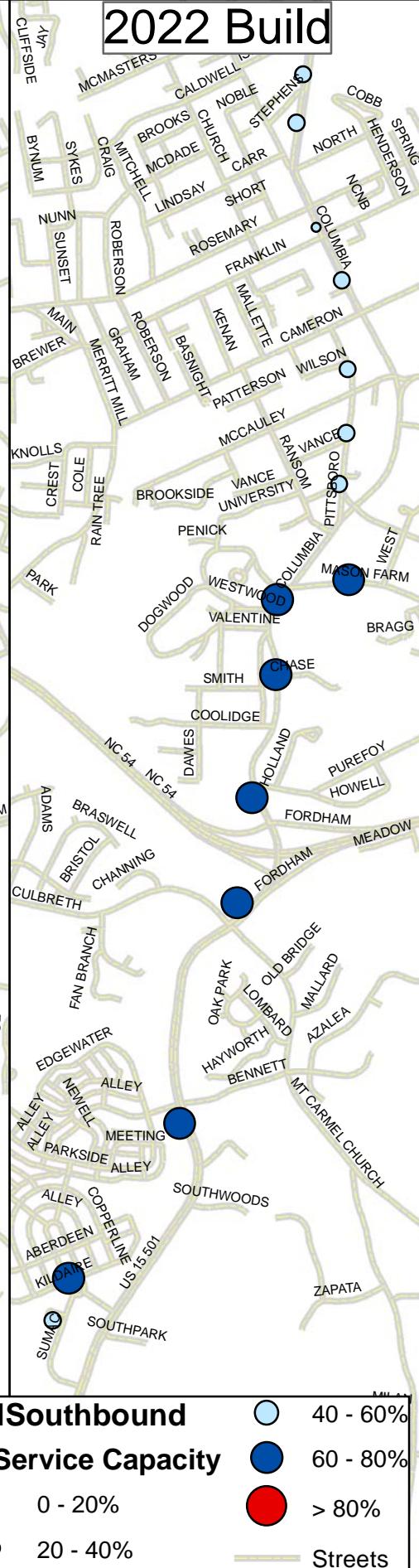
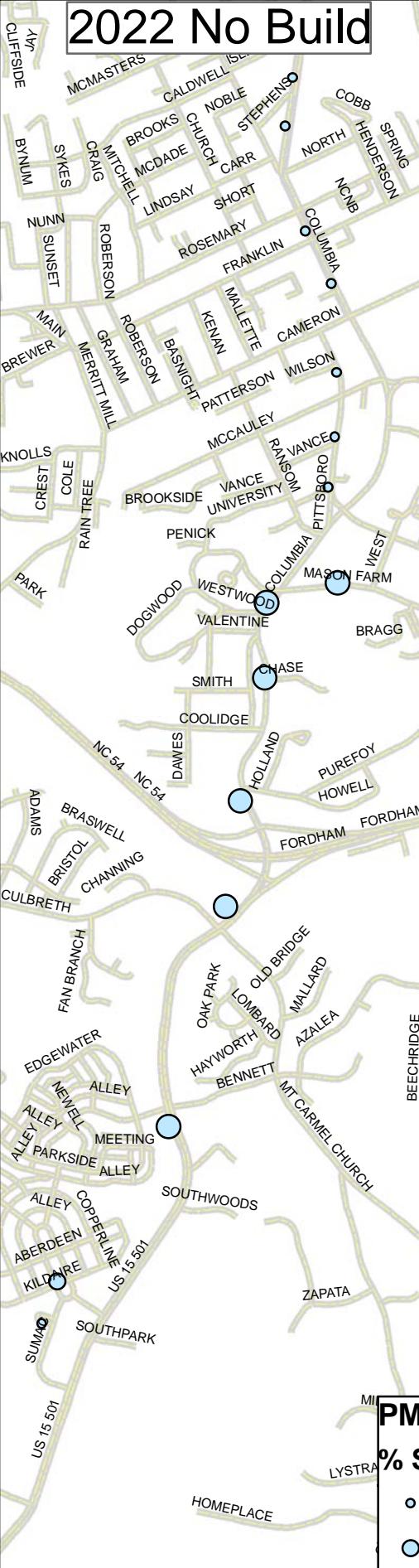
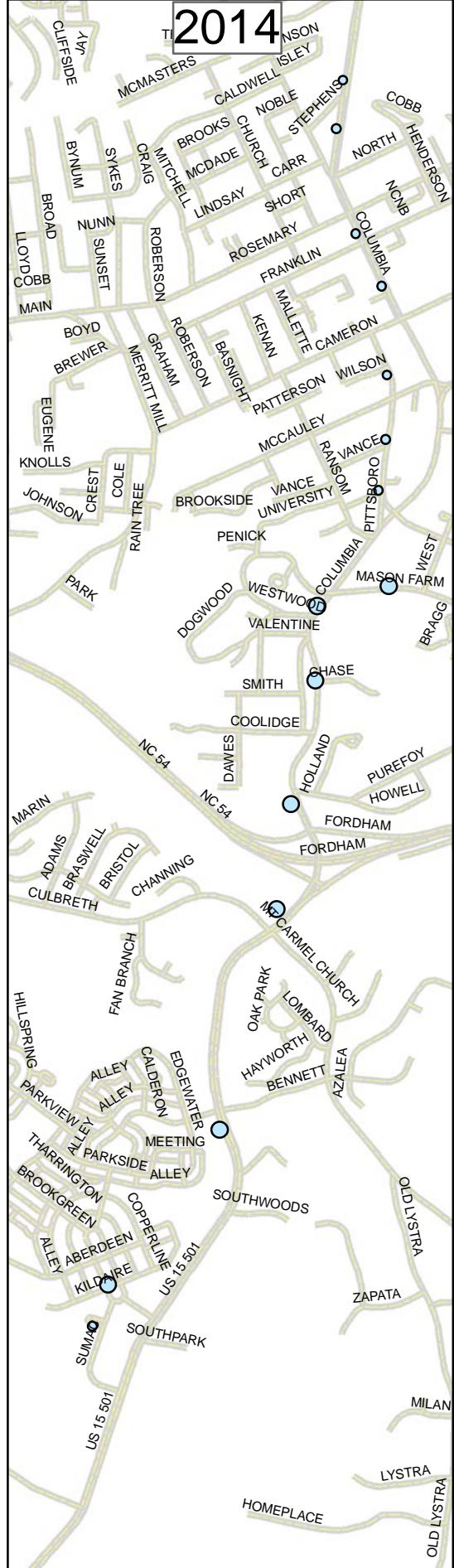
# MLK PM Southbound Transit Service Capacity Used

(Obey Creek TIA Projections)

2014

2022 No Build

2022 Build



NOTE: Projected ridership based on Obey Creek TIA (HNTB, 2014).

Service Capacity = 80% of maximum loading capacity threshold. Maximum loading capacity = 80% of maximum load capacity.

Maximum Load Capacity = Maximum allowed passenger load. Graduated symbols have been standardized to allow for comparison of maps.

**TECHNICAL  
MEMORANDUM - DRAFT****To**

Mila Vega  
Brian Litchfield  
Chapel Hill Transit

**From**

Craig Scheffler, P.E., PTOE  
HNTB North Carolina, P.C.

**Cc**

Kumar Neppalli  
HNTB Project File: 38435

**Subject**

Obey Creek –  
Detailed Transit Analysis Update

**Date**

02/10/15

Per Town of Chapel Hill request related to the *Obey Creek Mixed-Use Development Transportation Impact Study*, the following information represents a requested revised methodology and results related to potential transit service impacts due to anticipated transit trip generation for the Obey Creek mixed-use development project.

**Obey Creek Initial Detailed Transit Analysis**

In October 2014, HNTB produced the *Obey Creek TIS Detailed Transit Analysis Technical Memorandum* which analyzed potential impacts to existing Chapel Hill Transit (CHT) bus service due to the Obey Creek development. This document contained methodologies that estimated ridership impacts to four existing potential service routes (NS, V, CCX, and PX) that could potentially serve the Obey Creek site. Data from that documentation was utilized and refined for this Detailed Transit Analysis Update.

**Revisions to Initial Detailed Transit Analysis**

Per request from CHT staff, data from the initial transit study was refined to show impacts in the estimated 2022 Obey Creek build-out year through projected “No-Build” and “Build” loads and capacities. Capacity estimates of “average” buses on each route were refined to provide both a “maximum” capacity per bus and a “service” capacity, which represents 80 percent of “maximum” capacity. “No-Build” and “Build” loads were estimated based on methodologies developed in the original Detailed Transit Analysis document and graphical comparisons were made along each route to determine, at each stop, whether or not additional capacity was needed for the AM, noon, or PM peak hours analyzed. These peak hours are reflective of peak traffic and trip generation hours for the Obey Creek site and do not necessarily directly correspond with existing peak CHT transit service hours on the individual routes studied.

Estimates of additional “net” bus capacity were also made with the consideration that an additional bus applied to a given route will supply a “net” amount of additional seat capacity given the number of existing buses and headways based on current service during each peak hour.

### Obey Creek Route Capacity Impacts

To gain insight into potential impacts to future transit service along the existing CHT routes due to potential ridership increases from the Obey Creek development, an assessment of overall average route capacity was conducted for the AM, noon, and PM peak weekday hours. No straightforward method exists to proportion estimated daily Obey Creek transit trips and apply them to existing daily service for the existing NS, V, CCX and PX routes.

Existing boarding, alighting and average load data provided by CHT was utilized for the entire length of the four current routes and Obey Creek-related transit trips were proportioned along the route by assuming existing patterns of boarding and alighting at each specific stop would also apply to Obey Creek transit trips. Thus, 2022 analysis year estimates of No-Build and Build loading capacity conditions were estimated for each route and each stop. For example, southbound Obey Creek-generated transit trips on the NS Route to the Obey Creek site proportionally board along the route based on existing boarding patterns and then alight at the Southern Village Park-and-Ride (adjacent to the Obey Creek site). Similarly, northbound NS Route trips from the Obey Creek site board at the Park-and-Ride area and alight along the route in a proportional manner that matches existing southbound NS Route alighting data. These assumptions also apply to the V Route, and also to the two Express Routes that traverse past the Obey Creek site (with the additional assumption that a stop for Obey Creek-related transit trips could be made).

No potential transfers from these existing routes to other CHT existing service routes were assumed. It was also assumed that Obey Creek peak hour transit trips would be equally divided (and averaged) over each existing route for the number of buses during each peak period that would be serving Obey Creek.

The results of this analysis – and those presented in the Exhibits on previous pages – do not account for the impact of other large development projects in the area (Carolina North, The Edge, Glen Lennox) that may also have impacts on future transit growth on the routes analyzed for this study.

The charts on the following pages summarize the results for each route and weekday peak hour.

EXHIBIT 1. 2022 NS Route No-Build/Build Projected Load & Capacity Results - Northbound

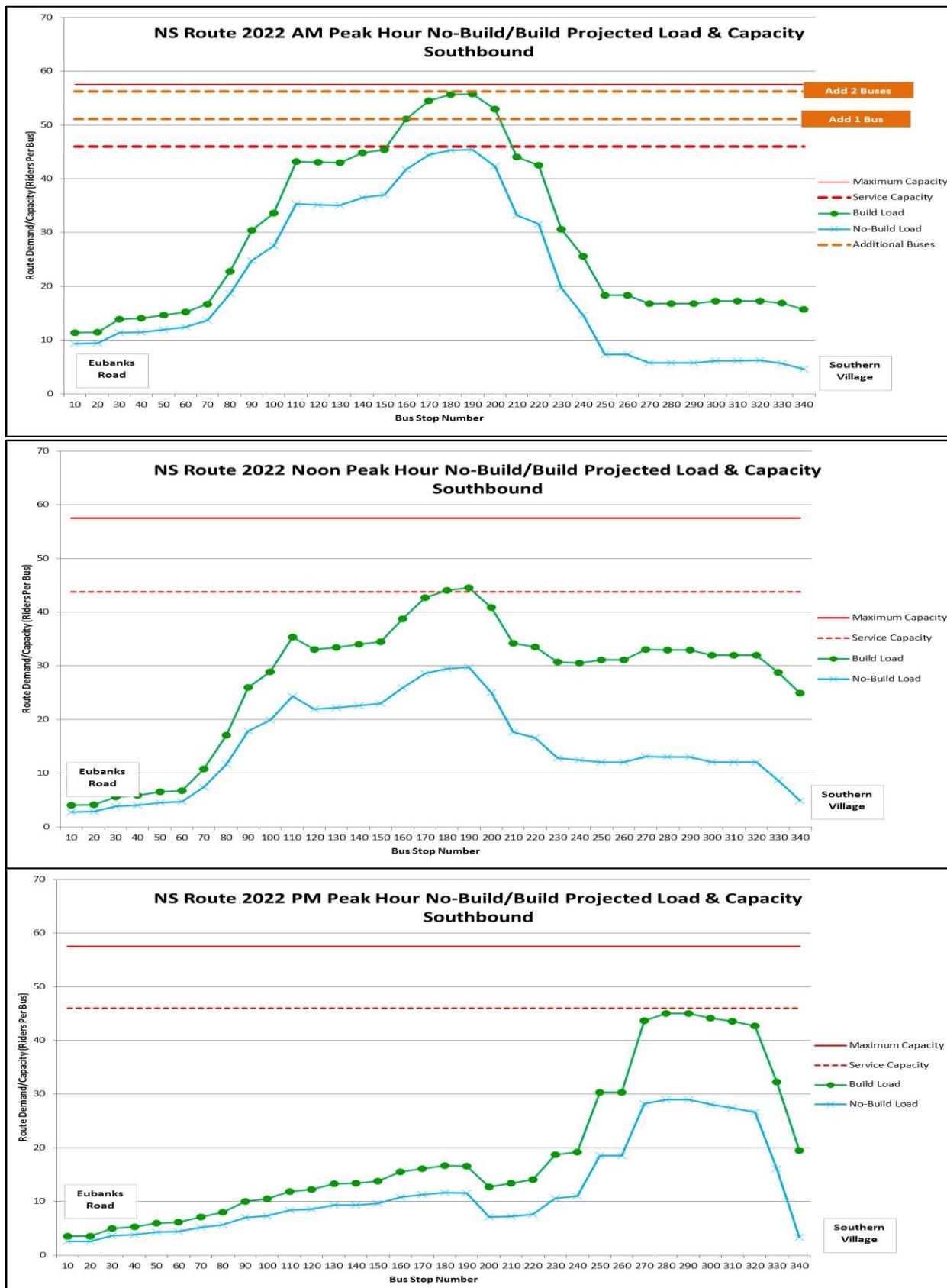
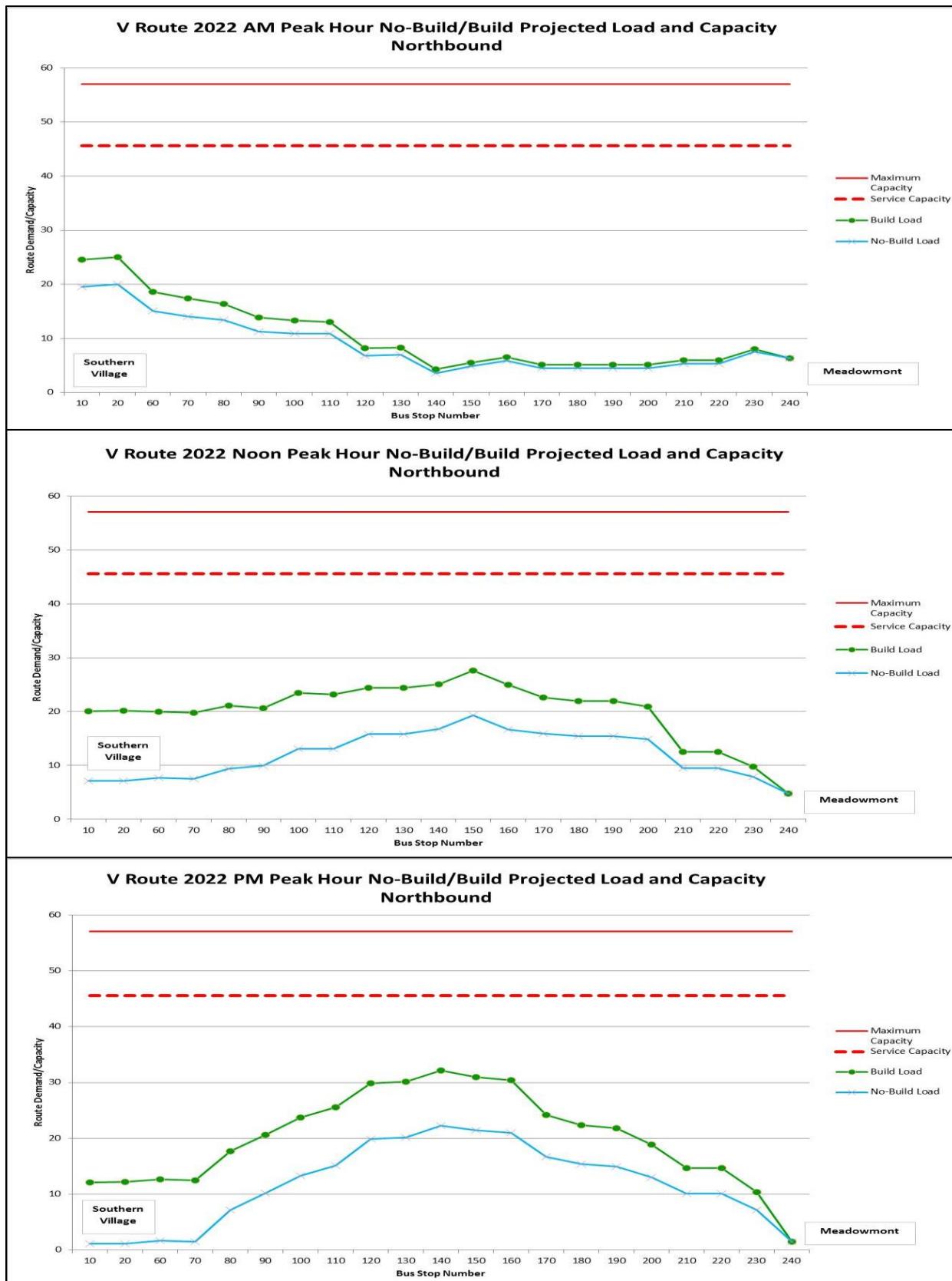
EXHIBIT 1. 2022 NS Route No-Build/Build Projected Load & Capacity Results - Southbound

EXHIBIT 2. 2022 V Route No-Build/Build Projected Load & Capacity Results – Northbound

## EXHIBIT 2. 2022 V Route No-Build/Build Projected Load &amp; Capacity Results – Southbound

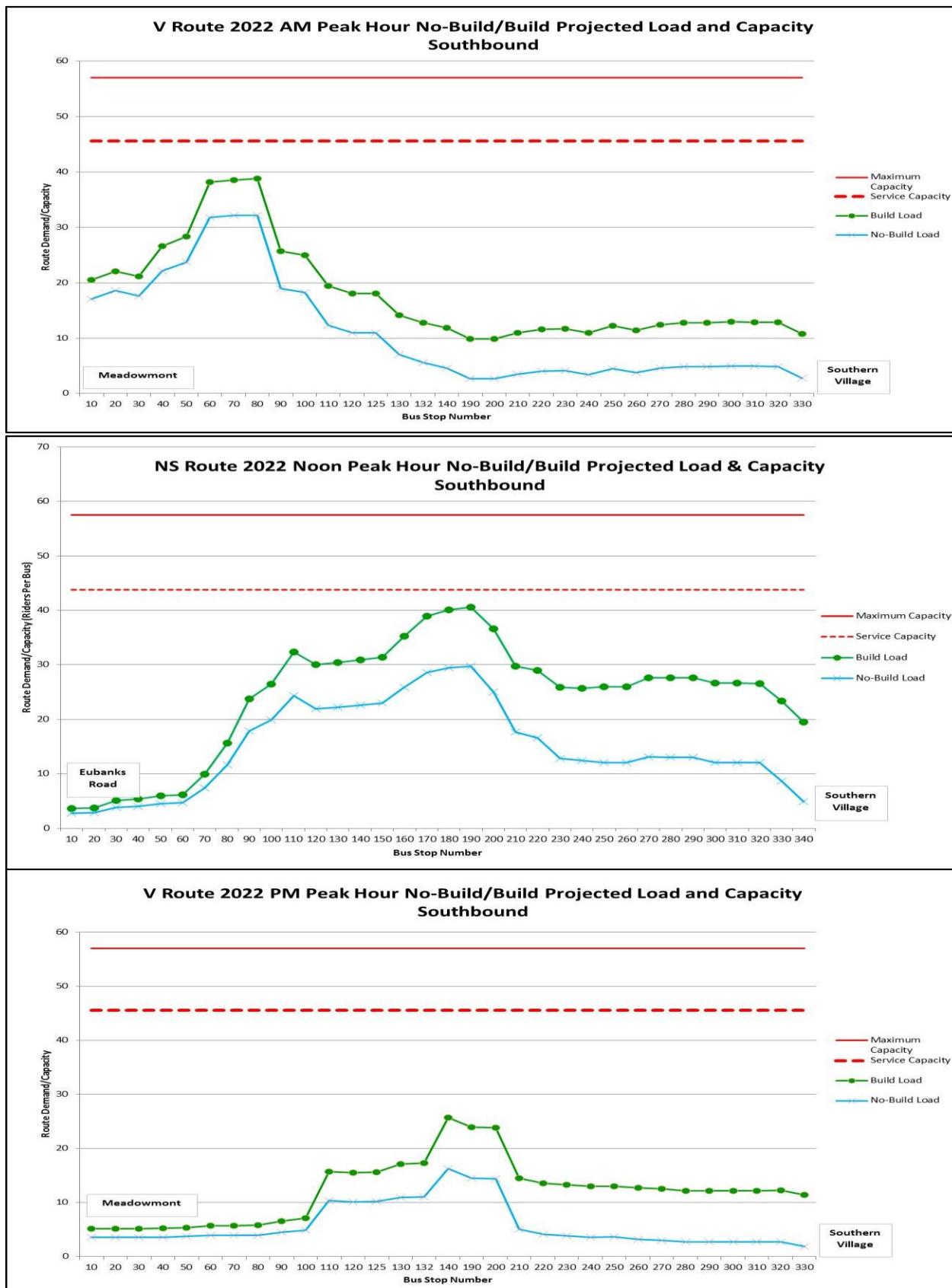
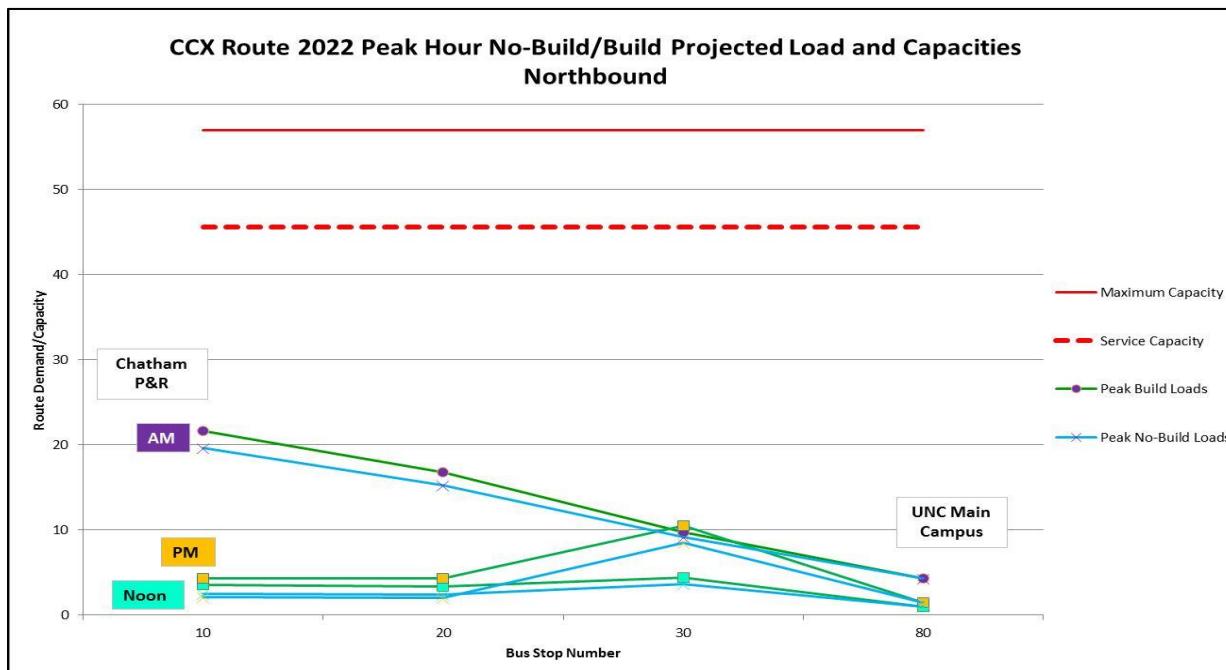
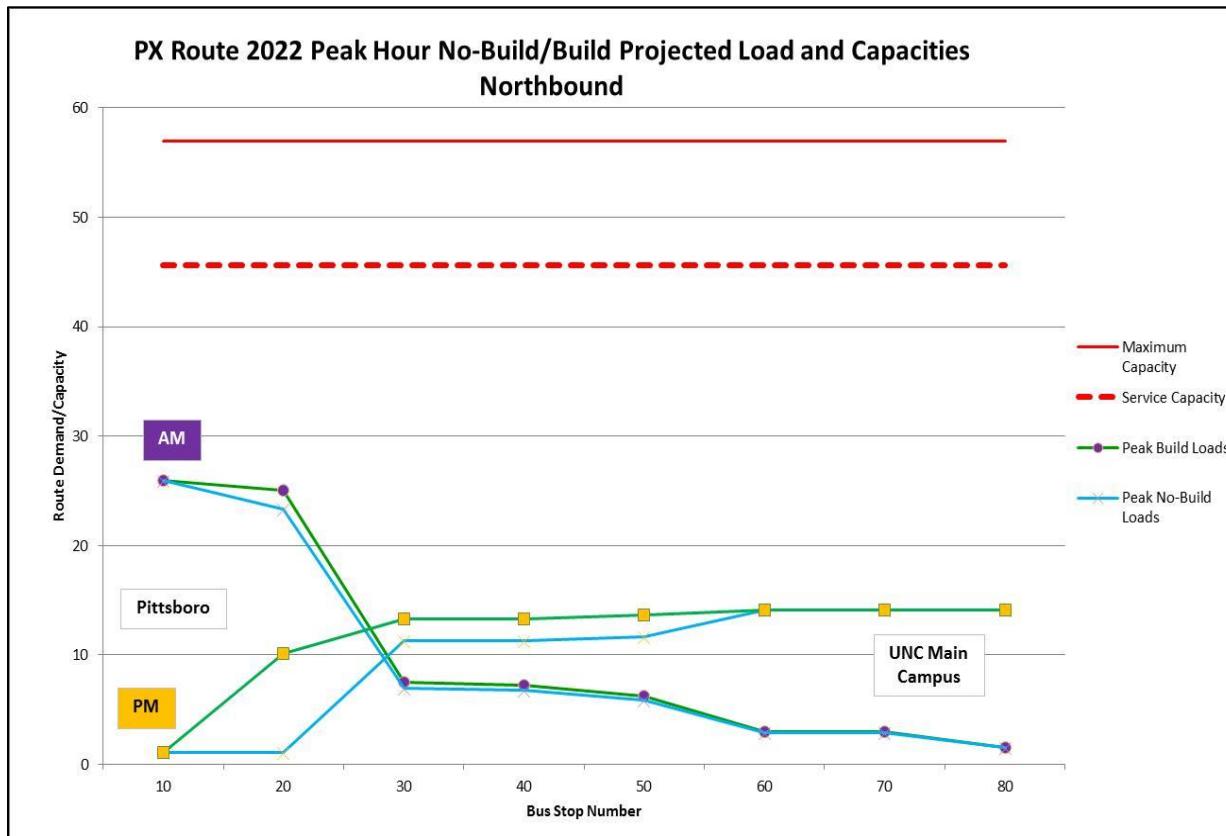


EXHIBIT 3. 2022 CCX Route No-Build/Build Projected Load & Capacity Results - NorthboundEXHIBIT 4. 2022 PX Route No-Build/Build Projected Load & Capacity Results – Northbound

The following conclusions related to peak hour service capacity can be made from the results shown in the charts in **Exhibits 1-4**.

- The NS Route is expected to exceed its loading capacity threshold (as defined as 80% of an individual bus's maximum load capacity) along its northbound route through downtown Chapel Hill/UNC Main Campus extending to the Estes Drive area due to projected Obey Creek-related boarding impacts in the PM peak hour. 2022 No-Build available capacity is less than 10 passengers in this area, and estimated boardings for riders heading from Obey Creek into north Chapel Hill could cause overall demand to exceed available loading capacity by up to 10 riders in this section. Northbound route load capacity is expected to be adequate in the AM and Noon peak hours.
- The southbound NS route loading capacity in 2022 drops to nearly 0 in the downtown Chapel Hill area under No-Build conditions. With added riders generated by Obey Creek and boarding on NS buses along its southbound route in the AM peak hour, ridership demand may exceed service capacity by almost 10 passengers. This occurs along NC 86 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd) between the stops at Airport Gardens Apartments (near Bolinwood Drive) and the UNC Main Campus (Frat Court). Southbound route load capacity during the Noon and PM peak hour time periods is expected to be adequate, although PM peak service capacity is nearly exceeded with the addition of Obey Creek transit trips between UNC Hospitals and Bennett Road.
- All other routes (V, CCX, and PX) are anticipated to provide adequate service capacity, even with the addition of Obey Creek transit trips along these routes, for all 2022 weekday peak periods.

To establish a comparison of demand (not related to service load capacity) along the existing NS route to estimates of transit trip demand from the Obey Creek development, daily and peak hour boardings from existing NS data were extrapolated by the 1.2 growth factor (the factor was explained in the initial Detailed Transit Study) to provide estimated 2022 overall total northbound and southbound boarding estimates. These estimates were then compared with Obey Creek projected boarding (alighting on the northbound NS route) and alighting (boarding on the southbound NS route) information. Table 1 provides a summary of those results.

**Table 1. Comparison of Potential Obey Creek Ridership to Projected 2022 NS Route Boardings**

Northbound NS Route	Obey Creek Riders	2022 Projected NS Boarding Totals	Overall Total	Obey Creek % of Total Boardings
AM Peak Hour	43	239	282	15%
Noon Peak Hour	42	110	152	28%
PM Peak Hour	114	275	389	29%
Daily	1282	2,288	3570	36%
Southbound NS Route	Obey Creek Riders	2022 Projected NS Boarding Totals	Overall Total	Obey Creek % of Total Boardings
AM Peak Hour	67	302	369	18%
Noon Peak Hour	44	136	180	24%
PM Peak Hour	97	254	351	28%
Daily	1282	2,199	3481	37%

As shown in **Table 1**, projected transit ridership to/from Obey Creek would represent a fairly significant portion of total boardings for all peak hour periods and for daily service, where it may account for nearly 1/3 of all boardings along the NS Route. As described previously, the peak hours analyzed in **Table 1** are the vehicular peak hours of a typical weekday in the Edge's project study area. They do not directly correspond to the exact NS Route peak demand hours, although they represent demand levels that are relatively close to the actual transit peaks.