

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Durham County Government Administrative Complex, Commissioners' Room (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)  
200 E. Main Street, Durham, NC 27701

10:30 A.M. Worksession

**AGENDA**

1. **Citizens Comments**

10 min.

The following citizens have requested to be placed on the agenda:

1. Douglas Register

- Violation of Durham County Code of Ethics and Commissioner Censure

2. Laura Bono and Alison Davis

- Discuss developments on Capitol Hill regarding environmental contaminants and neurodevelopmental disorders;
- Address the current increase in students in Durham County who have been diagnosed with Autism;
- Propose a relationship between Durham Public Schools, Parents of Autistic children, and the Autism Society of North Carolina's Durham chapter to help successfully transition these children; and
- Address the acquisition of funds for Durham Public Schools in the form of research grants.

Resource Person(s): Vonda Sessoms, Clerk to the Board

County Manager's Recommendation: The Manager recommends that the Board receive the citizens' comments.

2. **Consider Additional Compensation for ABC Board Members**

30 min.

The Durham County ABC Board Chairman has requested that the Board of County Commissioners consider additional compensation for ABC Board members. The Board of County Commissioners voted on August 4, 1997 to pay ABC Board members \$50 per meeting, not to exceed maximum of \$100 per month. No additional increases in compensation have been awarded since that time.

Resource Person(s): Chuck D. Watts Jr., Chairman, Durham County ABC Board

**COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION: THE MANAGER RECOMMENDS THAT THE BOARD HEAR THE REQUEST, REVIEW THE INFORMATION PROVIDED, AND CONSIDER ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS MAY BE APPROPRIATE.**

3. **Granicus Inc. Webcasting Demonstration**

30 min.

Durham County is preparing to collaborate with Granicus Inc., a firm that specializes in working with local governments to provide streaming video services. Their unique agenda based solution allows government to reach more citizens and communicate more effectively. Citizens can now watch real time Board meetings and have access to the complete agenda at their desktops, or view archived meetings.

Many local governments in North Carolina have contracted with Granicus to provide this service with very positive results. The list includes Wilmington, Mecklenburg County, Greensboro, Winston-Salem, Greenville, and Onslow County to name a few.

Several senior staff members viewed this product earlier this year at a N. C. City County Manager's Association meeting and were quite impressed. Chris Rynders has presented the product to management and has met with our IT staff on several occasions to ensure that we have the capability of implementing the system. He will demonstrate the product and respond to questions from the Board.

Resource Person(s): Deborah Craig-Ray, Assistant County Manager, and Perry Dixon, IT Director

County Manager's Recommendation: The Manager's recommendation is that the Board receive the demonstration of Granicus Inc. and provide feedback to staff. The Board will be asked to approve the relevant contract at a future meeting.

4. Status of Environmental Study of the East End Connector Project

20 min.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) with its consultant, Reynolds Smith and Hill, will provide a presentation on the status of the environmental study for the East End Connector project. The East End Connector is a proposed highway project that will link the Durham Freeway (NC 147) and Miami Boulevard (US 70) with a new freeway facility and upgrade US 70 from Pleasant Drive to north of Holloway Street (NC 98). The estimated cost of the East End Connector project is \$90,285,000. The environmental study includes a review of several alternative routes for the East End Connector. All of these routes are located in the study area. In addition, a no-build alternative will be considered. Since it is early in the environmental process, a comprehensive current assessment of the alternatives has not been produced. There will be several opportunities for public comment during the environmental process, including a meeting on September 26, 2006 from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm at Living Waters Church at Lynn Road and US 70.

Resource Person(s): Mark Ahrendsen, Transportation Manager, City of Durham; Beverly Robinson, North Carolina Department of Transportation; and Jan Anderson, Reynolds Smith and Hill

**COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION: THE MANAGER RECOMMENDS THAT THE BOARD RECEIVE THE PRESENTATION AND ADVISE THE STAFF IF ANY ADDITIONAL ACTION IS NECESSARY.**

5. Discussion of Issues for NCACC State Legislative Agenda

15 min.

On August 22, the Board held a preliminary conversation with staff regarding possible statewide legislative initiatives to propose to the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners for inclusion in its 2007 legislative Agenda. Staff was directed to continue to work on additional issues suggested by the Board and come back to the worksession for more discussion. September 15<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for submitting items to the NCACC. Approved items will be voted on by the NCACC membership in January 2007 at its Legislative Conference.

(Legislative items will be transmitted with Friday's mailing to the Board of County Commissioners.)

Resource Person(s): Deborah Craig-Ray, Assistant County Manager, and Chuck Kitchen, County Attorney

County Manager's Recommendation: The Manager's recommendation is that the Board receive the proposed agenda and direct staff.

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1¾ hrs.