

MEMORANDUM

TO: City of Charlottesville City Council and Planning Commission

FROM: Route 250 Interchange Steering Committee

DATE: June 8, 2007

REFERENCE: Route 250 Bypass Interchange at McIntire Road
Update and Preliminary Recommendations

The Steering Committee has evaluated, in sufficient detail to form a recommendation to the Planning Commission and City Council, five alternatives (including Alternative A – No-Build) for the proposed interchange at US 250 and McIntire Road.

The Steering Committee has reached a consensus on the following recommendations:

- Alternative C1 provides the most potential for the development of the type of design that is most appropriate for this location. However, Alternative C1 still has several substantial design challenges noted below that must be resolved to the satisfaction of the Steering Committee, otherwise Alternative G1 is likely a better choice.
- Alternative G1 should also be carried forward and could be a viable solution.
- While Alternatives A, B and E2 will be carried forward through the environmental evaluation, they are not recommended by the committee as suitable design alternatives.

Recommended for Further Consideration

The following summarizes the advantages and substantial design challenges associated with Alternatives C1 and G1:

- **Alternative C1 - Description / Advantages:**
 - Provides a simple interchange design, with a single oval roundabout and diamond-type ramps, signifying the type of urban context desired for this location. It is not a standard interchange; however it is not too complex for drivers, pedestrians or cyclists to navigate.
 - Provides opportunities as a gateway into Charlottesville from the north and into McIntire Park from the south.
 - Provides open areas within the interchange to incorporate the park into the development of the design.

- Handles current and projected traffic adequately.
- **Alternative C1 – Design Challenges:**
 - Grade separate pedestrians and cyclist paths from automobile traffic throughout the interchange and across McIntire Road Extended to access McIntire Park.
 - Adequate separation between the roadway and the trail system to enhance the pedestrian environment
 - Visibility of the trail users from the roadway for pedestrian/cyclist safety, especially in the areas of the overpasses.
- **Alternative G1 - Description / Advantages:**
 - Provides a standard diamond interchange design with two signalized ramp terminal intersections.
 - Provides adequate separation between the roadway and the trail system to enhance the pedestrian environment.
 - Provides visibility of the trail users from the roadway for pedestrian / cyclist safety, especially in the areas of the overpasses.
 - Handles current and projected traffic adequately.
- **Alternative G1 – Design Challenges**
 - Standard interchange design is not in keeping with the original project scope and vision.
 - Grade separate pedestrians and cyclist paths from automobile traffic throughout the interchange and across McIntire Road Extended to access McIntire Park.

Not Recommended for Further Consideration

- **Alternative A:** The Steering Committee recognizes the need to carry the No-Build Alternative through the environmental review process; however they do not believe Alternative A meets the project goals established for the project. The alternative includes the existing at-grade intersection with future McIntire Road Extended completed.
 - Does not meet the project vision to provide a gateway to downtown Charlottesville and improve access to McIntire Park.
 - Does not handle the projected traffic adequately.

- **Alternatives B and E2:** The Steering Committee recognizes the need to carry all viable alternatives through the environmental review process, however they do not believe Alternatives B and E2, each a partial cloverleaf-type design with two roundabouts, provide the interchange desired for this location.
 - Alternatives B and E2 include two roundabout ramp terminal intersections.
 - They are viewed as too complex for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers to navigate.
 - While they may handle a specific issue better than Alternate C1 or Alternate G1, as a whole, they fall short of fulfilling the project goals.

Attachment: Alternatives Comparison Matrix

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