TO: CATSO Technical Committee

FROM: CATSO Staff

SUBJECT: Item 5 - Discussion of Resident Concerns Related to Proposed Dublin Ave Extension

DATE: May 3, 2017

*Previous Actions*

The existing Major Roadway Plan (MRP) component of the CATSO 2040 Long-range Transportation Plan (LRTP) includes a future Dublin Avenue neighborhood collector extension to provide a link to Scott Boulevard, aligned with Georgetown Drive on the western side of Scott. Construction of this extension would provide another access to Scott Blvd from Fairview Road for Columbia area traffic.

*Update/Discussion*

To date, CATSO staff has received four letters representing seven Dublin Ave residents and one email, copied to thirty-five Dublin Avenue residents, which list a number of concerns related to the potential Dublin Avenue extension. Resident concerns include potential property devaluation; an increase of traffic hazards to area children and pets; and destruction of the forested area surrounding the Scott’s Branch trail crossing near Dublin Park as a result of the extension.Residents also see little need for the extension based on observations of negligible traffic volumes through existing neighborhood streets; existing quality access for pedestrians and cyclists; and a perception of minimal future growth or increased traffic in the area.

In addition, residents believe there a number of existing area linkages superior to the potential Dublin extension, including the east/west connections of Broadway, Rollins and Chapel Hill, as well as Cunningham, which serves as the area’s internal collector street connection to Chapel Hill. Residents also observe that Dublin does not provide a direct connection to Fairview, but instead connects through Bray at a T-intersection, which they feel is restrictive to traffic flow.

The Dublin Ave to Scott Blvd extension is listed in the City’s Capital Improvement Program (CIP) as a 10+ year unfunded project, which demonstrates a lack of urgency/significance to pursuing its implementation. As noted by Dublin residents, the extension would cross the Scott’s Branch Trail, which serves as another potential factor barring its implementation.

However, as western Columbia continues to grow there may be a need for additional linkages between Scott Boulevard and Fairview Road. Currently, the Scott- Fairview linkage closest to the Chapel Hill Road connection is Rollins Road, at a distance of 1 mile. The Dublin extension would provide a closer connection at only a quarter (.25) mile distance from the Chapel Hill Road intersection.

*Item 5 – May 3, 2017 CATSO Technical – Resident Concerns Related to Proposed Dublin Ave Extension*

*Page 2*

*Staff Recommendation*

Staff recommends that the Technical Committee move this item to the May 25, 2017 Coordinating meeting agenda for further discussion.