

TO: CATSO Coordinating Committee

FROM: CATSO Staff

Item 7: Discussion – Dublin Collector Street Extension

DATE: May 25, 2017

Previous Related Actions

The existing Major Roadway Plan 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 Boulevard from Fairview Road for Columbia area traffic.

At the May 3, 2017 CATSO Technical Committee meeting CATSO staff discussed Dublin Avenue resident concerns with the proposed Dublin extension. Staff has received four letters representing seven Dublin Ave residents and one email, copied to thirty-five Dublin Avenue residents, comprising a number of concerns, including 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 head at the Dublin terminus 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 are 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.

CATSO staff explained that 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, staff pointed out that as western Columbia continues to grow there may be a need for additional street connections 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.

Technical Committee Review and Recommendations

In response to the Dublin Avenue resident concerns and the CATSO staff observations presented at the May 3, 2017 Technical Committee meeting, CATSO Tech members discussed the need for an additional connection between Fairview and Scott, especially because the original proposed connections of both Cunningham Road (Bray to Rollins) and Bray Avenue have been removed. Cunningham was originally meant to provide a connection between Chapel Hill Road and Rollins Road before the Bonne View Nature Sanctuary was completed. Formerly, Bray Avenue was the proposed area collector street extension between Fairview Road and Scott Boulevard. However, during the development of the properties at the western terminus of Bray Avenue, Bray Court was constructed to avert the extension, and Dublin Avenue became the future area east-west connection in lieu of a Bray Avenue connection.

CATSO Technical Committee members also pointed to the need for an east-west connection if residential development continues in the area, while other members discussed the less than optimal Dublin Avenue qualities, such as its high number of driveways, to serve as a collector street connector.

The City's Comprehensive Plan, *Columbia Imagined*, identifies the area surrounding Dublin and Bray, known as the Dubradis Neighborhood, for residential development, with the closest commercial zoning at The Village of Cherry Hill, southeast of the Scott-Chapel Hill intersection. The Dubradis Neighborhood is bordered by a flood plain, and the land between the neighborhood and Scott Boulevard, south of Rollins and north of Chapel Hill, is currently zoned for agriculture use. This would allow the land, a parcel of 42.59 acres, to be developed for single family residences in the future.

CATSO Technical Committee members agreed to the benefit of considering the potential removal of the proposed Dublin extension within the context of CATSO's Major Roadway Plan (MRP). Staff will begin to consider potential updates to CATSO's MRP through the process of developing the 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) that is slated for completion in early 2019. The stakeholder input phase of the 2045 LRTP, which includes thorough citizen outreach and feedback, will begin next October.

The Technical Committee asked how CATSO could best approach the Dublin Extension issue from a procedural perspective: postpone a decision until the 2045 LRTP MRP update begins; or attempt to make a Dublin Avenue extension decision before that time through a scheduled public hearing. The Tech Committee made a motion to forward the decision to the Coordinating Committee.

Staff Recommendation:

Per the CATSO Technical Committee recommendation, staff requests that the CATSO Coordinating Committee provide input on consideration of the following options: 1) postpone a Dublin Avenue extension decision until the 2045 CATSO LRTP MRP update begins; or 2) schedule a public hearing at a future Coordinating Committee meeting for consideration of a MRP amendment regarding the proposed Dublin Avenue extension.