

Road relocation will be studied Cable Internet service hits wall

UNC wants Mason Farm Rd. moved

BY SHANNAN BOWEN
STAFF WRITER

Earlier this month, the Chapel Hill Town Council asked that the N.C. Department of Transportation's feasibility study on the relocation of Mason Farm Road evaluate the project's impact on surrounding neighborhoods. The process is yet another squabble between the University and its neighbors about campus growth. A feasibility study, which generally takes 15 to 18 months to complete, examines the purpose, costs and impacts of the changes to a region. As stated in the UNC Master Plan, a 50-year blueprint for campus growth, the University wants to construct a new entrance to South Campus that would run north along Fordham Boulevard and connect Mason Farm Road to South Columbia Street and Manning Drive.

The new route would make traffic to UNC Hospitals more accessible where Mason Farm Road sits, between Fordham Boulevard and South Columbia Street. Mayor Kevin Foy said the council has requested that NCDOT look at placing the connector road north of Odum Village in order to preserve the structure of the community of neighborhoods on Mason Farm and Oteys roads. The original proposal suggested that the new road be placed south of Odum Village's family housing, which would create a four-lane road. "Mason Farm Road, from the council's point of view, will always be Mason Farm Road," Foy said. "It is a neighborhood road, and it should stay that road." Derrick Lewis, who leads NCDOT's Feasibility Studies Unit, said that he has received comments from the council and the

Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization but that they have not yet been looked over. "We're just getting under way, really," he said. Lewis said his unit is in the study's primary stage of researching and gathering comments from the University, town and NCDOT. After the results are compiled, meetings with the town and NCDOT will be scheduled to formulate design options for the road's changes, he said. "We can't formulate an opinion on what to do until the projections are in," Lewis said. The final step in the feasibility study is to develop cost estimates that will be sent to the council and Metropolitan Planning Organization for final alignment approval. Council member Mark Kleinschmidt said the board has expressed concern about minimizing the project's potential impact on surrounding neighborhoods.

"We can't allow a road to come through and destroy the neighborhood," he said. Peg Rees, a resident who lives on Oteys Road, said neighborhood inhabitants have been in close contact with town and University officials about the concerns with the potential disruption in their area. She said that residents are confused about the possible location of the new connector road and that she urges those involved to go with the town's suggestions and place the road north of the neighborhood to avoid a four-lane road. Susan Fellner, president of the Mason Farm Association, said residents will have their regularly scheduled meeting Sept. 22 with the University. There, residents will have a chance to express one-on-one their concerns with the proposal to University officials.

Students, residents lack Web access

BY SUSIE DICKSON
STAFF WRITER

Chapel Hill residents and University students with local high-speed Internet service have faced Internet problems for the past several weeks without answers or signs of improvement. Tom Lawrence, a local spokesman for Time Warner Cable, said most Internet problems in this area have to do with the spread of viruses during the past several weeks. Time Warner Cable's Road Runner, one of the fastest-growing high-speed Internet providers in the area, provides cable services to many off-campus residences. Junior Chris Halloran, who subscribes to Road Runner, expressed skepticism about the company's explanation of the problems. "My computer does not have any viruses," he said. Halloran said his connection to the Internet stops working about every hour. "We must reset our (connection) repeatedly throughout the day, because the Time Warner Cable modem stopped working and its connection to the wireless antenna needed to be reset," he said. Company representatives say such Internet problems are not the fault of Time Warner Cable. "There are several issues," Lawrence said. "Most of them are at the national level. "We don't have specific outages anywhere." Lawrence said e-mail servers have been having outages recently

that have nothing to do with Road Runner. He also suggested that Internet users download the latest anti-virus software as well as the latest Microsoft patch, which can prevent and fix a computer's infection with the MS Blaster worm. "I know for a fact that (these viruses) are still spreading," Lawrence said. "(The viruses) simply worm their way into the various ports (of the computer)." Students who use the campus network also have faced problems accessing the Internet in recent weeks. UNC sophomore Greg Chang said he has had problems with his computer since the first time he plugged into the network in his Granville Towers room. Granville Towers residents access the Internet through the campus network. Chang said his computer had the Blaster worm, a virus that has been plaguing networks across the country for the past several weeks. Although his computer no longer has the virus, Chang continues to face additional problems accessing and sending e-mail, he said. Chang has been working with campus support in an effort to solve his computer problems but has seen no results. "As of yet, I haven't gotten any solid answers."

FORUM

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care for blacks in the Triangle. Panelist Michelle Laws, a professor of sociology at N.C. Central University, said that although some blacks in the Triangle are enjoying a relatively high quality of life, some trends are overlooked, such as the significant number of black men in jail and blacks who suffer from physical and mental illnesses. "For me, the whole discussion of economics cannot be dissected from discussion about prison, HIV/AIDS and affordable housing," she said. Despite living near some of the best health-care institutions in the nation, Sutton said, blacks in the Triangle still suffer from a signifi-

cant number of health problems. "A disparity still exists in the African-American community with regard to infant mortality, diabetes, strokes and other (health problems)." Report statistics indicate that although 169.5 out of every 100,000 blacks suffer diabetes-related deaths, only 93 out of every 100,000 nonblacks die of diabetes. While the Urban League's report set a framework for dialogue about the quality of life for blacks in the Triangle, Sutton emphasized that progress must continue after the forum. "It's important we all be involved — especially African Americans — on what these issues are."

ROSCOE
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three being reviewed by the 14-member Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Search Committee. Chairwoman Laurie Mesibov said the group has not yet filed a formal recommendation to administrators but that it likely will do so by the end of the week. Roscoe said the qualities that give UNC-CH its distinct reputation left him with a lasting impression. "I was struck by whatever it is — the Carolina experience," he said. "I think the pride and the connectedness that occurs at Chapel Hill is very unique."

SPEAKER
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ing for the event. He said Coulter's views are too divisive to appeal to the entire student body. "She has nothing terribly compelling to say," Jensen said. "It's not a good use of our (student activity fee) money." The speech will be held at 6 p.m. Oct. 1 in the rotunda at the School of Law. Bajalcaliev said between 300 and 700 students are expected to attend. The speech will last for about one hour and will be followed by a question and answer session, book signing and reception.

TUITION

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address campus needs directly. "There's no guarantee that money will come back here," said Provost Robert Shelton. "With the campus-based increase, you know the money is coming back and you know how you're going to use it." Shelton said a new task force will be commissioned if the BOG approves campus-based tuition increases this year. Student Body President Matt Tepper said that a new task force would have to re-evaluate last year's proposal but that he thinks the money would be designated to fund the same areas. Davies said that even if campus-based increases are approved, the BOG might set parameters on the degree of tuition increases or on what they can be used to fund. A decision, Davies said, would apply to all UNC-system schools. "If there's going to be a freeze this year, I think it's appropriate that each campus know before starting their own increase process," Davies said. "That way, we're all operating under the same set of guidelines."

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EDWARDS

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Edwards that he is confident in the senator's ability to meet the needs of young people and put the country back on the track to prosperity. "Both of us are from small towns," he said. "These are towns where every job matters. He will put us first." Bell said that College Democrats, a national student group, does not endorse candidates as an organization but that he personally thinks Edwards is the candidate most in tune to the needs of the young. "Young people are going to play a critical role in my campaign and election," Edwards said. "I think young people are a very natural constituency for me." During the interview, Edwards expressed his mutual admiration for Bell and his political work. Bell, a 22-year-old law student at Louisiana State University, attended the Democratic National Convention as an undergraduate at Valdosta State University in 2000. He was the youngest black delegate at a Democratic Party convention in history. Edwards said he and the Bush administration have very different ideas on the direction in which the United States needs to go, and he encouraged the involvement of young people in politics. "If anyone can get young people involved in politics, it's Ashley," he said. "He believes, as I do, that America works best when it works for all of us."

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