



MEMORANDUM

The Department of Community Development

Planning

455-3900

To: Planning Commission
From: Tom Martin, AICP, City Planner
Subj: Wards Ferry Road Corridor Study
Date: June 12, 2013

Region 2000 Local Government Council, along with City of Lynchburg guidance, engaged the consultant firm, URS Corporation, in a study of Wards Ferry Road from the connection with Timberlake Road in the north to Wards Road in the south. The document is a planning level assessment of the options for the future of the street and seeks to address two major issues. First, the growing safety concerns of both vehicular traffic and a growing car-free student population who need pedestrian and bicycle accommodations and second, related capacity issues from already increased congestion and anticipated market demands for development along the corridor. The recommended improvements address those issues through the addition of turn lanes, a roundabout at the intersection with Harvard Street, improved sight distances, and a shared-use path or a combination of bike lanes and traditional sidewalks. Two alternatives are presented as the "Initial Preferred Alternative" and the "Recommended Preferred Alternative," reflecting a staff level concern over the acquisition of right-of-way needed for the "Initial Preferred Alternative." Both alternatives increase safety and preserve current street capacity, however only minor growth along the corridor could be accommodated.

Public and stakeholder meetings were held on March 28, 2013, and May 9, 2013 at Heritage Elementary School and Church of the Nazarene to involve citizens in the process of developing these plans and address any concerns.

During the Planning Commission work session on June 12, 2013, City Staff, Region2000 and Region2000's consultants Mr. Bill Cashman and Chris Lawrence, URS Corporation will present the plan and answer questions. Comments from the Planning Commission will be incorporated into the document and forwarded to Council for adoption and inclusion within the City's *Comprehensive Plan 2002-2020*. The public hearing is scheduled for July 10, 2013.

If you have questions concerning the plan prior to the public hearing, please contact me at 455-3909 or at tom.martin@lynchburgva.gov.