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**Date:** December 12, 2011

**To:** Michael M. Ruffin, County Manager

**Through:** Lee Worsley, Deputy County Manager

**From:** Steven L. Medlin, AICP, City-County Planning Director and Helen Youngblood, AICP, Senior Planner

**Subject:** Durham Trails and Greenways 2011 Master Plan Update

**Summary.** Staff has completed an update to the Durham Trails and Greenways Master Plan. This update makes current the original Master Plan which was adopted in 2001.

**Recommendations.** Planning Staff recommends approval. The Planning Commission recommended approval 10-0 at its September 13, 2011 meeting. The Durham Open Space and Trails Commission recommended approval in the spring of 2011.

**Background.** The Durham Open Space and Trails Commission (DOST) and City and County staff have been working on an update to the 2001 Trails and Greenways Master Plan. DOST members, in conjunction with the Parks and Recreation Department and the DOST Trails Committee, have updated the document to reflect changes concerning trail construction practices, trail priorities, and the addition of new trails throughout the community. The Durham Open Space and Trails Commission, in the spring of 2011, endorsed the changes which have been proposed in the document.

**Issue.** The Plan was changed to coordinate with, but not duplicate, the Durham Walks Plan and the Comprehensive Bicycle Plan. The 2001 Durham Trails and Greenways Master Plan included on-street bike lanes and sidewalks that were often noted as trails. With the adoption of the Durham Walks Plan and the Comprehensive Bicycle Plan in 2006, DOST felt that the trails plan needed updating. The update allows for clear trail priorities to be established by DOST and looks at alternative means of construction and funding for trails. In addition, the updated Plan focuses on better connections with neighborhoods and public facilities such as libraries and schools. It also provides updated improved maps to provide a better framework for developers and the community so that the trail system may be incorporated into a project or neighborhood. In addition, the individual greenways maps have been improved and

trail priorities updated. No other issues have been identified with the drafting of this Plan update.

**Alternatives.** The Board of County Commissioners could recommend approval of a revised version of the update, defer action on the item, or not approve an update.

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**Attachments.**

**Attachment 1,** 2011 Durham Trails and Greenways Master Plan

**Attachment 2,** Planning Commission Written Comments