

Marin Stephens

From: Greg R. Nichols
Sent: Monday, October 2, 2023 4:15 PM
To: CPCINFO
Cc: Matthew I Rufo; Daniel Jatres
Subject: TOC Study public comments

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the Office of Resilience and Sustainability, I am writing in support of the Transit Oriented Communities study. Our office's mission is to work in partnership with city departments and agencies to advance policies and projects that reduce our emissions and prepare our people and our city for the changing climate. Transit-Oriented Communities make it easier for people to go about their daily lives without reliance on a personal motor vehicle, by locating homes, jobs, schools, and services within walking distance of each other or a convenient transit ride. The TOC study lays the groundwork for our office to help the City Planning Commission staff translate its high level recommendations into specific policies that allow people to live and move around the city in ways that lower environmental impacts. We look forward to continued collaboration with the City Planning Commission.

Sincerely,

Greg Nichols

Deputy Chief Resilience Officer, Office of Resilience & Sustainability
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Marin Stephens

From: Robin C. Jones
Sent: Sunday, October 1, 2023 9:11 AM
To: Marin Stephens
Subject: Fw: TOC Study - RTA Comment

Robin Jones (*sbe/ber/bers*)
Principal City Planner
New Orleans City Planning Commission

From: Farley, Joanna <jfarley@rtaforward.org>
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2023 1:54 PM
To: CPCINFO <CPCINFO@nola.gov>
Subject: TOC Study - RTA Comment

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Hi CPC!

Please find the RTA's comment on the TOC study below:

The RTA is excited to comment in support of CPC's adoption of the Transit Oriented Communities Study. As the largest transit provider in the region, we work to provide efficient and useful service that brings people from where they live to all the places they might need to go – at a fraction of the cost to drive. As we plan and design routes to accomplish these goals, we often encounter limitations that are baked into the land-use and development patterns in this city. For example, trying to connect a large apartment complex to a WalMart requires a winding route away from a major thoroughfare through sparsely populated areas. These snake-like and long-distance deviations add time to the route, slowing service and limiting the convenience of transit as a transportation option. Conversely, by limiting housing options in areas with great transit service, people have fewer choices to have a less car-dependent life. Many of these development patterns are a direct result of land-use policy and zoning regulations that have furthered inequity and exclusion. These are the consequences of separating land-use development from public transit planning.

On the other hand, true transit-oriented communities (or TOCs) make it easier for RTA to run high-quality service and make transit a more convenient choice for more people, regardless of income. TOCs boost the investments made in transit by making it accessible to more people, businesses and service providers, and RTA can better serve the community. A whole host of other benefits also flow from facilitating this kind of development pattern, such as increased affordability, reduced reliance on private cars, improved walkability, increased retail, and other activities along transit corridors. However, today there are minimal provisions in the zoning code and elsewhere that acknowledge this essential link between land use and transit.

RTA is making significant investments for an improved transit system, including \$42 million for passenger facilities, \$82 million for a zero-emission, resilient bus fleet, and \$300 million for a rapid transit line, called the East-West Bank Corridor. CPC's adoption of the TOC study is the first step in enabling RTA, the City of New Orleans and many other partners to truly explore how transit-oriented communities can show up in New Orleans to boost quality of life, increase access to opportunity, and create a more prosperous, equitable city. The RTA is ready to work alongside

City and external partners through the recommended working group to develop and implement TOC tools and policies as our next step.

Thanks,

Joanna Farley (she/her)
Senior Transportation Planner



New Orleans Regional Transit Authority

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Marin Stephens

From: Tara M Tolford <tmtolfor@uno.edu>
Sent: Monday, October 2, 2023 3:51 PM
To: Robert D. Rivers
Cc: CPCINFO
Subject: Transit-Oriented Communities Study Comments

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Dear Director Rivers,

On behalf of UNO Transportation Institute (UNOTI), I'd like to thank the CPC and New Orleans RTA for developing the Transit-Oriented Communities Study and look forward to seeing this planning framework implemented via the coordinated efforts of the proposed TOC Working Group and relevant partners. UNOTI was recently awarded a 4-year, \$12 million grant to lead the new [Center for Equitable Transit-Oriented Communities](#) (CETOC), the mission of which is to cultivate transit-centered, equitable, and resilient communities that support residents' multimodal travel needs and preserve the environment. CPC's TOC framework strongly aligns with CETOC's goals, and will facilitate valuable partnerships for research, education, workforce development, and community engagement. Effective transit service - along with supportive land use and transportation policies and infrastructure - is key to achieving our region's climate and resilience goals, and fundamental to equitable economic growth underpinned by access to opportunity and affordable housing. We look forward to working with you to advance strategies for transit-oriented communities and applaud the team's integrated approach to placemaking and public assets.

Sincerely,
Tara Tolford, AICP

Tara M Tolford
Research Associate + Pedestrian & Bicycle Outreach Coordinator



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