

Introduction

Background

The Town of Davidson owes much of its value, both economic and quality of life, to its mastery over its transportation system. From its original town layout in the 1800s, Davidson has set a planning framework that integrates a sustainable village pattern with a balanced transportation system.

Unfortunately, Davidson has not been insulated in recent decades from negative side effects of rapid regional growth, and development decisions in the past have not continued the historic interconnected street pattern.

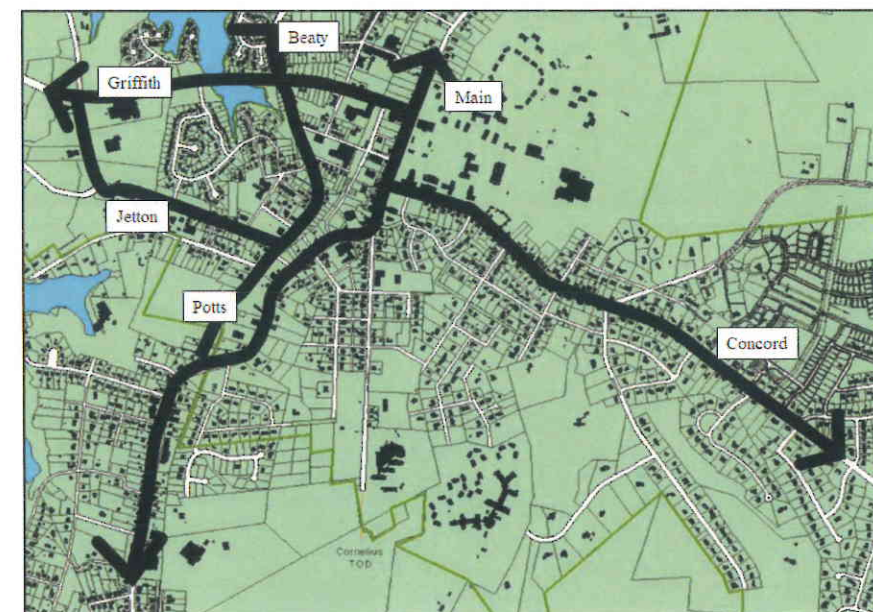


Historic Town Aerial 1933.

This disconnected pattern of development concentrated all vehicle trips - local and regional - on a few arterial roadways: Main Street, Concord Road, and Griffith Street, rather than allowing local trips to occur on local roads and regional trips to occur on regional roads.

This growth pattern, coupled with rapid regional growth has caused the Mecklenburg-Union County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MUMPO) to develop a regional thoroughfare plan that calls for widening Main Street, Concord Road, and Griffith Street.

The Town of Davidson recognizes the threat these potential road widening represent and is committed to reestablishing a traditional development pattern within the Town and the ETJ.



Regional Thoroughfare Plan.

Purpose of the Study

In April of 2002, the Mayor, directed the planning staff to organize a Circulation Stakeholder Task Force and develop a Circulation Plan to establish a physical framework and policy recommendations that will allow the Town to continue to direct its transportation on its own terms.

The Task Force completed a draft Circulation Plan for the Town of Davidson in March of 2003 and it can be reviewed on the Town of Davidson's web-site at: www.ci.davidson.nc.us

The purpose of this analysis is to provide the Town's Circulation Stakeholder's Committee a framework for implementing their adopted Circulation Plan.

Specifically this Report will:

- 1) Provide a regional framework for transportation options within the Town of Davidson.
- 2) Outline a traffic calming strategy to complement the adopted Circulation Plan.
- 3) Develop specific traffic calming measures for application within Davidson.
- 4) Document preliminary cost estimates for each connection and traffic calming action.
- 5) Outline a potential implementation for the Circulation Plan

Organization of this Report

This Connectivity and Traffic Calming Report is formatted into four sections. **Section 2** presents the public involvement process, which includes meeting with public officials, stakeholder interviews and a three-day public design charrette. **Section 3** details basic transportation principles and proposed improvements. **Section 3** outlines the Connectivity and Traffic Calming Plan. **Section 4** documents costs and priorities for implementing the plan.