RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE PLANNING BOARD AMEND THE DOWNTOWN MASTER PLAN BY REMOVING THE DISCUSSION OF THE EXTENSION OF THE HENRI A. BURQUE HIGHWAY THROUGH A RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD AND ACROSS THE MERRIMACK RIVER

CITY OF NASHUA

In the Year Two Thousand and Eight

RESOLVED *by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Nashua* that

WHEREAS, the Nashua City Planning Board adopted a Downtown Master Plan on May 1, 2003 as an element of the Nashua 2000 Master Plan. Resolution R-03-245 "Relative to the approval of the Downtown Master Plan adopted by the City Planning Board" was passed by the Board of Aldermen on September 16, 2003;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Nashua City Charter Section 77(g), the Nashua City Planning Board "shall formulate a master plan of the city";

WHEREAS, pursuant to New Hampshire Revised Statutes Annotated Section 674:4, the Nashua City Planning Board may, according to the procedures required under RSA Section 675:6, "incorporate any amendment, extension, or addition to the plan";

WHEREAS, the Downtown Master Plan includes five initiative areas (Riverfront West, Riverfront East, Railroad Square, Main Street North, and Main Street South), all of which are south of Laton Street;

WHEREAS, in the section "Streets: Access and Connectivity", the Downtown Master Plan contains the following subsection which would impact residential areas far north of the downtown:

"**An Alternative to Through Traffic: Extension of the Outer Loop**
A Broad Street Parkway – either the currently proposed version or the preferred alternative from this Master Plan – is not the answer to through traffic in downtown Nashua. Far more important than the Broad Street Parkway, in any of its versions, is the extension of the Henri A. Burque Highway with another crossing of the Merrimack River.

As part of the original circumferential connector, the Henri A. Burque Highway was designed to provide a "beltway" around downtown. As is often the case with large road projects, the planning process was slower than private development. As a result, intense development occurred in the corridor and the right-of-way. In the 1990's, the idea of extending the Henri A. Burque was "shelved" in favor of a new alignment for the circumferential connector several miles to the north on more easily acquired greenfield land.

Extending the Henri A. Burque was valid many years ago. Today it is still valid, albeit highly unlikely and infeasible. Extending the Henri A. Burque Highway to Hudson will allow traffic generated from Everett Turnpike interchange 6 (Broad Street) and interchange 7 (Amherst Street) destined east to Hudson to do so without traversing Amherst and Canal Streets, and most importantly avoiding Railroad Square and the Hollis Street bridge.

Extension of the Henri A. Burque highway is not likely. Acquisition costs in the foreseeable future are prohibitive. Likewise, NHDOT is in the process of issuing an SEIS on the Circumferential Highway several miles north of the Henri A. Burque However, should conditions in the corridor change such that the extension of the highway becomes, once again feasible, Nashua should pursue this option";

WHEREAS, the Downtown Master Plan discussion of an extension of the Henri A. Burque Highway contains no consideration of the significant impact that such an extension would have on the surrounding residential areas that are outside of the downtown area; and

WHEREAS, the Nashua 2000 Master Plan, Element X "Transportation", only discusses the Circumferential Highway in relation to the "barrier that the Merrimack River presents to east-west traffic", specifically a new Exit 9 off the F.E. Everett Turnpike just north of the Nashua-Merrimack line.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Aldermen to request that the Nashua City Planning Board amend the Downtown Master Plan by deleting the subsection titled "An Alternative to Through Traffic: Extension of the Outer Loop".

LEGISLATIVE YEAR 2008

RESOLUTION: R-08-114

PURPOSE: **Requesting the Planning Board amend the Downtown Master Plan by removing the discussion of the extension of the Henri A. Burque Highway through a residential neighborhood and across the Merrimack River**

SPONSOR(S): **Alderman-at-Large David W. Deane**

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT:

FISCAL NOTE: **None.**

ANALYSIS

This resolution requests that the Planning Board delete a subsection of their adopted Downtown Master Plan that discusses extending the Henri A. Burque Highway including another crossing of the Merrimack River.

Under both RSA 674:1 and City Charter § 77 (g), the Planning Board has the duty to prepare and amend a master plan to guide the development of the municipality.

Approved as to form: **Office of Corporation Counsel**

By: Dorothy Clarke

Date: 2 September 2008

RESOLUTION R-08-114

Requesting the Planning Board amend the Downtown Master Plan by removing the discussion of the extension of the Henri A. Burque Highway through a residential neighborhood and across the Merrimack River

Endorsed by

Deane

CLEMONS

COOKSON

TAMPOSI

Richard Flynn

FLYNN

IN THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN

1ST READING SEPTEMBER 9, 2008

Referred to:

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

& NASHUA PLANNING BOARD

2nd Reading OCTOBER 28, 2008

3rd Reading

4th Reading

Other Action

Passed OCTOBER 28, 2008

Indefinitely Postponed

Defeated

Attest: City Clerk

President

Approved Mayor's Signature

11-3-08

Date

Vetoed:

Veto Sustained:

Veto Overridden:

Attest: City Clerk

President