

MEMO

To: Chair Price and Orange County Commissioners
Mayor Lavelle and Carrboro Town Council
Mayor Hemminger and Chapel Hill Town Council
Mayor Weaver and Hillsborough Board of Commissioners

From: Recovery Plan Project Management Team

Date: June 22, 2021

RE: Long-Term Recovery and Transformation Plan Update

Using CARES funds, the County and municipalities embarked on a planning process to assist with countywide recovery following the unprecedented Corona Virus 19 pandemic.

The contract with the consultant has concluded and the draft plan is now ours to embrace and implement. Response to the pandemic was more time intensive than imaged at the beginning of this process, so a detailed implementation plan has not yet been developed. The Project Management Team intends to work on this over the coming summer break within each Recovery Support Function. Much of the implementation will also have resource needs, both in staff time and funding. As local governments decide how to allocate the American Rescue Plan resources, and examine other existing and new funding sources, this plan can serve as a guide to identify needs and solutions where the impact will be significant.

The comments and questions received during May 2021 from the Councils and Commissions have been documented and, where possible, will be specifically addressed in a forthcoming ‘frequently asked questions’ (FAQ) document. A summary of the elected officials’ comments and the FAQ information will also appear in a new appendix of the plan. In addition to developing an implementation plan, staff will also bring the elected officials’ comments to the seven Recovery Support Functions for their review over the summer. The Project Management Team believes this approach is consistent with the Government Alliance on Race and Equity’s (GARE) racial equity tool methodology, which informed the process used to create the plan and, to the greatest extent possible, draws directly from and prioritizes the input of those residents most impacted by the pandemic.

The Project Management Team asks the Councils and Commissions to receive this update in preparation for possible endorsement in the fall. This process will allow us to work together on common interests and work independently on topics of local concern. The updated plan will serve as the base for on-going discussion and work to ensure Orange County recovers from the impacts of the pandemic, but also transforms into a more equitable and inclusive community.

The Project Management Team members look forward to reporting back to the Councils and Commissions in the fall of 2021, potentially in a joint session, to discuss possible endorsement based on our progress, implementation, and resource requests.