

**MANDATORY REFERRAL REPORT NO. 00-45**  
**CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**LAND ACQUISITION**  
**DECEMBER 2000**

**PROJECT LOCATION**

The site is Freedom Mall, located at the intersection of Freedom Drive and Ashley Road.

**PROJECT PROPOSAL**

Mecklenburg County desires to purchase the Freedom Mall site for use as a community based facility for county services. Other county functions, which are presently leasing space from private landowners, could also be located on the property.

**PROJECT JUSTIFICATION**

The County's Billingsley Road Master Plan indicates need for a community based facility for county services. There are also other county functions which are in leased private space that could be located on the site.

**PROJECT IMPACT**

The purchase of this property will allow Mecklenburg County to provide county services to residents in the surrounding area. No adverse impacts are expected from this expansion.

**RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PROJECTS**

The property is located within the scope of the Central District Plan. The Plan recognizes the Freedom Mall area as a regional mixed-use center. The site is also located within the study area of the West transit corridor. The Westside Strategic Plan recommends a corridor revitalization plan for Freedom Drive. The Westside Plan also recommends the location of a satellite workforce development one-stop center in key locations along Freedom Drive. Much of the present mall space is vacant or underused. Reuse of the mall site for county services and offices is consistent with land use plans as well as transit goals for the area.

**PROJECT COST**

The sale price of the land is \$8 million.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Planning Staff supports the purchase of this property to accommodate a community based county services facility.

**PLANNING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

Planning Committee voted 5 to 0 to recommend approval of the land purchase.



# FREEDOM DRIVE PROPERTIES

