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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**City of Charlotte Planning Director to deliver lecture on February 17:
“Planning for Transit and Transit-Oriented Development”**

CHAPEL HILL, NC – Debra D. Campbell will deliver a lecture on “Planning for Transit and Transit-Oriented Development” on February 17, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. in Room 3411 of the Student Union at UNC-Chapel Hill. The lecture will be preceded by a reception at 1:30 pm. The reception and lecture are free and open to the public.

Campbell is planning director for the City of Charlotte and surrounding Mecklenburg County. In describing her efforts to make Charlotte a model for urban growth while maintaining the character of the city’s neighborhoods, Campbell says, “Neighborhoods are the most important part of a city. They’re where it all happens. They’re the building blocks of a community.”

Governing Magazine recognized Campbell with its 2007 Public Official of the Year Award, partly for her role in managing the development of the city’s new light rail system. The \$5 billion light-rail system is the single largest infrastructure project in Charlotte’s history. Campbell says she hopes to utilize transportation patterns as a way to shape the city’s growth. “Transit is a means; it’s not the end,” she says. “The end is high-quality development and a way for us to promote better development to make sure we’re better stewards of our community and the environment.” Opponents of the project mounted a high-profile campaign opposing the half-cent sales tax that has funded the light-rail project. However, Campbell has been able to win people over by advocating the importance of guiding Charlotte by broader smart-growth policies. The *Charlotte Observer* called Campbell “the most powerful person in local government you’ve never heard of.”

The 2008-2009 Lecture Series is sponsored by the Carolina Society for Future Leaders, the UNC-Chapel Hill Student Congress, the Master of Public Administration program, and the School of Government.

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