

# BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. E(1)

## AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: June 4, 2002

**TITLE: Enhancement Program Applications**

<b>DEPARTMENT: PLANNING</b>	<b>PUBLIC HEARING: YES ___ NO ___ X ___</b>
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b> <b>A. Resolution to Accept Enhancement Applications</b> <b>B. Project Map</b> <b>C. Project Map</b> <b>D. Project Map</b>	<b>FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:</b> <b>Dale McKeel – 918-7329</b>

### PURPOSE

The North Carolina Department of Transportation is accepting applications for transportation enhancement projects. Town staff has conducted an evaluation of current needs and is proposing that applications for three projects be submitted to NCDOT. A resolution authorizing the Town Manager to submit Transportation Enhancement Program applications for three projects is attached.

### INFORMATION

The transportation enhancement program was established by Congress in 1991 through the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) as a means of ensuring that a variety of projects—most not typically associated with highway building—were implemented. The popularity of this program nationwide led Congress to reauthorize the enhancement program in 1998 through the Transportation Equity Act of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA-21).

The following types of projects are eligible for funding with enhancement funds:

- Facilities for bicycles and pedestrians
- Bicycle and pedestrian safety and educational activities
- Acquisition of scenic/historic easements/sites
- Scenic/historic highway programs, including tourist/visitors centers
- Landscaping and scenic beautification
- Historic Preservation
- Rehabilitation/operation of historic transportation facilities
- Preservation of abandoned railway corridors
- Control and removal of outdoor advertising
- Archaeological planning and research
- Mitigation of highway runoff and provision of wildlife connectivity
- Establishment of transportation museums

Enhancement funds are made available annually to North Carolina and are administered by NCDOT. NCDOT has developed a process through which local governments and nonprofit organizations can apply for funding of enhancement projects. In April, NCDOT issued a call for applications. Initial applications are due June 28, 2002, and can be revised through August 30.

The applicant may receive reimbursement for eligible costs as the work is completed. Work performed and cost incurred prior to project selection and federal funding authorization are not eligible for reimbursement.

NCDOT has allocated a total of \$576,990 for projects in Orange, Alamance, Guilford, Caswell, and Rockingham counties, which make up NCDOT Division 7. Carrboro's applications will be considered for funding with other applications from these five counties.

Town staff have evaluated current transportation needs throughout the community and propose that applications be made for three enhancement projects in Carrboro, as follows:

1. Sidewalk construction along Brewer Lane, Wesley Street, and Hargraves Street
2. Sidewalk construction along Jones Ferry Road
3. Bicycle and pedestrian path connecting Bel Arbor Drive and Simpson Street.

The enhancement process requires the sponsor of a project to provide at least 20 percent of the project's cost as a local cash match to show commitment by the local community. The matching funds for the three proposed projects are available in the capital reserve fund.

Final decisions on enhancement project funding will be made by the N.C. Board of Transportation. An Enhancements Advisory Council has been created to review the applications and make recommendations to the Board of Transportation. The project selection timeline is as follows:

- April 4, 2002 -- Board of Transportation issues call for projects:
- June 28, 2002 -- Deadline for application submittal
- August 30, 2002 -- Deadline for application revisions
- September 2002 -- Enhancement Advisory Council develops recommendations
- December 4 & 5, 2002 -- Board of Transportation considers recommendations
- January 8 & 9, 2003 -- Board of Transportation funding awards

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS**

The three proposed enhancement projects in Carrboro are listed below, in priority order.

### *Sidewalk along Brewer Lane, Wesley Street, and Hargraves Street – Priority # 1*

This project would include the installation of sidewalk along three streets to provide a pedestrian connection between the Libba Cotten Bikeway and the Roberson Place Bikeway (Attachment B). This project meets several of the criteria used by NCDOT to analyze projects. For instance, the project promotes neighborhood rehabilitation, supports adopted development plans, and fills a transportation void. The project cost is estimated to be \$92,939. If the project is selected for Enhancement Program funding the Town would be required to provide a 20% local share, which is \$18,588.

*Sidewalk along a portion of Jones Ferry Road – Priority # 2*

This project would include the installation of a sidewalk on the north side of Jones Ferry Road between the Morningstar Mini-Storage site and the traffic signal at the entrance to Willow Creek Shopping Center, with an underpass of NC 54 Bypass (Attachment C). This project fills a transportation void, enhances safety, and requires low maintenance over time. The project cost is estimated to be \$22,550. If the project is selected for Enhancement Program funding the Town would be required to provide a 20% local share, which is \$4,510.

*Bicycle and pedestrian path connecting Bel Arbor Drive and Simpson Street – Priority # 3*

This project would provide a bicycle and pedestrian connection between the Bel Arbor neighborhood and Simpson Street, utilizing an easement proposed for dedication to the Town when the Bel Arbor neighborhood was approved, and a portion of Phipps Street right-of-way (Attachment D). This project supports adopted development plans, enhances safety, and fills a transportation void. The project cost is estimated to be \$85,000. If the project is selected for Enhancement Program funding the Town would be required to provide a 20% local share, which is \$17,000.

**ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION**

The staff recommends that the Board of Aldermen approve the attached resolution.