

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. B(4)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: NOVEMBER 19, 2002

TITLE: Funding for a Downtown Feasibility Analysis / Conceptual Design Plan

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING	PUBLIC HEARING: YES ___NO__X__
ATTACHMENTS A. Resolution	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Dale McKeel – 918-7329

PURPOSE

In April 2002, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen accepted the *Downtown Carrboro: New Vision* document, the report from the downtown visioning process conducted in September 2001. An analysis of downtown vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian travel has been identified as a key step in determining how to implement the recommendations in the *Downtown Vision* document. The purpose of this agenda item is to identify possible resources for funding a feasibility analysis and conceptual design plan. A resolution has been prepared (Attachment A) should the Board wish to move forward with funding requests.

INFORMATION

Over the past several months, Town staff has been seeking to estimate the cost of a downtown traffic feasibility analysis and conceptual design plan and to identify possible sources of funding. Based on information provided by Dan Burden, NCDOT staff, and representatives of a consulting firm that has inquired about the project, the cost of a feasibility analysis and conceptual design plan is estimated to be about \$75,000.

Two possible sources of funds have been identified:

1. Surface Transportation Program-Direct Attributable (STP-DA) Funds. These are federal transportation funds apportioned to urban areas with a population over 200,000, including the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro (DCHC) MPO. Decisions about the use of these funds are made by the DCHC Transportation Advisory Committee and are available on a matching basis (at 80 percent federal / 20 percent local match).

To date, Carrboro has used STP-DA funds for the development of the PTA Bikeway and the Frances Shetley bikeway. The opportunity to access these funds may diminish in the relatively near future as NCDOT is considering to change the manner in which STP-DA funds are administered. Town staff recommends that a request for \$40,000 in STP-DA funds be made to the DCHC TAC. If this request is approved, a \$10,000 local match from the Town of Carrboro would be needed.

Should the Board of Aldermen wish to proceed with a request, it is recommended that a request be submitted for review by the DCHC Technical Coordinating Committee at its next meeting on December 4. The request and the TCC's recommendation will be forwarded for review by the TAC at its December 18 meeting. A draft resolution expressing the Board of Aldermen's support for this request is attached.

2. NCDOT Funds. Town staff have also had preliminary discussions with NCDOT representatives regarding the funding of a feasibility analysis and conceptual design plan. Town staff recommends that a request for \$25,000 be made to NCDOT through contact with Douglas Galyon, the Board of Transportation member who represents Orange County, and Nina Szlosberg, an at-large Board of Transportation member who assisted the Town of Carrboro with the downtown visioning process and has been involved with a similar project on Hillsborough Street in Raleigh.

FISCAL IMPACT

If the request for STP-DA funds is approved, a match of \$10,000 would be required from the Town of Carrboro. The Town's Management Services staff has identified the fund balance as a source of the matching funds.

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends that the Board of Aldermen adopt the resolution authorizing Town staff to move forward with funding requests.