

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. B(2)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: DECEMBER 17, 2002

TITLE: Request to Set a Public Hearing: Plan for Roberson Street Improvements

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING	PUBLIC HEARING: YES ___NO__X__
ATTACHMENTS: <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. ResolutionB. Excerpt from <u>Downtown Carrboro: New Vision</u> ReportC. Minutes, April 2, 2002D. Proposed Cross-Section for Roberson StreetE. Illustration of Increasing Right-of-Way (ROW) Width from 40 Feet to 68 Feet	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Dale McKeel – 918-7329

PURPOSE

In response to the Downtown Carrboro: New Vision report, the Board of Aldermen have requested that Town staff prepare a plan for Roberson Street improvements. Staff has prepared preliminary information for sidewalks and on-street parking on the portion of Roberson Street between Sweet Bay Lane and Greensboro Street. The Administration recommends that the Board of Aldermen set a public hearing for February 4, 2002 and refer this item to the Planning Board, the Downtown Development Commission, and the Transportation Advisory Board (Attachment A).

INFORMATION

A downtown visioning charrette was held in Carrboro in September 2001. Several hundred residents participated in the charrette, which was facilitated by a team that included Dan Burden of Walkable Communities, Inc. The recommendations from the charrette are incorporated in a report entitled Downtown Carrboro: New Vision.

The New Vision document states that improvements, including on-street parking, should be added to Roberson Street. The document states that such improvements would be made in conjunction with changes to the street configuration and as development is considered on the street (see Attachment B). The document also states that on-street parking would enhance the walkability of downtown Carrboro by providing a buffer between pedestrians and traffic.

The New Vision report also includes recommendations on sidewalk widths throughout Carrboro and highlights minimums for commercial areas. The report recommends that sidewalks in commercial areas be eight feet or more in width. Sidewalks need to be free of obstacles, including signs, planters, landings and door openings, so that a minimum clear passage of 3 feet is provided.

On April 2, 2001, the Board of Aldermen reviewed the New Vision report and specified follow-up action, as noted in the minutes of that meeting (Attachment C). Among the items requested was an examination of parking and right-of-way on Roberson Street.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

The right-of-way width on Roberson Street is currently 40 feet. On the section of the street between Sweet Bay Lane and South Greensboro Street, there is no curb can gutter and the pavement width varies from about 22 feet to 28.5 feet. Traffic counts were taken on west Roberson Street on April 15, 2002 and indicate that 2,536 vehicles traveled on Roberson Street in a 24-hour period. The Carrboro Land Use Ordinance states that the “collector street” standard is appropriate for streets that carry more than 800 trips per day. A collector street has 60-foot minimum right-of-way width and 34-foot minimum pavement width.

PROPOSED CROSS-SECTION

Based on the recommendations in the New Vision report, Town staff has prepared a proposed cross-section for Roberson Street, between Sweet Bay Lane and Greensboro Street (Attachment D). This proposed cross-section includes 11-foot vehicle travel lanes and, on each side of the street, an 8-foot on-street parking area, a 5-foot planting strip, and a 10-foot sidewalk. The roadway width of the proposed cross-section is 38 feet, and the right-of-way width is 68 feet. Attachment E illustrates increasing the existing 40-foot right-of-way to a 68-foot right-of-way.

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends that the Board of Aldermen adopt the resolution setting a public hearing and referring the proposed Roberson Street Improvement Plan for review by the Planning Board, Downtown Development Commission, and Transportation Advisory Board. The Board may also wish to request that other advisory boards, including the Appearance Commission and the Environmental Advisory Board, review the proposal.