

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO.: B(4)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: **DECEMBER 17, 2002**

TITLE: A Request to Adopt a Resolution in Support of an Early Action Compact Between the State and the EPA to Improve Air Quality

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING	PUBLIC HEARING: Yes ___ No <u>X</u> ___
ATTACHMENTS: A. Resolution B. Draft Early Action Compact C. NC DENR Proposed Non-attainment Area Memo D. Proposed Non-Attainment Area Map E. Draft Resolution from NC DENR	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: PHILIP J. PRETE, 918-7326

PURPOSE:

It is anticipated that the Triangle Metropolitan Service Area will be designated in 2004 as non-attainment for the eight-hour ozone standard. The North Carolina Division of Air Quality has entered into discussions with the Environmental Protection Agency and local governments within the region to enter into an Early Action Compact to begin developing strategies for attaining the air quality standards before the 2004 designation. The Town of Carrboro has been requested to adopt a resolution in support of this approach.

INFORMATION:

The proposed Early Action Compact (EAC - Attachment A) is an agreement between the NC Division of Air Quality (DAQ) on behalf of the state and involved local governments and the US EPA to cooperatively develop a state implementation plan (SIP) to address violations of the air quality standards. An SIP is the technical framework that describes the control measures that will be put in place to allow the area to attain the eight-hour ozone standards. An SIP is required when an area is designated non-attainment by EPA. The entire triangle Metropolitan Service Area (MSA) has been recommended by DAQ for non-attainment designation by EPA in 2004 (Attachments C and D).

By agreeing to work under the EAC, the EPA will defer non-attainment designation until 2007, which would be the deadline for reaching attainment if designated in 2004. DAQ is touting this approach as a way of improving air quality early rather than waiting until the designation. They are requesting that all local governments in the MSA adopt a resolution (Attachment E) to commit to cooperating in the SIP. Opponents to this approach claim it is a tactic to avoid the negative ramifications of the non-attainment designation.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The full extent of the requirements in implementing this program are not known. The immediate effort would involve developing a plan of action, and can be executed with existing staff and resources. The Town can withdraw at any time without penalty.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION:

The Administration recommends that the Board refer this matter to the Environmental Advisory Board and the Transportation Advisory Board for recommendations.