

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. E(4)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: January 21, 2003

TITLE: A Report on Identifying a Major Road to Name After Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

DEPARTMENT: Planning	PUBLIC HEARING: No
ATTACHMENTS A. Resolution B. TAB Resolution – November 7, 2002	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Dale McKeel – 918-7329

PURPOSE

In March 2002, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen adopted an Action Agenda. One of the actions listed is to “identify a major road to name after Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.” A report has been prepared. A resolution that accepts the report is recommended for the Board’s adoption.

INFORMATION

In researching the options for naming major road in Carrboro in honor of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., Town staff has identified two major impediments:

- Under road-naming conventions in place for Chapel Hill and Carrboro, the creation of new duplicate street names is not allowed, to reduce confusion for emergency response, mail delivery, etc. There is already a street in Chapel Hill, off Legion Road, named Martin Luther King, Jr. Street, so creating another street with this name in Carrboro is not allowed.
- The North Carolina Board of Transportation is authorized to designate portions of the state highway system in honor of persons. However, the Board does not name more than one facility for the same individual, and the Board of Transportation has already named a highway in Scotland County in honor of Dr. King.

In light of these impediments, the Board may wish to consider honoring Dr. King through another means (for example, public art or the naming of another facility such as a park). The Board may also wish to consider naming a major road to commemorate a prominent African-American or leader of the Civil Rights Movement. For example, the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) suggested the naming of roads to commemorate prominent women of the Civil Rights Movement, such as Coretta Scott King and Rosa Parks (Attachment B). Please note that the TAB recommendation was made before staff discovered the Martin Luther King, Jr. Street in Chapel Hill.

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends that the Board of Aldermen adopt the resolution (Attachment A) receiving this report.