

# BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. D(1)

## AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: February 4, 2003

TITLE: Public Hearing: Plan for Roberson Street Improvements

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING	PUBLIC HEARING: YES <u>X</u> NO <u>  </u>
ATTACHMENTS: A. Resolution B. Excerpt from <u>Downtown Carrboro: New Vision</u> Report C. Board of Aldermen Minutes, April 2, 2002 D. Proposed Cross-Section for Roberson Street E. Illustration of Increasing Right-of-Way (ROW) Width from 40 Feet to 68 Feet F. Advisory Board Recommendations	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Dale McKeel – 918-7329

### PURPOSE

In response to the Downtown Carrboro: New Vision report, the Board of Aldermen has 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 adopt the attached resolution adopting the Plan for Roberson Street Improvements.

### 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 could 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 minimum widths 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 and 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 from curbface to curbface of the proposed cross-section is 38 feet, and the right-of-way width is 68 feet. Please note that when the plan is implemented the overall right-of-way width may be reduced to less than 68 feet if necessary to minimize impacts to existing structures. Attachment E illustrates increasing the existing 40-foot right-of-way to a 68-foot right-of-way.

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

The adoption of this plan will provide guidance to Town of Carrboro staff as proposals for development adjacent to Roberson Street are discussed and reviewed. With the adoption of this plan, it should not be assumed that new development on Roberson Street will be required to provide the right-of-way and construct the improvements called for by the plan. The Board of Aldermen should consider a follow-up worksession to discuss how to implement the plan.

### **ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Plan for Roberson Street Improvements was presented to the Transportation Advisory Board, Planning Board, and Downtown Development Commission for recommendations on January 9<sup>th</sup>. Recommendations are provided by Attachment F.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Administration recommends that the Board of Aldermen adopt the attached resolution (Attachment A) adopting the Plan for Roberson Street Improvements.