

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE PLAN FOR
ROBERSON STREET IMPROVEMENTS
Resolution No. 92/2002-03

WHEREAS, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen has requested that staff prepare a plan for Roberson Street improvements.

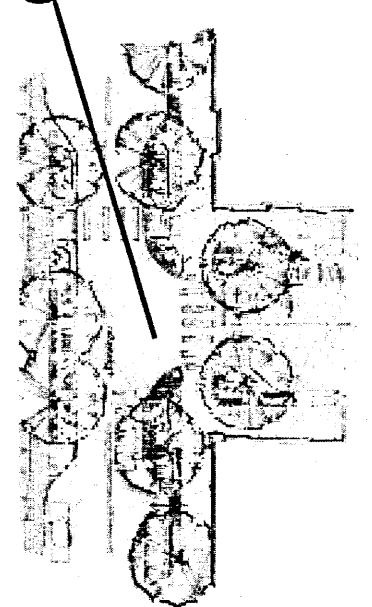
WHEREAS, the recommendations from the September 2001 downtown visioning charrette specified in *Downtown Carrboro: New Vision* indicates that improvements, i.e. wider sidewalks, tree planting areas, and on-street parking, should be added to Roberson Street.

WHEREAS, the roadway width of the proposed cross-section is 38 feet, and the right-of-way width is 68 feet, an increase of the existing 40-foot right-of-way to a 68-foot right-of-way, and

WHEREAS, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen held a hearing on February 4, 2003 to receive public comment on the proposed policies.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Carrboro Board of Aldermen that the Aldermen adopts the Plan for Roberson Street Improvements.

This is the 4th day of February in the year 2003.



The sketch above shows a typical T intersection design that might be suitable for Roberson and Greensboro.

Roberson Street

Roberson Street and the immediate vicinity has the potential to enliven the downtown core, provide additional convenient on-street parking, and provide much-needed mixed-use space.

Development of any privately owned site is contingent upon the motivation of the property owner. Public investment into the infrastructure, or an agreement with a property owner to provide infrastructure changes during the construction process, may encourage development. The street improvements should include Roberson Street to Main Street and Greensboro Street from Roberson to Main Street. Street improvements such as underground utilities, sidewalk improvements, angled parking, lighting, and connections throughout this area will highlight it as a priority location for development. Any development of the property should require development of attractive, hidden parking that is shared with nearby establishments. Additional analysis will be required before preliminary designs can be developed, but these concepts can serve as guidelines to ensure the streets fits the vision defined by charrette participants.



An example of a mixed-use building suitable for the Roberson Street area is shown at right. See page 10 for additional information on mixed-use development.

These photos of other communities demonstrate how angled parking, ample sidewalks, and appropriate building set-backs enhance the environment for both drivers and people on foot. These are concepts that can be applied to the Roberson Street area as development is considered.



**WORKSESSION TO DEVELOP DOWNTOWN VISIONING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
STAFF WORK PLAN**

The purpose of this item was to request that the Board of Aldermen review the Downtown Visioning Report and provide direction on what elements of the report it would like staff to address.

James Harris, the town's Community and Economic Development Director, made the presentation.

Alderman Gist requested that where feasible, costs are provided for options and other sources of revenue are identified.

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen requested that the town staff address the following:

Historic Preservation

- Report on what steps are necessary to designate and preserve historic buildings/areas/architectural features.
 - Buildings and areas discussed include Spotted Dog; Carr Mill; Lloyd Street; Carr Street; 100 Block of Main Street; and the Weaver Street block.
- Review proposed styles on Page 9 and compare them to what exists to ensure that new and redeveloped buildings are in harmony with existing buildings, i.e., building heights and ratio of street rights-of-way.

New Buildings

- Develop an ordinance that reflects charrette participants' desire to have buildings four to five stories high with some variety and develop a process to sort this out – **fast track**
- Compatible mixed use and open space
- Amenities constitute recreation – **fast track**
- Look at incorporating green building technique
- Provide list of captions for Board review

Site Planning Concepts

- Review three recommendations and determine what is feasible (parking behind buildings or centralized parking)
- Evaluate opportunities for alleys and access in same manner as building heights – tract by tract
- Evaluate bike parking

Mixed Use

- Identify obstacles and meet with developers who have pursued mixed-use projects

Parking

- Explore using payment-in-lieu to fund parking deck
- Explore employers providing employees with incentives not to drive and incentives for pooled parking
- Explore establishing a parking task force to identify incentives for cooperative parking sharing and determine where on-street parking will occur; where to locate parking deck and how to fund; research private companies that build and operate decks; and time limits for on-street parking
- Evaluate the need for narrowing driveways
- Include providing good parking signage

Downtown Identity

- Look into providing kiosks, benches, and garbage containers and explore sponsorships
- Continue working on landscaping and art - "personality without rules" - no theme
- Entrances

Walkability

- Draft an ordinance on sidewalk width to determine where wide widths are practical and ensure that they are stroller and wheel-chair friendly; apply recommendations to what exists and determine what fits and the costs; include sidewalk design (brick trim) – **fast track**
- Generate ideas on crosswalk education program
- Contact NCDOT to conduct comprehensive traffic study including traffic, circulation, on-street parking, design (bulb-outs, roundabouts)
- Explore alternative crosswalk materials and provide costs
- Refer all to Sidewalk Task Force

Links

- N/A

Lighting

- Cost to replace overhead lights with acorn-shaped lights

Public Space

- Short term and long term comprehensive traffic study – examine report recommendations (feasibility of roundabouts, Weaver Street) – determine who will conduct study (consider academic participation)

Transit, Trolleys, Trains, and Bikes

- Interested in pursuing rail network connection to highway – possibly regional
- Request that Chapel Hill transit schedules be posted at stops
- Identify mechanism to make suggestions and follow-up on requests
- Include bike trails/interface with transit

PROJECTS

Roberson Street

- Examine angled parking with other issues – height, right-of-way

Gateways

- Develop plans and determine how gateways should look – compatible with existing businesses
- Remove pedestrian barriers

West Weaver Street

- Incorporate in Parking Task Force and comprehensive traffic study
- Include in walkabout

Carr Mill Mall/East Weaver Street

- Street furniture – See Landscape and Woonerf traffic study

Main/Rosemary Streets

- Evaluate recommendations including proposed extension for feasibility
- Examine consolidating drive cuts – turn lane rather than two 10 foot and median

Greensboro Street/Carr Mill Area

- N/A

Lloyd Street

- Include in comprehensive traffic study
- Provide previous studies to Board on road out of the neighborhood

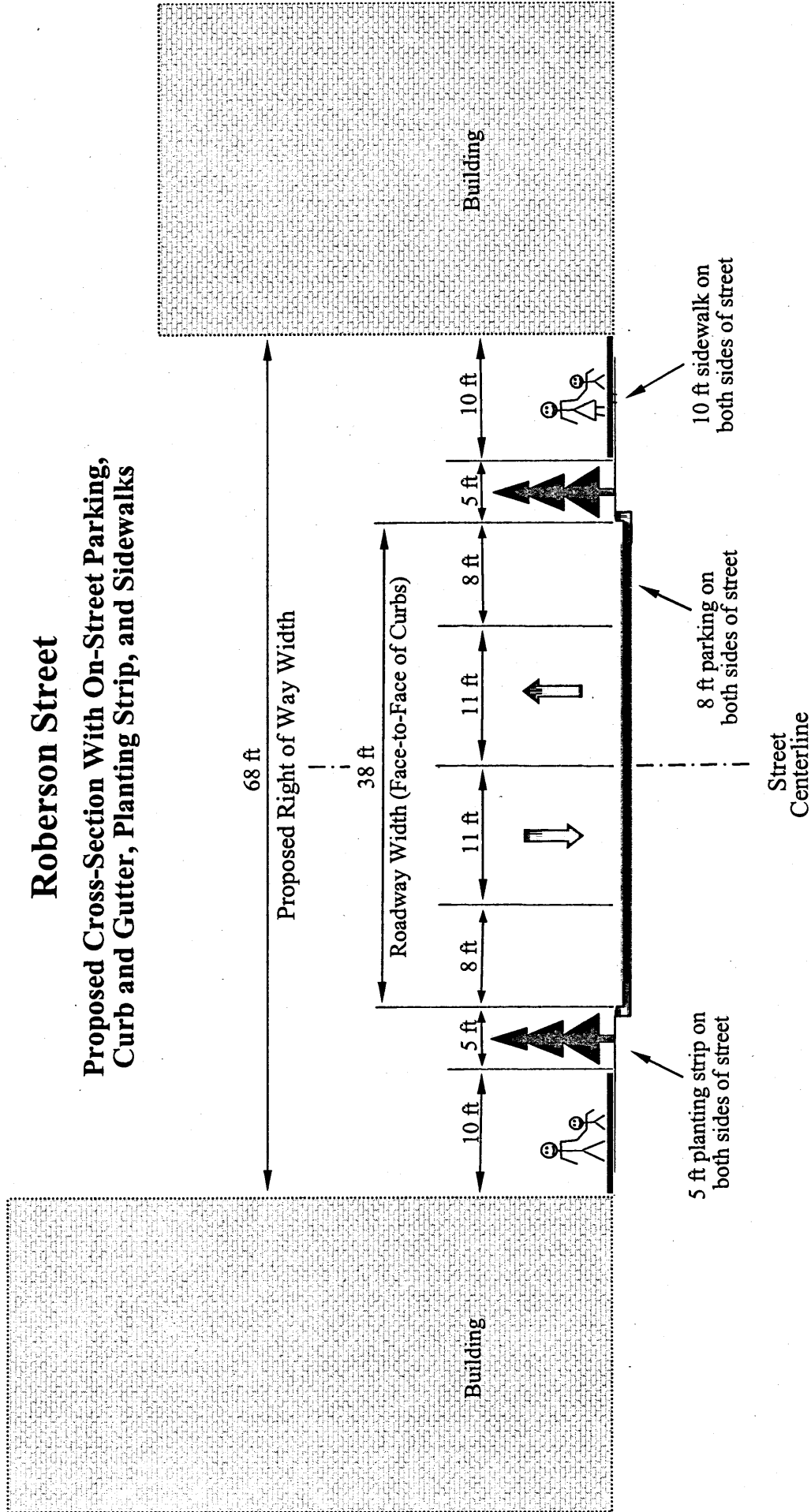
Projects, Plans, and Policies

- Refer remaining sections (page 28) to staff to determine what can be done

The Board requested that the economic development toolbox discussion be scheduled for a later date, and that the walkabout be scheduled after the Board receives staff reports.

Roberson Street

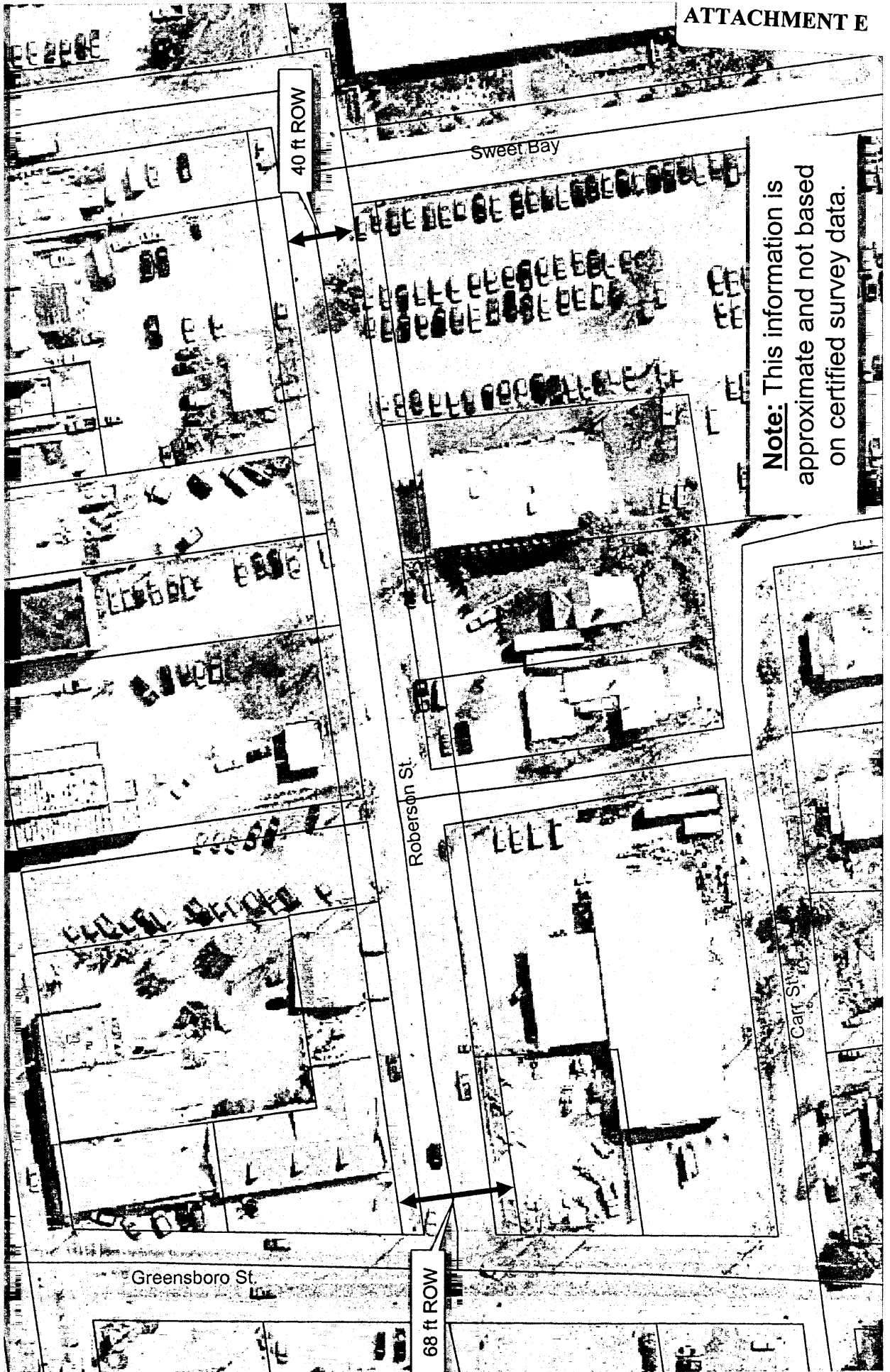
Proposed Cross-Section With On-Street Parking, Curb and Gutter, Planting Strip, and Sidewalks



Note: When the plan is implemented the overall right-of-way width and cross-section elements may be modified if necessary to minimize impacts to existing structures.

NOT TO SCALE

Illustration of Increasing Right-of-Way (ROW) Width from 40 Feet to 68 Feet



Note: This information is approximate and not based on certified survey data.

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD

RECOMMENDATION

January 9, 2003

SUBJECT: Plan for Roberson Street Improvements

Motion: The Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) recommends that the Board of Aldermen support the Roberson Street cross-section as proposed and that traffic calming features be incorporated into the design.

Moved: Andreas Hay

Second: Elizabeth Shay

VOTE: Ayes (Chris van Hasselt, Andreas Hay, Elizabeth Shay, Ginny Wolpin, Dazzie Lane); Noes (None)

CHRIS VAN HASSELT (Lom) 1 1 31 03
TAB Chair DATE

Memo

To: Mayor and Board of Aldermen

From: Downtown Development Commission, James Morgan and Mariana Fiorentino Co-Chairs

CC: James R. Harris, Director of Community and Economic Development

Date: 1/31/03

Re: DDC Comments on the Plan for Roberson Street Improvements

The Downtown Development Commission reviewed the plan prepared by the Town of Carboro Transportation Planner and had the following comments.

Overall, the proposal is a well-considered and appropriate implementation of the street improvement concepts developed in the Downtown Visioning Charrette and the Walkable Communities report. The group looked at the proposed Roberson Street cross section and suggested that the total proposed width remain as proposed, however it is suggested that the travel lane width be reduced to ten (10) feet and the parking width be increased to nine (9) feet. The overall cross-section width would still be sixty-eight (68) feet. The purpose of this change would be to effectively reduce vehicle speed in the travel lanes while retaining overall street width for maneuvering, deliveries etc.

The DDC also recommends that special attention be paid in developing this proposal to the intersection of Sweet Bay and Roberson Streets. The intersection is potentially dangerous and requires maybe a road surface treatment that would encourage drivers to slow down as they enter the intersection such as a cobblestone or brick treatment. There is also a need to address the relationship between motorized vehicles and bicycles at the intersection with the Libba Cotten Bike Path.



TOWN OF CARRBORO

PLANNING BOARD

301 West Main Street, Carrboro, North Carolina 27510

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N

JANUARY 30, 2003

PLAN FOR ROBERSON STREET RIGHT-OF-WAY IMPROVEMENTS

MOTION WAS MADE BY JAMES CARNAHAN AND SECONDED BY RANDEE HAVEN-O'DONNELL THAT THE PLANNING BOARD RECOMMENDS THAT THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN ADOPT THE PLAN FOR ROBERSON STREET RIGHT-OF-WAY IMPROVEMENTS.

VOTE: AYES (6) (Babiss, Carnahan, Haven-O'Donnell, Ludwig, Marshall, West); NOES (0); ABSENT/EXCUSED (3) (Hammill, Hogan, Poulton).

John Marshall, Chair (date)