

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. D(2)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: March 18, 2003

TITLE: Alternative Design for the Smith Level Road Project

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING	PUBLIC HEARING: YES ___ NO __ X__
ATTACHMENTS: A. Resolution B. Memorandum C. Photographs Illustrating Alternatives D. Context-Sensitive Design Information E. Governor's Transportation Demand Management Panel	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Dale McKeel – 918-7329

PURPOSE

At its February 11, 2002, the Board of Aldermen discussed the proposed widening of Smith Level Road and reviewed three options identified by Town staff. The Board adopted a resolution indicating that the Town will propose an alternative to the four-lane design proposed by NCDOT. The Board requested that Town staff prepare for the Board's review a proposed alternative design and justification. A memorandum had been prepared and a resolution is provided for the Board's adoption.

INFORMATION

On February 11, the Board of Aldermen requested that Town staff prepare for the Board's review a proposed alternative design and justification. In response, a memorandum (Attachment B) has been prepared.

On February 11, the Board of Aldermen also requested additional information. Responses to these requests are as follows:

1. Impact of Gas Prices on Future Traffic Estimates. The model used by NCDOT to estimate 2025 traffic does not specifically contain a variable for the price of gas. However, the model does use an auto operating cost which consists of fuel cost, average on-road miles per gallon, annual maintenance cost, and average miles driven per year.

2. Date That NCDOT Did Traffic Counts on Smith Level Road. According to staff in NCDOT's Traffic Survey Unit, the traffic counts requested by the Town were done the week of July 15-22, 2002.

FISCAL IMPACT

A fiscal impact of moving forward with this project is the cost of sidewalk construction. Under NCDOT policies, Carrboro will be responsible for paying 30 percent of the construction cost for new sidewalks constructed within the town limits or extra-territorial jurisdiction area. NCDOT will pay 100 percent of the cost of replacing any existing sidewalks that are removed by the project.

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends that the Board of Aldermen adopt the attached resolution requesting that the N.C. Department of Transportation consider an alternative design for the proposed modifications to Smith Level Road between Morgan Creek and Rock Haven Road (Attachment A).