

BOARD OF ALDERMEN
AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

ITEM NO. **B(8)**

MEETING DATE: June 24, 2003

TITLE: Update on the Status of the Roberson Place Bikepath

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING	PUBLIC HEARING: YES ___ NO <u>X</u> ___
ATTACHMENTS: A. Resolution B. Vicinity Map C. Cost Estimate	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Dale McKeel – 918-7329

PURPOSE

Planning for the Roberson Place Bikepath has been underway for several years. The Town Engineer recently provided a cost estimate for construction of the bikepath. The purpose of this item is to provide an update on the status of the bikepath and to request that funds be set aside for the construction of this project. A resolution has been prepared for the Board's adoption (Attachment A).

INFORMATION

The Carrboro Board of Aldermen on January 16, 1986 issued a conditional use permit (CUP) for the Roberson Place development. The development provided for a 20-foot easement for a bikepath between Rand Road and Wesley Street on a new location. Development of the bikepath will provide bicyclists and pedestrians an alternative route between South Greensboro Street and the Libba Cotton Bikeway. The bikepath would serve as an excellent connection between southern Carrboro, downtown Carrboro and UNC-Chapel Hill (Attachment B).

FISCAL IMPACT

The Town Engineer has prepared a design and cost estimate for construction of the bikepath. The total cost is estimated to be \$157,179.51. The Town has secured funding of \$157,000 for this project from two sources:

- N.C. Department of Transportation Bicycle and Pedestrian Program - \$100,000
- Federal STP-DA funds through the DCHC MPO - \$45,600 (final approval scheduled for August 13, 2003)

The STP-DA (Surface Transportation Program – Direct Attributable) funds require a 20 percent match, \$11,400, from the Town. It is recommended that the Board of Aldermen request that these funds be set aside in the Capital Reserve fund for this purpose. The Town's Assistant Town Manager, Bing Roenigk, states that approximately \$40,766 in the capital reserve fund is available for bikeway projects within the Capital Reserve fund.

In addition to the estimated construction costs, there will likely be additional costs for the acquisition of temporary construction easements. The temporary construction easements are located on open space land owned by the Roberson Place Homeowners Association and in the back portion of one single-family lot. The easement areas are, for the most part, relatively small strips of land running parallel to the permanent easement for the bike path. The temporary construction easements will allow the Town to use the easement area during the construction of the bike path. Once construction is complete, the temporary easement area will be restored as nearly as possible to its original condition.

A certified real estate appraiser will advise the Town concerning the value of the easement area. The Town has approached the property owners regarding the possibility of donating the temporary construction easements, but the property owners have stated a preference for cash compensation. It appears likely that the expense of hiring an appraiser will exceed the value of the temporary construction easements.

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends that the Board of Aldermen adopt the attached resolution that directs staff to reserve \$11,400 within the Capital Reserve fund for the construction of the Roberson Place Bikepath (Attachment A).