

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. E(1)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: January 13, 2004

TITLE: Public Comment on Preliminary List of Sidewalk Bond Projects

DEPARTMENT: Planning	PUBLIC HEARING: YES ____ NO <u>x</u>
ATTACHMENTS: <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. ResolutionB. Preliminary List of Sidewalk Bond Projects – First RoundC. Map Showing Sidewalk Bond Projects on Preliminary ListD. Map Showing All Proposed Sidewalk Bond ProjectsE. Press ReleaseF. Ranking Reviewed and Approved by the Board on September 2, 2003G. Citizen Comment Received by Town StaffH. Memo from the Police Chief – August 26, 2003I. Location of Crashes Involving Pedestrians	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Dale McKeel, Transportation Planner, 918-7329

PURPOSE

On December 16, the Board of Aldermen adopted a preliminary list of the first round of sidewalk projects to be funded from the bond referendum approved by voters on November 4. The preliminary list has been publicized through press releases and the Town's website. The purpose of this item is for the Board to receive public comment on the preliminary sidewalk list as well as review written comment received by Town staff.

INFORMATION

On December 16, the Board of Aldermen adopted a preliminary list of the first round of sidewalk projects (Attachment B). At this meeting the Board reviewed the sidewalk priority list from the September 2 meeting (Attachment E) and requested that a preliminary list for public comment be developed as follows:

1. As a base, use the first 29 projects on the September 2 priority list (Tiers 1 through 4).
2. Remove arterial streets that now have a sidewalk on one side. Portions of the following arterials were removed: Main, Hillsborough, Greensboro, and Jones Ferry.
3. Remove arterial streets slated for NCDOT construction in the current TIP. The following projects were removed: Old Fayetteville Road (between McDougale Middle School and NC 54) and Smith Level Road.
4. Remove Carol Street and Rainbow Drive to avoid an overconcentration of projects in one neighborhood.

5. Add Barrington Hills Road and Autumn Drive because the Board of Aldermen had previously stated a commitment to build pedestrian facilities on these streets.
6. Add Davie Road (between Jones Ferry and Colson) due to previously stated concerns.

The Board of Aldermen asked that this list be publicized through press releases and the Town's website and be brought back for review and public comment at the January 13 meeting (Attachment D). Articles regarding the preliminary sidewalk list have appeared in the Chapel Hill News, Chapel Hill Herald, and the News and Observer. Town staff has also forwarded the press release to members of Town advisory boards and neighborhood associations.

The Board also asked that staff review the arterials that were removed from the list and recommend any that should be put back on for safety or other reasons. Town staff has reviewed the arterials and recommends that a sidewalk be constructed on the north side of Jones Ferry Road east of Old Fayetteville Road, in the vicinity of the Willow Springs Assisted Living Facility. The Town has received a request for this sidewalk from the Orange County Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee. In reviewing the list, Town staff also felt that it is not feasible to build a sidewalk on Strowd Lane, an unpaved state-maintained road, at this time. These changes are incorporated into the preliminary list in Attachment B.

Staff also recommends that a sidewalk be built on the west side of South Greensboro Street between Carr Street and Old Pittsboro Road. Several requests for a sidewalk in this location have been received in the past two years. This suggested change has not been incorporated into the preliminary list in Attachment B.

Note that the sidewalk cost estimates are based on typical costs per linear foot of other sidewalk construction projects in Carrboro but are not engineer's project-specific estimates and may not fully capture the total cost of building any particular sidewalk segment.

Town staff has reviewed the amount of time needed before sidewalk construction can begin and has advised the Board of Aldermen that the construction start-up time realistically will be approximately 12 to 14 months. Town staff will need to hire an engineering firm to design the sidewalks. Many different design scenarios will have to be used because each street will present its own set of physical challenges that a specific engineering design will need to address. Meeting with citizens of the neighborhoods will need to be a part of the program to ensure the best fit for a sidewalk within the context of each street section. Surveying for right of way construction easements and obtaining the easements from the affected property owners will need to be done. Simply put, all of this will take a considerable amount of time to be accomplished. 12 to 14 months appears to be a realistic schedule for the construction to begin.

FISCAL IMPACT

On November 4, voters authorized the Town to borrow up to \$4.6 million for sidewalk and greenway trail construction. The Carrboro Board of Aldermen on December 16 stated that it plans to pursue three separate bond issues in the approximate amount of \$1.53 million per issue over six years, with a new issue occurring every two years. However, the decision to issue bonds will be dictated by economic conditions and the town's interest in maintaining a strong fiscal condition.

Assuming that the first bond issue is for \$1.53 million, staff suggests that this amount be allocated as follows:

- \$1.356 million for design and construction of sidewalk projects identified by the Board of Aldermen.
- \$144,000 for greenway design and construction. This amount is the 20 percent local match needed for design (\$10,000) and construction (\$120,000) of greenway trails along Morgan Creek and design (\$14,000) of greenway trails along Bolin Creek between Estes Drive and Homestead Road.
- \$30,000 for bond issuance costs. These costs include rating agency evaluation, bond counsel, and the cost for the official statement associated with issuing bonds.

ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION

The Board is requested to receive public comments and adopt a resolution that states the first round of sidewalk projects to be funded from the November 2003 sidewalks and greenways bond referendum (Attachment A).