

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN**

**ITEM NO. B(4)**

**AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT**

**MEETING DATE: March 2, 2004**

**TITLE: Bike Lanes on East Poplar Avenue**

<b>DEPARTMENT: PLANNING</b>	<b>PUBLIC HEARING: YES ___NO__X__</b>
<b>ATTACHMENTS</b> A. <b>Town Code Amendment</b> B. <b>Message and Photos from Wayne Pein</b> C. <b>Excerpt from AASHTO Bicycle Guide</b> D. <b>Existing Town Code Language</b> E. <b>Recommendation from the Transportation Advisory Board</b>	<b>FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:</b> <b>Dale McKeel – 918-7329</b>

**PURPOSE**

The bike lane on East Poplar Avenue from Main Street to North Greensboro Street does not meet current bicycle facility guidelines. The Board of Aldermen is asked to amend the Town Code to remove the bikelane designation. With this change, the striping along East Poplar Avenue will remain in place and “No Parking” and “Share the Road” signs added. A town code amendment has been prepared for the Board’s adoption.

**INFORMATION**

East Poplar Avenue, between Main Street and Greensboro Street, is a one-way street with a bike lane on the south side and a pedestrian lane on the north side.

In August 2003 Town staff received an e-mail message and photographs from Mr. Wayne Pein regarding the designated bicycle lane on the south side of East Poplar Avenue (Attachment B). Mr. Pein stated that the bike lane on East Poplar Avenue is a hazard and should be removed.

In response to Mr. Pein’s message, staff from the Carrboro Planning and Public Works departments have visited the bike lane on East Poplar and reviewed guidelines published by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) (see Attachment C). While the bike lane on East Poplar may have met the bike lane guidelines in place at the time of its designation, it does not meet current guidelines.

The AASHTO guidelines state that on streets without curb and gutter “Bike lanes may have a *minimum* width of 1.2 m (4 feet), where the area beyond the paved shoulder can provide additional maneuvering width [emphasis added].” The bike lane on East Poplar does not meet these guidelines because the lane is only three-feet wide and there is not a level area beyond the paved shoulder.

The Town Code at Section 6-34(1)(d) designates a three-foot bikelane on the south side of East Poplar Avenue between Main and Greensboro streets (Attachment D),. The Town Code at Section 6-19(b)(1)(e) prohibits parking on this section of Poplar Avenue. Town staff recommend the following:

1. That the bike lane designation for East Poplar Avenue be removed from the Town Code.
2. That the bike lane signs on East Poplar Avenue be removed.
3. That the “No Parking” designation in the Town Code and the existing striping on the south side of East Poplar Avenue remain in place. The existing striping, by narrowing the width of the travel lane, can have a traffic calming effect on motorists and help to ensure that bicyclists can comfortably and safely ride on this street.
4. That “Share the Road” signs be placed along East Poplar Avenue.

East Poplar Avenue was not included in the adopted list of first round sidewalk bond projects. However, if a sidewalk or other changes are made to the cross-section of East Poplar Avenue, consideration should be given to adding a bike lane back onto the street.

### **SUMMARY OF TAB REVIEW**

The Transportation Advisory Board reviewed this matter on December 4, 2003 and adopted a recommendation to the Board of Aldermen (Attachment E).

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

N/A

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Administration recommends that the Board of Aldermen adopt the ordinance amending the Town Code to remove the bike lane designation on East Poplar Avenue, remove the bike lane signs, and install “Share the Road” signs. (Attachment A).