

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN**

**ITEM NO. B(2)**

**AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT**

**MEETING DATE: June 28, 2005**

**TITLE: Adoption of Modifications to the Residential Traffic Management Plan**

<b>DEPARTMENT: PLANNING</b>	<b>PUBLIC HEARING: YES <u>X</u> NO <u>  </u></b>
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b> A. <b>Resolution</b> B. <b>Revised Residential Traffic Management Plan</b> C. <b>Current Residential Traffic Management Plan</b> D. <b>TAB Recommended Updates to the Residential Traffic Management Plan</b> E. <b>Excerpt of Board of Aldermen Meeting Minutes – January 18, 2005</b> F. <b>TAB Recommendation</b>	<b>FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:</b> Dale McKeel – <b>918-7329</b>

**PURPOSE**

Town staff has prepared modifications to the Residential Traffic Management Plan incorporating recommendations from the Transportation Advisory Board and the Board of Aldermen. A public hearing has been set so that the Board of Aldermen may receive public comment on the revised plan. Staff recommends adoption of the plan.

**INFORMATION**

The Town of Carrboro was one of the first communities in North Carolina to adopt a traffic calming policy. The current Residential Traffic Management Plan (RTMP) was adopted in June 1996 and revised on May 6, 1997 (Attachment C).

Attachment B contains a revised Residential Traffic Management Plan for the Board's consideration. The revised plan differs from the current plan in several respects, including the following:

- The process for requesting traffic calming has been clarified and organized into a series of six steps.
- Recommendations from the Transportation Advisory Board and the Board of Aldermen have been incorporated into the plan.
- A new traffic calming request form has been developed and the petition form has been revised.

- The appendix listing information on traffic control devices has been removed. While this information was probably needed in the earlier document, there is an abundance of information now available on traffic calming devices both in print and on the internet.

## **BACKGROUND**

In August 2000 and May 2002, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen requested that the TAB review certain aspects of the RTMP, including the following:

- The removal of the phrase that 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds must exceed 35 mph (August 2000)
- Deletion of traffic control devices from the list of definitions (August 2000)
- Changing “speed humps” to “speed bumps” (August 2000)
- Consideration of other traffic management plans that have been put into place (May 2002)
- Consider developing a provision for “special circumstances” (i.e., schools, playground access, etc.) that may justify deviations from the policy (May 2002)

On June 8, 2004, the Board of Aldermen received a report from the TAB on the RTMP and referred the report back to Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) for additional review. The Board also re-affirmed its decision not to accept more traffic calming petitions until revisions to the plan are approved. The Board asked the TAB to review enforcement, education, and engineering components and:

- Include Police Chief in enforcement discussions
- Describe how point system works
- Recommend appropriate residential speed limits
- Review land use ordinance to ensure ordinances are not creating traffic problems

In response to this request, the TAB prepared a set of recommended updates to the RTMP (Attachment D), which were discussed at a Board of Aldermen worksession on January 18, 2005. At this meeting, the Board referred the TAB recommendations to Town staff for review and recommendations and requested that the following ideas should be considered:

- Change the high/low priority to a neutral label;
- Develop a point system including credit for sidewalks and traffic calming devices;
- Provide details on an education program and enforcement;
- Identify problem areas and conduct a pilot program;
- Prepare a refresher course on traffic calming techniques;
- Consider lowering the town-wide speed limit to 20 mph; and
- Include the plan as part of the land use ordinance review.

Attachment E provides an excerpt of the minutes of the January 18, 2005 Board of Aldermen meeting. Please note that bulleted items 4 to 7 (pilot program, refresher course, lower town-wide limit, and LUO review) will be addressed by future agenda items or worksessions.

The Transportation Advisory Board reviewed the proposed RTMP modifications at their meeting on June 16. The TAB recommended one minor change to the RTMP (Attachment F.) This change has already been incorporated into the modifications to the RTMP.

In developing the proposed modifications to the RTMP, town staff reviewed and used concepts from several documents prepared by other communities, including Asheville, Cary, Raleigh, and Winston-Salem in North Carolina, Sunnyvale, California, and Portland, Oregon.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Setting a public hearing on the modifications to the Residential Traffic Management Plan involves staff analysis and administration of the proposed modifications, advisory board review, and advertising costs associated with public notice.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Town Staff recommends that the Board of Aldermen adopt the attached resolution (Attachment A) approving the revised Residential Traffic Management Plan.