

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. C(5)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: November 15, 2005

TITLE: Budget Amendment for the Brewer Lane Grade Crossing Signalization

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING	PUBLIC HEARING: YES __ NO <u>X</u> __
ATTACHMENTS: A. Budget Amendment B. Resolution Approved on March 28, 2000	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Dale McKeel – 918-7329

PURPOSE

The Board is requested to approve a budget amendment to honor the local match required for the Brewer Lane grade crossing signalization. Matching local funds of \$9,000 required for this project were set aside in the Capital Reserve Fund in FY99-00. Currently, the estimate is at \$15,000. The additional match will be supported by unexpended funds remaining from the work done on the Town Commons several years ago.

INFORMATION

The federal government provides funds to the states for railway-highway grade crossing signalization projects. Public railway crossings are examined annually by NCDOT and ranked according to their need for improvement based on several factors such as train volume, automobile volume, train speed, accident experience, and existing protection.

In 2000, the Town of Carrboro was notified that the crossing of Brewer Lane and the UNC railroad tracks qualified for grade crossing signalization. The Board of Aldermen on March 28, 2000 adopted a resolution authorizing NCDOT to contract with the Federal Highway Administration to obtain Federal-aid funds and a municipal agreement was executed.

The University of North Carolina has taken the lead in preparing a design for the grade crossing signalization. The design has been completed and a cost estimate for the project has been prepared.

FISCAL IMPACT

The municipal agreement states that the Town of Carrboro would reimburse NCDOT for ten percent of all expenses incurred in the planning, design, and installation of the grade crossing signalization. In 2000, these costs were estimated to be \$90,000, and \$9000 was set aside in the capital reserve fund. These costs are now estimated to be \$142,234, which means the town's reimbursement amount has increase to \$14,224.

The agreement also states that the Town of Carrboro is responsible for 50 percent of the railroad's cost for maintaining the grade crossing signalization. These costs are set by statute at \$1,290 annually through 2009; the costs could increase after 2009.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of the budget ordinance (Attachment A).