

# BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. D(3)

## AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT MEETING DATE: February 14, 2006

**TITLE: Recommendation from the Transportation Advisory Board for the Intersection of Smith Level and Rock Haven Roads**

<b>DEPARTMENT: PLANNING</b>	<b>PUBLIC HEARING: YES ___ NO <u>X</u> ___</b>
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b> A. TAB Handout B. Signalized Intersection Plan C. Roundabout Plan D. Article from Status Report E. Study from Brown County, Wisconsin	<b>FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:</b> Dale McKeel – 918-7329

### PURPOSE

The Transportation Advisory Board recommends that a roundabout be built at the intersection of Smith Level Road and Rock Haven Road, near Carrboro High School, rather than the currently planned signalized intersection. The TAB has prepared a presentation for the Board of Aldermen.

### INFORMATION

As part of the conditional use permit for Carrboro High, the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools agreed to install turn lanes and a traffic signal at the Smith Level-Rock Haven intersection. The high school construction plans include the road pavement and markings plan for the revised intersection (Attachment B)

There has been discussion of a roundabout at the Smith Level-Rock Haven intersection for several years. In 2002, the N.C. Department of Transportation discussed a roundabout at the intersection as part of the Smith Level Road project and prepared a preliminary design (Attachment C).

As the high school was moving through the approval process, there was additional discussion of a roundabout at the Smith Level-Rock Haven intersection. The Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA) report for the high school stated that “High school student drivers are typically inexperienced drivers and may not be familiar with roundabout traffic operations.” Please note that the site plan for the high school includes two roundabouts on the public street in front of the school.

Based on the traffic projections in the draft TIA report, NCDOT staff stated that a roundabout would be expected to experience operational problems in the future. Please note that the traffic projections in the final TIA were revised downward from those in the draft, but NCDOT did not prepare additional analysis on the feasibility of a roundabout at the Smith Level-Rock Haven intersection.

Additional attachments include the following:

- An article entitled, “Best time to consider a roundabout? When a road is being built or an intersection is scheduled for modification” from Status Report, a publication of the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (Attachment D).
- The “Lineville Road Roundabout Study,” discussing roundabouts that were built near a middle and high school in Brown County, Wisconsin (Attachment E).

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

N/A

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Board of Aldermen receive the report from the Transportation Advisory Board.