

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. (1)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: October 10, 2006

TITLE: Report on Establishment of the Smith Level Road Task Force

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING	PUBLIC HEARING: YES ____ NO <u>X</u>
ATTACHMENTS: A. Resolution B. Draft letter requesting appointments to task force C. Petition D. Minutes of the September 5, 2006 meeting E. Map: Smith Level Road Task Force – proposed study area	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Roy Williford – 918-7325 Kendal Brown – 918-7334 Patricia McGuire – 918-7327

PURPOSE

On September 5, the Board of Aldermen directed staff to work with petitioners to develop a charge for the task force, along with a deadline for completion of its work. Staff has met with Heritage Hills resident Terri Buckner and Alderman Alex Zaffron and a draft charge has been prepared. A resolution approving the composition and charge for the task force is recommended for the Board's adoption. Also attached is a draft letter to officials in Orange County, Chatham County, OWASA, NCDOT, Town of Chapel Hill, and Orange County Sheriff's Department, inviting them to appoint representatives to the task force.

INFORMATION

During the "requests from visitors and speakers from the floor" segment of the meeting on June 20, 2006, Ms. Buckner described the historic and scenic nature of Smith Level Road and some of the vehicular and pedestrian safety and access concerns that are facing residents presently, some of which might benefit from action prior to the opening of Carrboro High School in August 2007. Ms. Buckner presented a petition signed by 100 residents of the neighbors directly or indirectly served by Smith Level Road (*Attachment C*) requesting appointment of a task force that would work to identify proactive safety measures to

1. Protect the fragile resources within the University Lake watershed,
2. Provide a safe, non-vehicular trail or sidewalks to Carrboro High School to children living along Smith Level Road between the Carrboro town limit and U.S. 15-501, and
3. Provide safe access for residents whose driveways or subdivisions are located on or along Smith Level Road.

The Board of Aldermen discussed the petition on September 5th and decided to proceed with establishment of a task force (*Attachment D*).

Follow-up to September 5th

Staff has been in communication with Traffic Engineering staff of the NCDOT office in Greensboro to request assistance with scoping out the data collection mechanisms and road-related strategies that would respond appropriately to the petition. NCDOT staff has noted that they would likely be able to conduct a strip analysis of the portion of the road outside our jurisdiction to the intersection with US 15-501. Further information on this and recommendations associated with vehicle types and speeding will be provided as it is available.

A draft charge and membership structure was prepared on September 29, 2006 by Ms. Buckner, Aldermen Zaffron, and staff and has been incorporated into the resolution (*Attachment A*). A map has been prepared (*Attachment E*) showing the general area of study with roadways, locations of petitioners' homes, the high school site, the closest proposed Chatham County development site (Lee-Moore parcel), Carrboro city limits, and jurisdictional boundaries.

FISCAL IMPACT

Any traffic- and pedestrian-related improvements recommended in the Task Force's final report could have financial implications for the jurisdictions in which the improvements are recommended. A segment of Smith Level Road, about 1,400 feet, from just north of Ray Road to Rock Haven Road (one of the two roads serving the new Carrboro High School) is within the Carrboro city limits.

RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Board of Aldermen adopt the attached resolution (*Attachment A*) approving the composition of and charge to the Smith Level Road Task Force. Further, the staff recommends the Board approve a letter from the Board of Aldermen (*Attachment B*) inviting stakeholder agencies to appoint representatives to the task force, with an eye towards meeting in November, 2006 to identify specific problem areas, receive additional traffic data from staff and NCDOT, and to formulate objectives and a timeline.