

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. D(4)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: May 15, 2007

TITLE: Review of Revised Plans for Smith Level Road Transportation Improvements

DEPARTMENT: Planning	PUBLIC HEARING: YES ___ NO <u>X</u>
ATTACHMENTS: A. Resolution B. Chronology C. Aerial photo – project location D. Letter and revised plan re: Smith Level Road improvements	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Patricia McGuire - 918-7327 Adena Messinger – 918-7329

PURPOSE

Transportation Improvements to Smith Level Road have been included in the Town's Local Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Priority list and the State TIP for many years. Meetings and correspondence with NCDOT regarding the cross section and design elements that are to be included in the project have been ongoing. A revised plan has been provided, per recent discussions. A resolution specifying next steps is provided for the Board's use.

INFORMATION

Project U-2803 is included within the recently adopted FY2007-2013 State Transportation Improvement program (TIP), with right-of-way acquisition programmed to take place in FY 2009 and construction in FY 2012. Following a hiatus of nearly a year in the pursuit of agreement regarding transportation improvements (*Attachment B*) for Smith Level Road, local officials and staff met with NCDOT staff on February 27, 2007. At that meeting, NCDOT staff presented revised lane configurations that transitioned from a 4-lane median section with bike lanes and sidewalks just south of the Morgan Creek bridge to BPW Club Road (*Attachment C*). At that point the project reduced to a three-lane section with center turn lane and continued to Culbreth Road. The segment from Culbreth to Rock Haven consisted of a two-lane section with center turn lane terminating in a signalized intersection with a southbound right-turn lane and northbound left-turn lane at Rock Haven Road. Curb and gutter was included throughout. During the February meeting, Mayor Mark Chilton requested that NCDOT investigate the installation of a roundabout at the intersection of Smith Level and Rock Haven Roads. A letter and revised plan were submitted to the Town in April. A single lane roundabout has been incorporated into the design and revised plans submitted for town review.

On May 9th, town staff participated in an interagency scoping meeting on this project related to the preparation of environmental documents. Staff was informed that the project has been placed on an accelerated schedule that, if all deadlines are met, will allow construction to begin in FY 2011, rather than 2012. NCDOT staff offered suggestions concerning refinement of the purpose and need of the project in support of the Town's desire to emphasize pedestrian and bicycle modes.

The revised plan will be presented to the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) on June 7th. Staff has not yet completed the formulation of comments on the revised plan, but will have done so for the TAB's

consideration on June 7th and the Board of Aldermen on June 19th. Questions and comments from the Board of Aldermen are requested at this time.

FISCAL IMPACT

None known at the present time. The transportation improvements expected along Smith Level include bicycle and sidewalk facilities. The construction cost of a portion of those facilities will be the responsibility of the town.

RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Board of Aldermen adopt the attached resolution specifying desired next steps associated with this matter and forwarding any comments to the TAB.