

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. D(5)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: June 19, 2007

TITLE: Smith Level Road Task Force Final Report

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING	PUBLIC HEARING: YES ___NO__X__
ATTACHMENTS A. Resolution receiving report B. Resolution directing follow up action C. Task Force Final Report D. October 1, 2006 Resolution re: creation, composition and charge of SLR Task Force E. List of task force members F. Maps	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Kendal Brown – 918-7334

PURPOSE

The Smith Level Road Task Force has completed its data collection and analysis and is ready to present its final report. Resolutions A and B, attached, have been prepared which would formalize receipt of the final report by the Board of Aldermen, and which lists possible follow up actions.

INFORMATION

In response to three citizen petitions regarding pedestrian and bicycle safety concerns on Smith Level Road, on October 10, 2006, the Board of Aldermen authorized the creation of the Smith Level Road Task Force, and developed the task force charges and the makeup of the board, setting a deadline of June 30, 2007 for presentation of the final report (*AttachmentC*).

Smith Level Road spans the city limits and planning jurisdictions of Carrboro and Chapel Hill, and is a state road. Thus, improvements along this corridor involve multiple parties. In addition, traffic volume can be expected to increase with the August, 2007 opening of the new high school on Smith Level Road (between BPW Club Road and Rock Haven Road), and by increasing development in northern Chatham County. To address the issue of involving multiple jurisdictions, on March 6, 2007, the Board appointed representatives from the pertinent jurisdictions and agencies: Chapel Hill, Carrboro (the Smith Level Road neighborhoods and the Carrboro Transportation Advisory Board), Orange County, Chatham County, NCDOT, the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City School System, the DCHC MPO.

The task force met several times over the past 4 months, and held a public information meeting on May 20, 2007 to present preliminary findings and receive public comment. This report summarizes task force findings and recommendations based on information and public comment collected over this time period.

FISCAL IMPACT

There are no additional costs associated with receiving this report.

RECOMMENDATION

Some of the task force recommendations can be analyzed by town staff and/or the Carrboro Transportation Advisory Board to develop recommendations for specific actions, prioritization, funding requests, and schedules to the Board of Aldermen. An example might be consideration of inclusion of bikelanes along Smith Level Road in the town's future bikeway plan, the development for which the town has just received grant money. Also, the Transportation Advisory Board could review the task force recommendations during its development of a priority list for transportation-related projects (TIP) to be submitted by the town to NCDOT for funding and scheduling. In addition, one or two of the task force recommendations may be appropriate for review by the town's Recreation and Parks Commission and staff, perhaps for consideration for inclusion in the greenway component of the town's Master Plan for Recreation and Parks.

Several of the recommendations would require coordination between surrounding local governments and NCDOT. These recommendations seem appropriate for review by the DCHC MPO, which is set up to review and advocate for transportation-related proposals and associated funding in the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro metropolitan area.

Some of the recommendations involve direct requests to NCDOT, which could be presented at the next quarterly staff meeting between the town and NCDOT, scheduled for some time in July.

Other recommendations can be supported by the Board of Aldermen requesting other jurisdictions to consider their implementation by same jurisdictions.

For study and implementation of the task force recommendations, the staff recommends the Board of Aldermen adopt the resolution in Attachment C, directing the above-described follow up actions, in addition to adopting the resolution receiving the report (*Attachment B*).