

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. C(6)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: April 7, 2009

**TITLE: Request to Set a Public Hearing on the Preliminary Design for Smith Level Road
TIP Project U-2803**

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING	PUBLIC HEARING: YES __ NO _X_
ATTACHMENTS: A. Resolution B. Summary of Public Comments from November 2007 workshop C. NCDOT memo in response to workshop comments	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Adena Messinger, Transportation Planner – 918-7329

PURPOSE

The purpose of this item is to set a public hearing for April 21, 2009, on the preliminary design of the TIP Project U-2803: Smith Level Road.

INFORMATION

On March 9, 2009 the North Carolina Department of Transportation held a public hearing on the preliminary design of the TIP Project U-2803: Smith Level Road at Carrboro Elementary. There was an informal question and answer period from 4:30 PM until 6:30 PM where citizens could view the plans and speak with representatives from NCDOT. An estimated 15-20 people attended this part of the event. A formal hearing was conducted from 7:00 PM until approximately 8:30 PM, at which NCDOT staff reviewed the design and then invited attendees to present their comments. Six attendees offered their comments.

A general summary of the comments made at the public hearing is as follows:

- Opposition to the 4-lanes divided highway section of the plan
- Support for the sidewalks and bicycle lanes
- Questions regarding the data used to project future traffic volumes and intersection Level of Service
- Opposition to the median in the 4-lane section, preventing a left turn from Willow Oak Lane on to Smith Level Road (no information on how this will impact traffic volume on Orchard Lane)
- Design does not reflect nature of the community or the community's commitment to alternative transportation
- Question regarding design of the road for 50 MPH
- Opposition to center turn lanes
- Lack of attention to bicycle and pedestrian safety at intersections
- Opposition to planning for the peak

Formal minutes from the hearing are not yet available from NCDOT. Following the NCDOT hearing, several Carrboro and Orange County citizen's requested that there be an opportunity to share their comments with the Board of Aldermen and that the Board of Aldermen be given the opportunity to provide comments back to NCDOT, based on public input.

Previously, in November 2007, NCDOT held a citizen information workshop at Carrboro High School, soliciting public comment on the preliminary design. Attachment B is a summary of the comments received for that workshop. Attachment C is a post-workshop NCDOT memo, regarding the major comments from the workshop.

FISCAL AND STAFF IMPACT

There are no fiscal or staff impacts with setting the public hearing.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff is recommending that Board of Aldermen set a public hearing on the preliminary design of the TIP Project U-2803: Smith Level Road for April 21, 2009.