

**A RESOLUTION SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE
THE PRELIMINARY DESIGN FOR SMITH LEVEL ROAD TIP PROJECT U-2803
Resolution No. 96/2008-09**

WHEREAS the North Carolina Department of Transportation has prepared a preliminary design for the Smith Level Road Transportation Improvement Program project, and

WHEREAS citizens have requested that the Carrboro Board of Aldermen take public comment on the preliminary design, and

WHEREAS the Carrboro Board of Aldermen seeks to provide ample opportunities for public comment.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Carrboro Board of Aldermen:

Section 1: Sets a public hearing for the preliminary design for Smith Level Road TIP Project U-2803; and

Section 2: Refers the preliminary design to the following advisory boards:

- Transportation Advisory Board

U-2803 - Smith Level Road Recent Project Comment Summary

Comment Date	Name	Organization	Address	Phone	E-mail	Comment Method	Comment Summary
18-Jul-07	Board of Aldermen	Town of Carrboro	301 W. Main Street, Carrboro, NC 27510	919-918-7329		mail	Town of Carrboro Resolution No. 214/2006-07 (including Town review of design concept, comments from the Carrboro Transportation Advisory Board, Smith Level Road Task Force, and Chapel Hill-Carrboro School: 1) That signal and crosswalk markings be included at the roundabout; 2) Extend bikelanes and sidewalks to Frank Porter Graham School - north of project limits; 3) Install traffic light sensors that are sensitive to bicycles; 4) Provide pedestrian crosswalk buttons; 5) Include a safe pedestrian crossing at Frank Porter Graham School, including an island; 6) Design the roundabout at Rock Haven Road to accomodate new State school bus length specifications; 7) Road design should reflect a 35 mph speed limit with max. of 11-foot wide travel lanes; 8) Prohibit through truck traffic on Smith Level Road.
27-Jul-07	David Joseph	Resident - Southern Village	111 Glade Street, Chapel Hill, NC 27516	919-960-4892	dandsjoseph@bellsouth.net	e-mail	Inquired about potential connection of Glen haven Drive from Southern Village to Smith Level Road. David Bonk of Chapel Hill responded - no current plans to extend.
28-Jun-07	Tom High	Carrboro Resident - Activist		919-929-0754	bthigh@aol.com	e-mail	Objects to projects mainly on the basis of pedestrian safety. Has sent letter to Carrboro Town Council, written an editorial in the Carrboro Citizen Newspaper, collected petition signatures against the project, and generated an online petition against the project at www.ipetitions.com/petition/SmithLevelRdU-2803/signatures.html .
10-Oct-07	Wayne Pein	Citizen - Bicycle advocate			wpein@nc.rr.com	e-mail	Smith Level Road is too steep for bicycle lanes, general bicycle safety concerns on the project. Include two research papers on the subject.
20-Oct-07	Adrian Hands	Carrboro Resident			ach@akc.org	e-mail	Requested maps of the proposed improvements - SB provided electronic workshop maps to Hands after the CIW in November 2007.
3-Nov-07	Venitah Sanders	Chapel Hill resident	606 Coolidge St. , Chapel Hill, NC 27516			CIW	Mostly concerned with the South Columbia St. project, which is near her house, but would like to be notified when Smith Level is ready for construction.

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5-Nov-07	Richard Ambrose	Chapel Hill Resident	210 Glade St., Chapel Hill, NC 27516			CIW	Concerned about child pedestrian safety across Smith Level Road and to Culbreth Middle School. Requests crosswalks, sidewalks and/or pedestrian lanes.
5-Nov-07	Andrew Greene	Chapel Hill Resident	103 Unnin Place, Chapel Hill, NC 27516			CIW	Likes the project and appreciates the bike lanes.
5-Nov-07	Wendy Tanson	Chapel Hill resident	200 Nutree Lane, Chapel Hill, NC 27516			CIW	In favor of the project. Suggests a crosswalk at Woodcrest Drive and Smith Level Road and a reduced speed limit along the corridor.
5-Nov-07	Nancy Park	Chapel Hill Resident	500 Yorktown Dr., Chapel Hill, NC 27516			CIW	Requests that a walkway or bike path be extended to the southernmost end of Smith Level Road, where it meets US 15-501 to facilitate bicycle/pedestrian/non-vehicle traffic.
5-Nov-07	Patrick Mortrell	Chapel Hill resident	408 Morgan Creek Road, Chapel Hill, NC	919-933-0729	ptmortell@aol.com	CIW	Suggests that to address safety concerns/fatalities near Carrboro High School. Not in favor of bicycle lanes. Would prefer that improvements address the entire length of Smith Level Road with focus on the southern end.
5-Nov-07	Charles Burns	Chapel Hill resident	1915 Damascus Church Road, Chapel Hill, NC			CIW	Extend 3 lane section to Damascus Church Road to address additional traffic from North Chatham County development. Add right turn lane at Culbreth Road.
5-Nov-07	Rosemarie and Joseph Gulla	Carrboro resident	201 Orchard Lane, Carrboro, NC (Berryhill neighborhood)			CIW	Consider highest priority to be sidewalk into downtown Carrboro. Consider transitions from 3 lanes to 2 lanes and 4 lanes to 3 lanes to be dangerous.
5-Nov-07	Carol Barrow	Chapel Hill resident	617 Yorktown Drive, Chapel Hill, NC 27516 (Heritage Hills)			CIW	Suggests a multi-use path along Rock Haven Road south of Carrboro High School to the Heritage Hills neighborhood.
5-Nov-07	Heather Hoffman	Carrboro resident	105 Weatherill Pointe, Carrboro, NC 27510			CIW	Prefers that road widening be put off until the decrease traffic effect of walking paths along Morgan Creek. Wants to reduce number of vehicles on the road, and favors walkways over roads.
5-Nov-07	Tom Irvin	Carrboro resident	100 Gateridge Place, Carrboro, NC 27510 Berryhill HOA			CIW	Expressed urgent need for sidewalks from Willow Oak to the Frank Porter Graham School. Requests that this portion of the project be moved up ASAP for child pedestrian safety.

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5-Nov-07	L.E. Brester	Chapel Hill resident	441 Northside Drive, Chapel Hill, NC 27516			CIW	Extend the project to Damascus Church Road. Add a roundabout to the intersection of Damascus Road and Smith Level Road. In favor of a bike path on the Berryhill neighborhood side of Smith Level Road only. Proposed Chapel Hill greenway will provide adequate bicycle facilities south of Carrboro. Concerned with grade of bicycle paths. Ensure that bike and pedestrian improvements encompass school properties on Smith Level Road. Add right hand turn lane onto Culbreth Road. Consider adding 2 turn lanes from BPW Club Road onto Smith Level Road traveling north.
5-Nov-07	Senator Ellie Kinnaird	State Senator	207 W. Poplar Avenue, Carrboro, NC 27510			CIW	Against 4-lane section with a median. In favor of two travel lanes, turn lane, bike lanes and sidewalks.
5-Nov-07	Elizabeth Neely	Chapel Hill resident/NCDOT employee				CIW	Background information on the project would have been helpful at the CIW, specifically on project delays. Also, would be helpful to have the ability to submit comments on line electronically. Questions if NCDOT can purchase right-of-way land in advance of project approval.
5-Nov-07	Steve Jackson	Chapel Hill resident	104 Antler Point Road, Chapel Hill, NC			CIW	Full scope of the proposed improvements may not be needed, but roundabout is a needed addition.
5-Nov-07	Linda Levitch/Andrew Olshan	Citizen				CIW	Strongly support bike lanes and sidewalks on Smith Level. Do not support median divided segment. Against blocking off a northbound turn movement from Willow Oak onto Smith Level Road due to traffic backups in the Berryhill neighborhood during rush hours.
5-Nov-07	Jan Symond	Chapel Hill resident	103 Culbreth Road, #309, Chapel Hill, NC 27516			CIW	In favor of sidewalks on Culbreth Road for senior citizens and congestion relief on Culbreth Road.
5-Nov-07	Bill Armstrong	Carrboro resident	105 Antler Point Road, Carrboro			CIW	Against widening Smith Level Road to 4 lanes. Against the proposed roundabout at Rock Haven. Replace the traffic light at Rock Haven Road that only operates during school peak traffic hours. Replace the traffic light at the Frank Porter Graham School.

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5-Nov-07	Adrian Hands	Carrboro resident	200 Purple Leaf Place, Carrboro, NC 27510			CIW	Concerned with bicycle safety between Carrboro and Damascus Church Road. Specifically, the steep grades on Smith level Road and safety of bike lanes on these grades. Requests cross section drawings of typical sections. SB provided electronic workshop maps to Hands after the CIW in November 2007.
5-Nov-07	R.J. & Lisa Vaccarelli	Carrboro resident	608 Manor Ridge Road. Carrboro, NC			CIW	Oppose widening Smith Level Road - wider roads will attract more traffic. In favor of adding sidewalks to Frank Porter Graham or downtown Carrboro. Oppose the median divided section removing the northbound turn from Willow Oak Lane to Smith Level Road - will cause traffic problems in the Berryhill neighborhood.
5-Nov-07	Patrick Condreau	Carrboro resident	101 Misty Pines Place, Carrboro, NC			CIW	Concerned with the elimination of the northbound turn movement from Willow Oak Lane to Smith Level Road. Concerned with child safety on a four lane divided section.
5-Nov-07	Jason Henning	Carrboro resident	107 Juniper Court, Carrboro, NC			CIW	States that there is strong opposition to a 4-lane divided section and support for sidewalks. Does not understand what problem is being solved by widening the road, does not address the root cause of congestion.
5-Nov-07	Helen Frady	Carrboro resident	310 Ray Road			CIW	Roundabout and four lane section are not a good choice for bicycles and pedestrians.
5-Nov-07	Amy Ryan	Chapel Hill resident	209 Adams Way, Chapel Hill, NC 27516			CIW	Strongly prefer a signal light at Rock Haven and Smith Level Road. In favor of bike lanes. Request a protective curb between bike lanes and the roadway. Currently, dangerous left turns are being made from Smith Level Road into driveways on the east side near Rock haven Road.
5-Nov-07	Heidi Perry	Carrboro resident	407 Robert Hunt, Carrboro, NC 27510			CIW	In favor of the proposed roundabout, sidewalks, bike lanes and greenway connection(?). Opposed to a four lane section.

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5-Nov-07	Gregory Dito	Carrboro resident	103 River Creek Place, Carrboro, NC 27510			CIW	Eliminating northbound left turn movement from Willow Oak Lane onto Smith Level Road will increase Berryhill neighborhood traffic on BPW Club Road. AM backups on Smith level road due to right turns into Frank Porter Graham School and onto NC 54 to the north of the proposed project.
8-Nov-07	Terri Buckner	Carrboro resident				e-mail	Heritage Hills neighborhood listserv e-mail delivered by Gary Glover - PDEA HEU - e-mail opposing project and directing residents to online petition by Tom High against the project.
8-Nov-07	Thomas B. Cole	Carrboro resident	105 Misty Pines Place, Carrboro, NC 27510			mail	Eliminating northbound left turn movement from Willow Oak Lane onto Smith Level Road will increase Berryhill neighborhood traffic on BPW Club Road. Request a signal at this intersection of dedicated turn lane.
19-Nov-07	Sandra Cianciolo	Carrboro resident	105 Misty Pines Place, Carrboro, NC 27510 (Berryhill)			mail	Concerned with the speed limit on Smith level Road. Concerned with traffic and increased traffic on Smith Level Road due to proposed widening, the effects of a 4-lane section, and elimination of the left turn from neighborhood onto Smith Level Road.
5-Nov-07	Wayne Pein	Citizen - Bicycle advocate			wpein@nc.rr.com	e-mail	Please forward comments to other planners and designers on the project.
7-Nov-07	Laura Morgan	Carrboro resident	311 Rossburn Way, Carrboro, NC 27510 (Kent Woodlands)		skip2rita@hotmail.com	e-mail	In favor of the proposed widening, sidewalks and bike lanes. Concerned with sidewalk access to Carrboro High School and Frank Porter Graham School.
7-Nov-07	Reg Morgan	Carrboro resident	311 Rossburn Way, Carrboro, NC 27510 (Kent Woodlands)		reg.morgan@prucarolinas.com	e-mail	In favor of proposed project. Previously supported NCDOT recommendation on project U-3306 - Weaver Dairy Road.
10-Nov-07	Lynn Long	Carrboro resident			longhaven@mindspring.com	e-mail	Concerned that the roundabout be sized to accommodate truck traffic on Smith Level Road. Also has questions on the functionality of roundabouts.
16-Nov-07	Tom High	Carrboro Resident - Activist		919-929-0754	bthigh@aol.com	e-mail	Forwarded e-mail from Douglas Galyon - NC Board of Transportation - from Mr.High, written on 11/02/07 - same substantive comments as above.

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30-Nov-07	Wes Shuttleworth and Terese Johnson	Carrboro Residents	206 Nuttree Lane, Chapel Hill, NC 27516 P.O Box 16009, Chapel Hill, NC 27516-6009 (Kent Woodlands)	919-942-9988	wshuttle@us.ibm.com	e-mail	Do not support road widening to four lanes, support widening to three lanes. Are against the three to four lane transition area and recommend eliminating that and funding additional sidewalks and bike paths. Strongly support sidewalks and bike lanes.
3-Dec-07	Unknown	Unknown	420 Meadowlark Lane, Raleigh, NC 27601			mail	Anonymous mailing - cut out of CIW ad with derogatory comments.
4-Dec-07	Unknown	Unknown	4900 Proctor Court, Raleigh, NC 27606			mail	Anonymous mailing - cut out of CIW ad with derogatory comments.
4-Dec-07	Adrian Hands	Carrboro Resident			aeh@akc.org	e-mail	E-mail acknowledging receipt of public hearing maps.
14-Dec-07	Tom High	Carrboro Resident - Activist		919-929-0754	bthigh@aol.com	e-mail	Mr. High writes to update SB on online petition against project - see updated petition and signatures in comment package.
15-Dec-07	Randy Dodd	Carrboro Planning Staff		919-918-7326	rdodd@townofcarrboro.org	e-mail	Forwarded message from Cindy Camacho - Earthtech, follow up from interview with Planning staff. Expressed concern with project stormwater treatment and states that the receiving water for stormwater on this project is on the 303(d) impaired waters list. Suggests early involvement of Highway Stormwater program.
17-Dec-07	Bill Pressley	Chapel Hill resident	101 Ray Road Chapel Hill, NC	919-942-5210 (home) 919-801-6183 (cell)		phone	Inquiry about paving of Ray Road. Inquiry answered by Chuck Edwards - Division 7.
7-Feb-08	Carol Barrow	Chapel Hill resident	617 Yorktown Drive, Chapel Hill, NC 27516 (Heritage Hills)	919-781-3100 (office)		in person	SB met with Carol Barrow - she had the following comments/requests: 1) Requests a multi use path along Smith Level Road from Heritage Hills into Carrboro City Limits 2) Is willing to enter NCDOT's Adopt a Highway program for that same length of Smith Level Road; 3) Requests bus service to the Heritage Hills neighborhood; and 4) reduced speed limit in Heritage Hills neighborhood to 15 mph.

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Division of Highways

APR 23 2008

Preconstruction
Project Development and
Environmental Analysis Branch

LYNDO TIPPETT
SECRETARY



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

MEMO TO: Art McMillan, PE
Dewayne Sykes, PE
Mike Mills, PE
Brenda Moore, PE
Eric Midkiff, PE
Drew Joyner, PE

Linwood Stone, PE
Steven L. Brown, PE
James H. Dunlop, PE
Erin Hendee, PE
Jamilie Robbins, PE

FROM: Jay Bennett, PE
State Roadway Design Engineer

DATE: April 18, 2008

SUBJECT: Project 34860.1.1 (U-2803) Orange County
SR 1919 (Smith Level Road) from Rock Haven Road to Bridge No. 88
over Morgan Creek

Post Workshop Meeting

A Citizens Informational Workshop was held on November 5, 2007 at the Carrboro High School in Carrboro. Approximately 69 citizens and NCDOT staff attended the workshop and 27 written comments were received from the public.

Executive Summary

The project involves the widening of the existing 2-lane Smith Level Road (SR 1919) to multi-lanes from South of Rock Haven Road to Bridge No. 88 over Morgan Creek. The project is located within the municipal boundary of the Town of Carrboro. Environmental documents and preliminary plans were formerly produced for the project in 2001, and a Public Hearing was held in the same year. Based on public and town comments, NCDOT is re-starting the planning process to update previously studied alternatives and study an additional alternative for improving the road.

Topics for Discussion

A wide variety of comments both written and oral were received at the Citizens Informational Workshop. The major concerns and comments made by the public were as follows:

1. Response to the Town of Carrboro's June 19, 2007 Resolution providing comments on the revised design of improvements to Smith Level Road – Project U-2803 (See Attachment)

Page 2
Attendees
April 11, 2008

2. Request to allow left turns from Willow Oak Lane onto northbound Smith Level Road.
3. Opposition to the 4-lane divided section from BPW Club Drive to Bridge No. 88 over Morgan Creek.
4. Concerns that the northbound grade is too steep for bicycle lanes. (Downgrade ranging from 6.7% to 7.8% for approximately .3 mile at the end of the project). Request that exclusive bicycle lanes be eliminated and that 15-foot wide outside lanes be specified instead.
5. Concerns regarding driveway access and pedestrian/bicycle safety at the proposed roundabout at Rock Haven Road.
6. Request to extend the sidewalk along Culbreth Road to the Culbreth Middle School.
7. Request for an exclusive right turn lane onto Culbreth Road.

Post Hearing Resolutions

A Post Workshop Meeting was held in the Roadway Design Conference Room on March 28, 2008. The public's comments from the Citizens Informational Workshop were discussed. The following resolutions were developed for the issues involved in this project:

1. **Issue:** Response to the Town of Carrboro's June 19, 2007 Resolution providing comments on the revised design of improvements to Smith Level Road – Project U-2803
Action: Steven L. Brown of PDEA will prepare a response to the Town's resolution.
2. **Issue:** Request to allow left turns from Willow Oak Lane onto northbound Smith Level Road.
Action: To allow for the safe and efficient flow of traffic along SR 1919 (Smith Level Road) no left turn movements will be allowed from Willow Oak Lane onto Smith Level Road.
3. **Issue:** Opposition to the 4-lane divided section from BPW Club Drive to Bridge No. 88 over Morgan Creek.
Action: Based on the results of a capacity analysis that was performed using projected future traffic volumes, a 4-lane divided roadway sections is warranted in order to enhance mobility and roadway safety.
4. **Issue:** Concerns that the northbound grade is too steep for bicycle lanes. (Downgrade ranging from 6.7% to 7.8% for approximately .3 mile at the end of the project). Request that exclusive bicycle lanes be eliminated and that 15-foot wide outside lanes be specified instead.

Page 3
Attendees
April 11, 2008

Action: The exclusive bicycle lanes were added to the project at the request of the Town of Carrboro and the design is similar to the existing bicycle network throughout the town. It was decided that the exclusive bicycle lanes will be maintained on both sides of the Smith Level Road within the limits of the project.

5. **Issue:** Concerns regarding driveway access and pedestrian/bicycle safety at the proposed roundabout at Rock Haven Road.

Action: Research has shown that roundabouts are safer for both bicyclists and pedestrians than traditional intersections. Bicyclists will have the choice of proceeding through the roundabout as a vehicle or a pedestrian. The bicycle lanes will be terminated in advance of the roundabout to encourage cyclists to mix with vehicular traffic. To accommodate bicyclists who prefer not to use the circulatory roadway, a widened sidewalk with suitable on and off ramps will be provided. Driveway access will be allowed within the roundabout. The shared driveway will be maintained for the Boyce and McKnight properties. The driveway access into the Roberson property will be relocated as far north as practicable to move the driveway out of the roundabout flare.

6. **Issue:** Request to extend the sidewalk along Culbreth Road to the Culbreth Middle School.

Action: The Culbreth Middle School is outside of the U-2803 project limits and beyond the scope of this project; therefore extending the sidewalk to the Middle School will not be incorporated into this project. The proposed sidewalk will extend from -Y4- (SR 1994 Culbreth Road) Sta. 13+83 to Sta. 17+50.

7. **Issue:** Request for an exclusive right turn lane onto Culbreth Road.

Action: A capacity analysis has shown that the roadway will function adequately without an exclusive right turn lane onto Culbreth Road; therefore it was decided to leave the current design unchanged.

With assistance from Roadway Design, Jamille Robbins will reply to all Workshop comments as needed. If anyone has any questions or comments regarding this information, please contact me or Brenda Moore, PE at (919) 250-4016.

BLM/rck
Attachment