

# BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. E(3)

## AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: April 20, 2010

**TITLE: Resolution Designating May 2010 as Bike Month and May 17-21, 2010, as Bike to Work Week**

<b>DEPARTMENT:</b> Planning	<b>PUBLIC HEARING:</b> YES ___ NO ___ X ___
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b> A. Resolution B. Safe Routes to School workshop flier C. Transportation Advisory Board recommendation	<b>FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:</b> Jeff Brubaker – 918-7329

### PURPOSE

The Board is asked to consider adopting a resolution (*Attachment A*) designating May 2010 as Bike Month and the week of May 17-21, 2010, as Bike to Work Week. An update will be provided on events planned in Carrboro, in coordination with the Town of Chapel Hill, area bike shops, and regional transportation planning partners.

### INFORMATION

May has been recognized as National Bike Month since 1956. Bike to Work Week is the third week in May, and Bike to Work Day is on the Friday of Bike to Work Week. As a designated transportation demand management (TDM) “hot spot”, staff at the Towns of Chapel Hill and Carrboro are working together to promote events during National Bike Month and Bike to Work Week.

The Towns are also working with regional transportation organizations, such as the GoTriangle partnership of transit providers (<http://www.gotriangle.org/>), to promote the SmartCommute Challenge, which is running from April 15 to May 15. The SmartCommute Challenge is a public service campaign to reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality where Triangle-area commuters pledge to get to work via alternative transportation (bike, walk, bus, carpool, or telework, etc.) at least once during the SmartCommute Challenge period. Pledge forms, photo contest information, and more details are available at: <http://www.smartcommutechallenge.org/>.

For this year’s SmartCommute Challenge, the Carrboro Transportation Advisory Board has adopted a recommendation challenging members of the Board of Aldermen and Town staff to participate (*Attachment C*).

Chapel Hill-Carrboro events are also part of a larger schedule of events planned by the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC-MPO). For more information about regional events, interested participants can contact Dale McKeel, DCHC-MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator, at [dale.mckeel@durhamnc.gov](mailto:dale.mckeel@durhamnc.gov).

Everyone – from experienced bike commuters, utility cyclists, and veteran recreational cyclists to novice and prospective riders – is invited to participate in the following local events:

- **Monday, May 3** – Safe Routes to School Barriers and Solutions Public Workshop, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Carrboro Elementary School – an opportunity for parents and students of Carrboro and McDougle Elementary Schools to weigh in on a Safe Routes to School Action Plan that will guide Town decisionmaking in making it safer and more convenient for students to walk or bike to school (*Attachment B*).
- **Saturday, May 15** – Bike-on-bus Demonstration, Carrboro Farmers' Market – combining bicycling and riding the bus can increase mobility and extend trip distances without the costs of driving. A Chapel Hill Transit bus will be parked at the Farmers' Market where volunteers will be on hand to demonstrate how to use the front bike racks on buses.
- **Tuesday, May 18** – Morning bike workshop, 7:00 to 10:00 a.m., municipal parking lot on Roberson St. and S. Greensboro (south of Open Eye Café) – an opportunity for cyclists to gather and get bike inspections and tune-ups. More details will follow.
- **Friday, May 21** – Bike Chapel Hill-Carrboro, Wallace Parking Deck, Rosemary St. in Chapel Hill – celebrate Bike to Work Day with an early evening ride through Chapel Hill and Carrboro, followed by food, beverages, and music at Wallace Deck. For more information, contact Wes Tilghman, Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation Department, at [wtilghman@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:wtilghman@townofchapelhill.org).

In addition, bike shops in Carrboro and Chapel Hill will be offering discounts and deals for Bike to Work Week. Residents should contact local shops for more information.

To volunteer or receive more information, contact Jeff Brubaker, Transportation Planner, at 918-7329 or [jbrubaker@townofcarrboro.org](mailto:jbrubaker@townofcarrboro.org).

### **FISCAL AND STAFF IMPACT**

Staff time is necessary to complete the planning and implementation of the events. Funding, in-kind assistance, and technical assistance are provided to the Chapel Hill-Carrboro TDM “hot spot” by the Federal Highway Administration, the GoTriangle partnership, NCDOT, and Triangle J Council of Governments.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommend that the Board receive the update on National Bike Month events and adopt the resolution.