

# BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. (1)

## AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: April 27, 2010

**TITLE: A Public Hearing on a Revised Design for Smith Level Road Improvements**

<b>DEPARTMENT: Planning</b>	<b>PUBLIC HEARING: YES <u>X</u> NO <u>  </u></b>
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b> A. Resolution B. Sample cross-section C. Bicycle lane pavement marking diagram from the <i>Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices</i>	<b>FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:</b> Patricia McGuire – 918-7327 Jeff Brubaker – 918-7329

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this item is to receive public input on a revised design for Smith Level Road improvements (TIP #U-2803) proposed by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT).

### INFORMATION

NCDOT is proposing a revised design for improvements to Smith Level Rd. from the Town limits south of Woodcrest Dr. to the Morgan Creek bridge (Bridge No. 88). The improvements comprise State Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) project #U-2803.

NCDOT proposes the following improvements to Smith Level Road:

- Installing sidewalks on both sides of the road from Willow Oak Lane to Woodcrest Drive and on the west side of the road from the bridge over Morgan Creek to Willow Oak Lane;
- Installing bike lanes on both sides of the road;
- Widening Smith Level Road to a two-lane road divided by a grass median (sample cross section in *Attachment B*) with eight-foot shoulders from the bridge crossing Morgan Creek to BPW Club Road, including a shielded median break allowing left turns from Smith Level Road onto Willow Oak Lane;
- Widening Smith Level Road to a three-lane road, including two through lanes and a center turn lane, from BPW Club Road to Rock Haven Road;
- Installing sidewalks on both sides of Culbreth Road from Smith Level Road to Rossburn Way; and
- Constructing a roundabout near Carrboro High School at the intersection of Smith Level Road and Rock Haven Road.

Sufficient right of way along Smith Level Road has been identified for purchase by NCDOT to allow for additional improvements, if needed, in the future.

A detailed project map is available on the Town's online Message Board at: <http://townofcarrboro.org/msg.htm>. A public information session is being held for one hour prior to the public hearing (6:30-7:30 p.m.) to allow for review of the revised design.

NCDOT is proposing to construct 5-foot bicycle lanes on each side of the roadway. For a detailed diagram of bicycle lane pavement marking treatment on two-way roads and intersections, see *Attachment C*. This is an excerpt from the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*, 2009 edition. Note that the example showing bike lanes without on-street parking is most similar to what NCDOT is proposing.

NCDOT is currently updating the State Environmental Assessment for the project based on the revised design. The most recent assessment, completed in 2008, is available on the Town's website at <http://townofcarrboro.org/PZI/Induseregs.htm>. (See link #10 under the "Transportation" heading – note that this is a very large PDF file.) For more information about the environmental assessment update, contact Eric Midkiff, PE, NCDOT Central Region Project Development Unit Head, at [emidkiff \[at\] ncdot.gov](mailto:emidkiff@ncdot.gov)

For NCDOT's press release, visit: <https://apps.dot.state.nc.us/pio/releases/details.aspx?r=3486>.

The construction contract for this project is expected to be awarded by February 1, 2012.

#### **FISCAL AND STAFF IMPACT**

An updated cost estimate will be provided as the environmental assessment is modified to reflect NCDOT's revised design. The 2008 assessment estimated the cost of the project to be \$7.2 million, including \$2.3 million for right-of-way acquisition, \$4.4 million for construction, and \$0.6 million for utility improvements. It should be noted that this estimate is based on a previous version of the project design and may change.

The majority of project funding is coming from the state. Current NCDOT policy requires a 20 percent local match for the construction of sidewalks.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommend that the Board of Aldermen consider the attached resolution (*Attachment A*) receiving public comments.