

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT**

ITEM NO. C(4)

MEETING DATE: September 21, 2010

TITLE: Town Code Amendment Related to Certain Bicycle Facility Improvements Made During the 2010 Town Street Resurfacing Program and a State Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvement Project

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING	PUBLIC HEARING: YES ___ NO _X_
ATTACHMENTS: A. Town Code amendment B. Sections 6-34 to 6-37 of the Town Code C. Street map D. Shared lane marking graphic (MUTCD)	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeff Brubaker – 918-7329 David Poythress – 918-7432

PURPOSE

The Carrboro Comprehensive Bicycle Transportation Plan, adopted March 2009, recommends 6-foot bike lanes on streets with curb and gutter. Certain bicycle facilities are being modified or added in conjunction with the 2010 Town Street Resurfacing Program to fulfill this and other Plan recommendations. Also, NCDOT is installing bike lanes on a portion of Old Fayetteville Rd. The attached ordinance amendment formalizes these changes.

INFORMATION

The proposed amendment affects the following Town streets:

1. **Pathway Dr. from Parkview Ave. to Cates Farm Rd.** – Increase bike lane width on each side of the road to 6 ft., from 5 ft.
2. **W. Poplar Ave. from W. Main St. to NC 54** – Increase bike lane width on each side of the road to 6 ft., from 5 ft.
3. **Brewer Ln.** – Add shared lane pavement markings (“sharrows” – *Attachment D*) as guided by the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), 2009 Ed.*, Section 9C.07 (<http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/htm/2009/part9/part9c.htm>). Brewer Ln. is an important bicycle access point for the Libba Cotten Bikeway. Sharrows are recommended in the Carrboro Bike Plan.

The gutter section of a roadway may pose hazards for cyclists due to debris or drainage grates. The extra foot of bike lane on the pavement section of the street provides more leeway.

Shared lane markings assist persons riding bicycles with lateral positioning in narrow travel lanes, alert road users of the lateral location bicyclists are likely to occupy within the travelway, encourage safe passing of bicyclists by motorists, and reduce the incidence of wrong-way bicycling (MUTCD). Bicycles are defined legally as vehicles in the N.C. Statutes [§20-4.01(49)].

For consistency, Subsection 6-37(3) must be modified to include provisions for shared lane markings.

The following sources provide a background on the proposed modifications:

6-foot bike lanes on streets with curb and gutter

- Comprehensive Bicycle Transportation Plan, p. 7-4
- *North Carolina Bicycle Facilities Planning And Design Guidelines* (1994), pp. 31-32

Sharrows on Brewer Ln.

- Comprehensive Bicycle Transportation Plan, Maps 3.2 and 3.3 (pp. 3-39 and 3-40); pp. 3-3 to 3-4; pp. 7-6 to 7-7

Another purpose of this agenda item is to codify the bike lanes being installed as part of NCDOT's bicycle and pedestrian improvement project on Old Fayetteville Rd. from Strowd Ln. to NC-54. The project is expected to be completed this month.

Bicycle facilities are codified in Section 6-34 of the Town Code. *Attachment B* is an excerpt of Sections 6-34 to 6-37 of the Town Code. *Attachment C* is a map showing locations of the proposed changes. Adjacent property owners have been notified of resurfacing projects by the Public Works Dept.

FISCAL AND STAFF IMPACT

There is no cost to increasing bike lane width on local streets, since markings need to be restored post-resurfacing. A total of 10 sharrows will be added to Brewer Ln. Public Works is in the process of obtaining a cost estimate from the contractor.

There is no cost to the Town of constructing bike lanes on Old Fayetteville Rd. This is a state project using funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend that the Board of Aldermen adopt the ordinance amending the Town Code (*Attachment A*).