

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. (2)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: September 28, 2010

TITLE: Continuation of a Public Hearing on Pedestrian and Bicycle Access Alternatives in the Estes Drive Area

DEPARTMENT: Planning	PUBLIC HEARING: YES <u>X</u> NO ____
ATTACHMENTS: A. Resolution B. Map of alternatives C. May 3 community meeting fliers	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Patricia McGuire – 918-7327 Jeff Brubaker – 918-7329

PURPOSE

The purpose of this public hearing continuation is to receive comments on pedestrian and bicycle access alternatives proposed by Town staff to improve access in the Estes Drive vicinity. An update will be provided on new information received since June 22.

INFORMATION

In November 2009, the Board of Aldermen adopted the FY10-16 Capital Improvements Program with additional recommendations. One of these recommendations was for staff to prepare a report on pedestrian-bicycle access alternatives in the area.

Staff reported on these alternatives at the January 12, 2010, worksession. Materials from that meeting are available here: http://townofcarrboro.org/BoA/Agendas/2010/01_12_2010.htm. At the meeting, the Board directed staff to schedule community meetings with residents in the area, specifically in Estes Park Apartments, to gauge their input on the alternatives. A community meeting was held on Monday, May 3, at Carrboro Elementary School. Attendees provided input via a survey and verbal comments; however, low turnout at the meeting suggested another meeting should be held. On June 22, the Board continued the public hearing to September 28 to allow a second community meeting to be held. For the purpose of increasing turnout, staff proposed an on-site meeting. However, apartments management conveyed that the owner was unable to accommodate the proposal and did not express an interest in further consideration of the Pleasant Dr., Crest St., or Hillcrest St. alternatives. The management did propose another alternative: a walking path behind the southern row of apartment buildings running parallel to the driveway. However, staff feels that this alternative does not serve the purpose of providing better north-south access; difficult topography and adjacent property boundaries would make it challenging to construct.

Another alternative – the Wilson Park Multi-use Path – is currently in the design phase. A crosswalk across Estes Dr. from the apartments' driveway entrance to the path has been tentatively included in the scope of this project. Several factors – such as NCDOT approval, cost, and the presence of a safe pedestrian “landing” at the driveway entrance – affect the possibility of making this crosswalk a reality.

FISCAL AND STAFF IMPACT

Staff time is required to plan a second community meeting and continue to communicate with apartments' management.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend that the Board of Aldermen consider the attached resolution receiving public comments.