

# BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. C(7)

## AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

**MEETING DATE: December 7, 2010**

**TITLE: Use of Certain Funds for an Old Carrboro Traffic Circulation Study and Additional Downtown Traffic Operations and Safety Analysis**

<b>DEPARTMENT:</b> Planning	<b>PUBLIC HEARING:</b> YES ___ NO <u>X</u> ___
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b> A. Resolution	<b>FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:</b> Jeff Brubaker – 918-7329

### PURPOSE

The Board of Aldermen is asked to approve the use of \$5,000 budgeted for a traffic circulation study in the Old Carrboro neighborhood as a local match for federal planning funds that have become available to the Town through the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC-MPO) to complete an approximately \$25,000 planning process including the Old Carrboro Traffic Circulation Study itself and additional downtown traffic operations and safety analysis.

### INFORMATION

At the September 16, 2008 Board of Aldermen meeting, staff were instructed to organize a neighborhood meeting to discuss traffic management in the Old Carrboro neighborhood. The minutes for that meeting are available at the following link: [http://townofcarrboro.org/BoA/Minutes/2008/09\\_16\\_2008.pdf](http://townofcarrboro.org/BoA/Minutes/2008/09_16_2008.pdf). A total of \$5,000 has been budgeted for this task by the Town.

At the October 27, 2010, meeting of the DCHC-MPO Technical Coordinating Committee, MPO staff reported that planning funds under the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) that were previously rescinded were now available to use for planning activities in the 2010-2011 fiscal year. These planning funds must be used by the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2011. The TCC approved the use of these additional funds by Carrboro and Hillsborough provided a local match could be identified.

In March 2010, the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) began discussing the feasibility of a lane configuration modification of W. Main St. from Weaver St. to Hillsborough Rd. that would allow space for a center turn lane and bike lanes by converting the cross-section from four lanes to three. This modification accords with recommendations in both the Downtown Traffic Circulation Study (2005) and the Comprehensive Bicycle Transportation Plan (2009). The TAB is planning to present the results of its discussions at an upcoming Board meeting for Board review and comment. Should the Town pursue this concept, an analysis of the potential traffic and safety impacts on and near W. Main St. is recommended. The additional funding would allow such an analysis to be included in this project. Town staff are also in communication with

the UNC Department of City and Regional Planning and Highway Safety Research Center about a class project that would assist with this analysis.

If any additional funding remains after addressing the above two planning tasks, Town staff propose that it could be applied toward two additional planning tasks discussed at recent Board of Aldermen meetings. The first would be measuring the traffic impacts of the Weaver Street Reconstruction. The second would be a feasibility study of crosswalks on N. Greensboro St. to determine if high-visibility options are warranted for one or more of them. In response to the TAB's and Police Department's pedestrian safety examination of the N. Greensboro corridor, NCDOT has provided a preliminary recommendation that high-visibility enhancements such as a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) may be possible, but the Town would be responsible for conducting the feasibility study required to prove they are warranted. If funding allows, the feasibility study could be included in this planning process. More information on N. Greensboro St. crosswalk safety is available at: [http://townofcarrboro.org/BoA/Agendas/2010/06\\_01\\_2010.htm](http://townofcarrboro.org/BoA/Agendas/2010/06_01_2010.htm) (item C2).

In summary, the additional funding would allow the Town to complete not only the previously-budgeted Old Carrboro traffic circulation study but also additional planning goals. The components are proposed to include:

- Old Carrboro Traffic Circulation Study
  - One or more facilitated meeting(s)
  - Survey
  - Traffic, bicycle, and pedestrian data collection
  - Drafting of the study
- W. Main St. traffic operations
  - Traffic, bicycle, and pedestrian data collection
  - Safety research
  - Pavement marking plan (if needed)
  - Preparation of memo
- Weaver St. Reconstruction traffic impact (as funds allow)
  - Traffic data collection
- N. Greensboro crosswalk safety (as funds allow)
  - Traffic and pedestrian data collection
  - Application to FHWA for use of RRFB (if necessary)

## **FISCAL AND STAFF IMPACT**

The resolution approves of the use of \$5,000 already budgeted as a 20% local match for additive federal planning (UPWP) funds made available due to a restoration of previously rescinded funds. Therefore no additional local funds are required to be allocated. The budgeted amount is proposed to serve as leverage for the federal UPWP allocation of \$20,000 (80%) in order to accomplish additional downtown transportation planning goals.

Some staff time will be necessary to manage and contribute to the study. Consultant selection would be managed by MPO staff in accordance with MPO procedures.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommend that the Board adopt the resolution in *Attachment A*.