

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. C(6)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: September 6, 2011

TITLE: Town Code Amendment Related to Certain Left Turn Movement Restrictions and Bikeways

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING	PUBLIC HEARING: YES __ NO _ X _
ATTACHMENTS: A. Town Code amendment B. Sections 6-8 and 6-34 of the Town Code C. Map	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeff Brubaker – 918-7329

PURPOSE

The Board is asked to consider an amendment to Chapter 6 of the Town Code to remove certain left turn prohibitions and modify the list of established bikeways to reflect improvements to Weaver Street.

INFORMATION

Left turns at Main-Weaver-Roberson intersection

Sec. 6-8(b)(2) of the Town Code prohibits left turns from the Carr Mill Mall driveway onto E. Main St. and from Roberson St. onto E. Main St. These turning movements are frequently made at this intersection. A recent (March 2011) traffic impact analysis (TIA), conducted for a development application, found 40 left turns from Carr Mill Mall onto E. Main St. in the AM peak (7:00 to 9:00 AM) and 107 in the PM peak (4:00 to 6:00 PM). This represented over half of all turning movements from the Carr Mill Mall driveway. The TIA found smaller, but still existent, left turns from Roberson St. onto E. Main St.: 2 in the AM peak and 9 in the PM peak. These turning movements provide for business and-or residential access and egress.

The intersection currently features high-visibility (ladder-style) crosswalks across the westbound, eastbound, and northbound approaches, along with pedestrian-activated pedestrian signals. The aforementioned left-turn prohibitions are not promulgated with signs. The recommendation of the staff-level Traffic and Parking Committee is that these left-turn prohibitions should be removed from the Town Code.

Weaver Street Bikeways

As of this time, Weaver Street Reconstruction Phase 1 (E. Weaver St.) is complete and re-opened to motor vehicle traffic. Shared lane markings (“sharrows”) have been added to this segment, per the recommended interim treatment in the Carrboro Bike Plan. Pavement marking plans for W. Weaver St. show a widening of the existing bike lanes from 4 ft. to 5 ft.

Town Code Sec. 6-34 establishes bikeways and stipulates bike lane width. The attached draft ordinance amends 6-34 to reflect the bikeway improvements that have been made, or are being made, as part of the reconstruction project.

FISCAL AND STAFF IMPACT

There is minimal fiscal or staff impact related to the left-turn prohibition amendment. Pavement markings delineating bikeways on Weaver St. (shared lane markings on E. Weaver St. and bike lanes on W. Weaver St.) are included in the Weaver Street Reconstruction budget.

RECOMMENDATION

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