

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO.C(4)

MEETING DATE: May 1, 2012

TITLE: Request to Set a Public Hearing on the Safe Routes to School Action Plan

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| DEPARTMENT: Planning | PUBLIC HEARING: YES ___NO__X__ |
| ATTACHMENTS: A. Resolution | FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeff Brubaker, Transportation Planner – 918-7329 |

PURPOSE

The Board is asked to set a public hearing on the draft Safe Routes to School Action Plan, which offers recommendations on improving the safety and convenience of walking and cycling to school in Carrboro.

INFORMATION

Background

In 2009, the Town received a service award from NCDOT to craft a Safe Routes to School Action Plan. The plan outlines infrastructure improvements, programs and activities, enforcement strategies, and educational efforts that serve to improve options for walking and cycling to school. Funding was provided by the grant award directly to a consulting team, who developed the plan and offered technical assistance. The two participating schools are Carrboro and McDougle Elementary Schools.

Participants

The Action Plan was prepared by consultants Greenways Inc. and Greene Transportation Solutions. The Action Plan Team – a steering committee composed of school principals, teachers, parents, the CHCCS transportation department, the Carrboro Transportation Advisory Board, as well as Town staff (Police, Fire, Planning, Recreation and Parks, Public Works) – guided plan development and made comments at public meetings.

Public participation

The following dates provided opportunities for the participants and interested community members to offer input.

- December 7, 2009: Action Plan Team Kickoff Meeting at Town Hall
- Spring 2010: Consultant site visits to schools
- May 3, 2010: Public Open House @ Carrboro Elementary
- June 1-2: Student travel tallies and parent surveys

- June 15, 2010: Board of Aldermen receives update on SRTS programs
- September 21-23: Student travel tallies and parent surveys
- October 11, 2010: Action Plan Review Meeting @ McDougale Elementary
- October 30, 2010: Map of recommendations @ McDougale Elementary Fall Festival

Input was also received at other times via email and phone.

Report to the Board of Aldermen

On February 15, 2011, the Board of Aldermen received a report from the consulting team describing the plan and its findings and recommendations. The Board adopted a resolution directing that the plan be shared with the CHCCS Board of Education, the two schools' PTAs, and school administrators; that staff continue to work with the schools and PTAs to further Safe Routes to School education; and that the plan be posted on the Town website.

The draft Action Plan is available at the following link:
<http://www.townofcarrboro.org/pzi/Trans/transportation.htm>.

Presentations to CHCCS Board of Education and PTAs

The following presentations of the draft Action Plan were made, or will be made, by Town staff:

- February 7, 2012 – McDougale Elementary PTA
- April 19, 2012 – CHCCS Board of Education
- TBD – Carrboro Elementary PTA

FISCAL AND STAFF IMPACT

About ten hours of staff time would be needed to prepare the information for advisory board review and the public hearing.

RECOMMENDATION

The Board is asked to set a public hearing on the draft Action Plan for Tuesday, May 22, and refer the plan to the Planning Board and Transportation Advisory Board.