

# BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. D(7)

## AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: June 5, 2012

**TITLE: Follow-up Information on a Concept for Safety Improvements in the Jones Ferry Road Corridor**

<b>DEPARTMENT: Planning</b>	<b>PUBLIC HEARING: NO</b>
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. Resolutions</li><li>B. Map of vicinity</li><li>C. Memo</li><li>D. TAB recommendation – May 3, 2012</li><li>E. Comments provided by Anissa McLendon</li></ul>	<b>FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:</b> Jeff Brubaker – 918-7329 Dawn McPherson, NCDOT Div. 7 – (336) 256-0551

### PURPOSE

On March 27, 2012, the Board of Aldermen held a public hearing on a concept plan for safety improvements in the Jones Ferry Road corridor. The Board posed several questions for follow up at a subsequent meeting. The Transportation Advisory Board reviewed the plan on April 19 and May 3. This agenda item addresses the questions asked by Board members, recommendations by the TAB, and subsequent questions asked by citizens. A TAB recommendation is included in *Attachment D*.

### INFORMATION

Agenda materials from the March 27, 2012, public hearing are available at the following link: [http://townofcarrboro.org/BoA/Agendas/2012/03\\_27\\_2012.htm](http://townofcarrboro.org/BoA/Agendas/2012/03_27_2012.htm) (Item D2). The abstract from that meeting includes a summary of the plan, which is not repeated in its entirety here.

A vicinity map is provided in *Attachment B*.

Responses to the follow-up questions and additional information are provided in the memo in *Attachment C*.

The project would use state-level Spot Safety funding for implementation and be managed by NCDOT. However, with any transportation project, even if managed and funded at the State level, there is inevitably some local staff time involved in assisting with project implementation, communication, and ensuring that the project meets the interests of the Town.

Due to the crash history in this corridor, NCDOT's Triad Regional Traffic Engineer is proposing to request State Spot Safety funding to implement the plan. This funding is part of the North Carolina Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). A background is provided by the Transportation Mobility and Safety Division website:

The Spot Safety Program is used to develop smaller improvement projects to address safety, potential safety, and operational issues. The program is funded with state funds and currently receives approximately \$9 million per state fiscal year. Other monetary sources (such as Small Construction or Contingency funds) can assist in funding Spot Safety projects, however, the maximum allowable contribution of Spot Safety funds per project is \$250,000. A Safety Oversight Committee (SOC) reviews and recommends Spot Safety projects to the Board of Transportation (BOT) for approval and funding. Criteria used by the SOC to select projects for recommendation to the BOT include, but are not limited to, the frequency of correctable crashes, severity of crashes, delay, congestion, number of signal warrants met, effect on pedestrians and schools, division and region priorities, and public interest.

The link to the web page is: <http://www.ncdot.org/doh/preconstruct/traffic/safety/programs/>.

Examples of recent and current Spot Safety projects in Orange County and statewide are listed at the following link:

[http://www.ncdot.gov/doh/preconstruct/traffic/safety/programs/data/Spot\\_Safety.pdf](http://www.ncdot.gov/doh/preconstruct/traffic/safety/programs/data/Spot_Safety.pdf).

### **FISCAL AND STAFF IMPACT**

NCDOT has indicated a preference to submit a Spot Safety application in June 2012. Although the concept plan shows sidewalks on the north side of Jones Ferry Rd., NCDOT has stated that the sidewalk installation would be the responsibility of the Town. Since NCDOT has indicated that the sidewalk installation is not a necessary condition of the project, if the Town did not wish to pursue a sidewalk at this time, the rest of the project could still go forward. Assuming a unit cost range of \$150 to \$250 per linear foot of sidewalk, it would cost between \$57,000 and \$95,000 for design, construction, and administration to extend the sidewalk on the north side of Jones Ferry Rd. eastward from its current terminus at Alabama Ave. 380 linear feet to Davie Rd., where it could be connected via a crosswalk to the expected Davie Rd. sidewalk (bond) project. Right-of-way may have to be obtained from the gas station property, as Town GIS records show that the gas station property line extends to the curb.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommend that the Board of Aldermen adopt the resolution in *Attachment A-1* endorsing the plan and recommending that NCDOT move forward with a Spot Safety funding application, subject to additional suggestions the Board may wish to make.

*Attachment A-2* does not endorse the plan or recommend funding application and allows the Board to take a different course of action with respect to the plan.