

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN**

ITEM NO. C(2)

**AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT**

**MEETING DATE: January 22, 2013**

**TITLE: Impact on Downtown Traffic Level of Service of Closing Weaver Street to Automobile Traffic for an Event**

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

**PURPOSE**

At its March 13, 2012 meeting, the Board of Aldermen requested information regarding the potential impact of closing Weaver Street to vehicular traffic for an Open Streets Day, or ciclovia-type event on a weekend day. This item provides the information.

**INFORMATION**

The memo, included as *Attachment B*, provides a detailed analysis of how traffic on Weaver St. and Main St. changed during various phases of the Weaver Street Reconstruction project as well as during a special event, the Carrboro Music Festival. This analysis helps to provide context to estimate how traffic may change if an Open Streets Day, such as the event planned for April 2013, is held.

The memo finds that a well-planned Open Streets Day could likely be held on a weekend day on Weaver St. without causing traffic congestion on Main St. Even if slight congestion results, this should be weighed against the potential benefits of the event, such as physical activity and public health, decreased air pollution, economic opportunity and increased business in stores, and greater social interaction among community members. The memo offers suggestions, based on the findings, of how to lessen the likelihood that congestion would occur.

Staff recommend that the Board take the memo into consideration during the January 29, 2013, public hearing scheduled for the street closing application for the planned Open Streets Day.

**FISCAL AND STAFF IMPACT**

No fiscal or staff impacts accrue from receiving the report.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Board of Aldermen adopt the resolution in *Attachment A* receiving the report.