

11-07-2018 Town Council Meeting Responses

ITEM #9: Consider a Resolution to Support the NCDOT Improvement Project at the W. Franklin St./E. Main St./Merritt Mill Rd./Brewer Ln. Intersection

Council Question: Could we ask the NCDOT folks to provide us with a fuller description of the signage and signal changes they are proposing at the meeting?

NCDOT Response: *Signage* – NCDOT has installed wayfinding signs, and the Town will provide street name signs on the signal spanwire. *Signal* – NCDOT will provide pedestrian signal heads and push buttons for all pedestrian crossings.

Council Question: Where and from whom would the property be acquired, for the right-of-way? Would it be a Chapel Hill property owner?

NCDOT Response: *NCDOT is expecting minor right-of-way takes from Carolina Car Wash and the church, and a construction easement from Al's Garage (all in Carrboro). The amount of property acquired may change based on final design.*

Council Question: What would the width and length of the island between Merritt Mill and Graham Street be?

NCDOT Response: *The width would range from 12 to 20 feet, and the length would be about 170 feet.*

Council Question: What are the referenced completed proposed improvements on p. 152?

NCDOT Response: *The referenced improvements are wayfinding signs to downtown Carrboro and Chapel Hill, which have been fabricated and installed.*

Council Question: Around when would the public meeting, referenced on p. 152, be?

NCDOT Response: *The November 7th, 2018 Town of Chapel Hill Council Business Meeting and a future Town of Carrboro Board of Alderman Meeting. NCDOT will also contact each affected property owner as part of right of way negotiations.*

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Council Question: What is the rationale for removing left-turn lanes between Merritt Mill and Graham?

Staff Response: *This was agreed upon by Town staff and officials and NCDOT for several reasons:*

- 1) *To accommodate possible future plans for a road diet to narrow the road on W. Franklin Street.*
- 2) *To provide space for a refuge for pedestrians who need it to cross the street (though the signal timing should accommodate crossing needs).*
- 3) *Because left-turning traffic volumes are minimal at those locations.*

Council Question: Why the need for an island between Merritt Mill and Graham? It is not a wide street, and the speed limit is only 20 mph.

Staff Response: *This was requested by Town staff and officials for the reasons stated above. In addition, there was interest in having an opportunity for landscaping as part of the project.*

Council Question: How many cars tend to stack for left turns in that block at present?

Staff Response: *2-3 in the peak hour.*

Council Question: Will there be an arrow for left turns in that block? Will it cycle green or be flashing yellow only?

NCDOT Response: *Final signal design is underway, and a decision about signal timing/phasing will be made in conjunction with Town staff.*