

ITEM #11: Town Code Amendment, Chapter 21: Restrict Left Turns from North Street into the Rosemary Parking Deck**Council Question:**

Will this ordinance change be accompanied by any changes to North Street (bollards, etc.) to physically prevent turns? Mr. Patterson has sent materials saying that this was promised to him in the past – if this has changed, can you tell us why?

Staff Response:

Mr. Patterson contends that a specific agreement was forged with the Town regarding ingress and egress at the Rosemary Street Parking Deck to protect North Street residents from traffic impacts. This is not the case. While it was agreed to that the Town would take proactive measures, Manager Blue specifically reserved the right to adjust the traffic control measures based on the results of a pilot installation of bollards at the exit.

The examples of installed bollards that Mr. Patterson proposes conflict with Town engineering practice that continuous centerline bollards on narrow two-way streets can impede police/fire response, trash/recycling operations, and general access, so the Town has not recommended permanent centerline bollards in those contexts. Town guidance informs how and where bollards are deployed favoring crosswalk gateways, edge delineation, or context-specific channelization over mid-block centerline installations.

Bollards installed about Town create driver awareness, potentially slow vehicles, and seek to guide motorists to avoid cutting corners at higher speeds where they may encroach into pedestrian or bicycle lanes. They also intend to prevent aggressive lane changes in these pedestrian areas. They are not installed to prevent turning movements into driveways or side streets, which is what Mr. Patterson seeks to do.

Proceeding with the adoption of the ordinance amendment and installation of the appropriate regulatory sign will make the turning movement Mr. Patterson seeks to restrict unlawful, and therefore enforceable by Chapel Hill Police Department. The Town agreed to work on this issue and seek to restrict this movement in a way that was acceptable to the Town. We are doing that. Note that the installation of bollards as proposed by Mr. Patterson does not in and of itself make the turning movement unlawful. The installation of a regulatory sign with the supporting ordinance, does.