



## Race and Equity Pocket Questions

Title: 2026 Street Resurfacing Contract

Purpose: Awarding the contract for maintenance of pavement on Town streets to the end of upholding safety and ease of use for road users

Department: Public Works

- 1. What are the root causes of inequity in Carrboro and/or overall as it pertains to this subject area?**

Neighborhoods and streets in need of improvements may be associated with characteristics like “distressed” or “unsafe,” often compounding the issues arising from lack of maintenance by deterring investments in these locations—this issue has historically affected communities of color disproportionately. Communities of color have fared poorly in decisions relating to transportation improvements and dedicated funding sources have been used to enhance predominately white neighborhoods while communities of color remain without up-to-date infrastructure and safe streets.

- 2. Who is experiencing community burden now? Who will experience community burden if this action is passed? Will others experience community burden if this action is NOT passed?**

Those who rely on streets that are in poor condition or are subpar in terms of safety or accessibility due to insufficient infrastructure are currently burdened. Approving this contract will temporarily burden those who use the streets encompassed in the scope of this project due to the traffic and parking restrictions and noise associated with resurfacing activities. If this action is not passed, although it may not be felt immediately, those who rely on the streets included in the project would be burdened increasingly over time as the pavement quality continues to deteriorate. Pedestrians who navigate the intersection of S Greensboro St and Roberson St, particularly those with limited mobility, would be burdened by the continued absence of crosswalks at this location.

- 3. Who is experiencing community benefit now? Who will experience community benefit if this action is passed? Will others experience community benefit if this action is NOT passed?**



Everyone who lives, works, and otherwise spends time in Carrboro benefits from a pavement maintenance program that regularly addresses deficiencies in the Town's streets and implements infrastructure upgrades in conjunction with maintenance activities. This round of street resurfacing would benefit primarily those who live on or near the streets included in the project due to their residential nature but the patching and microsurfacing of Laurel Ave in particular would benefit many people who use that street to travel into and out of downtown Carrboro.

**4. What might be the unintended consequences of this action or strategy?**

In some cases, repaving streets can increase travel speeds, reducing safety, or increase traffic volumes as a result of drivers preferentially driving on streets with a superior ride quality.

**5. What steps has your department taken to mitigate any burdens, inequities, and unintended consequences? What strategies might your department take to address these in the future? NOTE: This does not reflect a formal commitment by the Town of Carrboro.**

Resurfacing activities are limited to 9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. to minimize impact on commuters and residents will be notified in advance of any disruptions to on-street parking. With regard to the potential for higher vehicle speeds, most of the streets included in this project have roadway geometry that is unfavorable to speeding; Berryhill Dr, the street with the widest cross-section, will be effectively narrowed by the widening of the bicycle lanes from 4 to 5 feet, and the addition of high-visibility marked crosswalks will further increase the safety of pedestrians using the street.