

Climate Action Pocket Questions

Title: Reimagining East Weaver Street - Update

Purpose: *The purpose of this item is to provide a follow-up to the June meeting that discussed capacity study results and potential changes to East Weaver Street that would reduce or eliminate vehicle traffic, thereby creating a pedestrian-priority space or pedestrian plaza.*

Department: Planning

1. How will this action impact the Town's or the community's greenhouse gas emissions?

- a. Will REDUCE greenhouse gas emissions
- b. Will not reduce or increase greenhouse gas emissions
- c. Will INCREASE greenhouse gas emissions
- d. Not applicable

2. Please explain.

- Improved safety for pedestrians and bicyclists will incentivize those who live close by and/or are able-bodied to choose alternate travel modes, reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Increased idling times due to congestion may increase greenhouse gas emissions
- Visitors and residents who choose to or must drive may choose destinations other than downtown Carrboro because of changes in access to businesses as well as increased delays and queueing, increasing vehicle miles traveled.

3. Does this action impact:

- a. Water quality
- b. Erosion and Surface run-off
- c. Flooding
- d. Air quality
- e. Heat islands or extreme heat
- f. Biodiversity
- g. Solid waste
- h. Hazardous waste
- i. Other
- j. This action does not impact the environment

4. Please explain.

- Conversion of the street to a pedestrian- and bike-only space will improve air quality at the mid-block of East Weaver Street.
- The capacity study suggests that traffic will move to Greensboro Street and Main Street, increasing idling times and lines of cars which will impact air quality and pedestrian and cycling experience negatively on those blocks.
- The conversion of the street allows for future investments on the block that provide environmental benefits (like heat island effect reduction, stormwater capture, increasing biodiversity, etcetera); the considerations for these improvements as well as associated costs are not part of this item.

5. How is your department planning to mitigate any climate or environmental impacts?

NOTE: This does not reflect a formal commitment by the Town of Carrboro.

- Work collaboratively to implement the consultant recommended strategies to implement the recommended strategies that reduce the impacts on the natural and built environment
 - Departments include the Manager's Office, Economic Development, Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Resources, Fire, Police, Public Works, and Planning.