



Race and Equity Pocket Questions

Title: Consent Item Project #81004 Construction Contract Authorization

Purpose: *The Town Council is asked to adopt the resolution authorizing the Town Manager to enter into a construction contract for drainage improvements along Fidelity Street and the addition of a bioretention cell next to Fire Station #1.*

Department: Stormwater Utility / Public Works

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

Root causes of inequity affecting BIPOC and marginalized communities regarding stormwater infrastructure include historic disinvestment in certain neighborhoods, inequitable infrastructure maintenance, disproportional environmental burdens, and administrative practices that prevented equal access to a healthy environment for all people.

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?

Current Burden:

Residents within the Cape Fear River Basin that rely on water and sanitation services, as well as those impacted through recreational activities. Industries within the basin with a direct, indirect, and induced effect given a relationship to water quantity and or quality.

Passed Burden:

If the action is passed temporary burdens may be experienced by residents and local traffic users during the off-season construction. This may include short-term disruptions such as noise, dust, water service, access limitations, or temporary rerouting of pedestrian or vehicle traffic. Additionally, the Fire Department may experience minor adjustments which we are in communication with them about.



Not Passed Burden:

The entire community, particularly those who live, work, or travel on Fidelity Street or visit Town Commons, that are currently experiencing a burden due to poor subgrade conditions and unimproved municipal infrastructure.

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?

Current Benefit:

Town staff have traditionally used the space for training and operational needs. We have worked to preserve space for the Fire's planned training exercises.

Passed Benefit:

If the action is passed, downstream communities and the natural environment will benefit through improved water quality, reduced pollutant loads, and compliance with MS4 permit requirements.

Not Passed Benefit:

If the resolution is not passed, it is unlikely this issue will significantly benefit a particular group.

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

There is the possibility that improvements could increase nearby property values, indirectly contributing to gentrification or affordability challenges. Additionally, without continued maintenance, long-term performance of the bioretention system could decline, limiting intended benefits.

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.*

The Stormwater Utility will include monitoring and maintenance of the bioretention system to sustain long-term performance. We plan to include a bench and plan to add an additional interpretative sign that addresses the engineering and ecological science occurring at the site.