



## Climate Action Pocket Questions

Title: Consideration of NCDOT Ordinance and subsequent Carrboro Town Code Amendment to Codify the Speed Limit of Homestead Road to 35 MPH

Purpose: NCDOT has requested Town approval of an ordinance to repeal the 45 mile per hour speed limit for a short section of Homestead Road, near Stratford Drive. This would be the first step in the process to codify a 35 mile per hour speed limit for the entire Homestead Road corridor. Changing the speed limit for a state-maintained road involves the approval of an NCDOT ordinance. A resolution concurring with NCDOT's ordinance to repeal the 45 MPH segment, and an amendment to repeal the 45 MPH segment in the Town Code have been provided.

Department: Planning, Zoning, and Inspections

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

**Please explain.**

The purpose of the agenda item is for the Town Council to consider an ordinance that will lower the speed limit for Homestead Road. An arterial street in the Town's network, Homestead Road carries high volumes of traffic (approximately annual average daily trips (AADT) of 5000-7000 depending on the location of the counts. Lowering speed limits may yield GHG reduction and fuel savings.

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.**

The Town is also seeking to implement a new street cross section design as part of NCDOT's resurfacing project anticipated to occur this summer. A separate but related project, the new pavement marking plan is intended to support the lower speed limit by reducing the width of vehicle travel lanes. The proposal, however, is likely to recommend increasing the width of the shoulder in some areas, with more asphalt—to create safer areas for bicycles. This would potentially create a minor increase in surface run-off and/or heat island effect.

**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.**

The Town will continue to pursue infrastructure improvements to Homestead Road to make the street safer for cycling. While this may involve more asphalt, it should, over time, increase the number of cyclists who feel comfortable using Homestead Road and therefore reduce the number of single occupancy vehicles (SOV).