



301 W. Main St.
Town Hall
Carrboro, NC 27510

**Town of Carrboro
Meeting Minutes – Work Session
Town Council**

September 12, 2023

7:00 PM

Council Chambers - Room 110

Present: Mayor Damon Seils, Council Member Susan Romaine, Council Member Barbara Foushee, Council Member Randee Haven-O’Donnell, Council Member Eliazar Posada, Council Member Danny Nowell, Council Member Sammy Slade

Also Present: Richard White, Town Manager; Wesley Barker, Town Clerk; Brady Herman, Town Attorney

CONNECTOR ROADS POLICY WORK SESSION

The purpose of this Work Session is to provide the Town Council with the opportunity to discuss street connectivity and the Town’s Connector Roads Policy.

Trish McGuire, Town Planning Director, gave a presentation to the Town Council. Presentation included information on bollards.

Council Member Slade spoke on feedback given to staff on March 10, 2020. Spoke on Bollards. Requesting revisiting feedback given to staff from Council at that meeting and follow up.

Mayor Seils asked a question to Town Attorney on quasi-judicial matters and context and how to handle and receive clarity for future references.

Council Member Romaine asked to engage the Transportation Advisory Board on input and revisiting this policy periodically. Suggests Fire Code language be included in the Connector Roads policy. Should language be included in the policy for new developments to have traffic calming measures installed by the developer, to include “complete streets” with bike lanes. Chapel Hill’s new connector roads policy that makes streets as safe as possible and disperses traffic as much as possible. Will their policy help inform Carrboro on best practices.

42 Trish McGuire, Town Planning Director, said she thinks it's possible and the current town policy
43 is based on the results of a study the Town completed years ago. It is worth looking back at the
44 Town's standards and see if there are best practices that Chapel Hill has implemented.

45
46 Council Member Romaine would like to try to avoid piecemealing policies and procedures as
47 developments happen in order to have these in place when developers come to the Town and
48 they know what to expect. Spoke on more "Carrboro open streets" opportunities to create more
49 walkability and bike ability for residents.

50
51 Council Member Haven-O'Donnell agrees with the policy, but Carrboro is a town of
52 neighborhoods and each one has its own personality, so over time Town Council has made
53 decisions based on this fact.

54
55 Council Member Nowell discussed the need for imminent policy on the bollards. There is an
56 inconsistency in Council to address the poorer neighborhoods as much as the wealthy
57 neighborhoods. People from the wealthier neighborhoods voice their opinions more so they get
58 more attention than the poor neighborhoods. The policies need to be held and put into effect
59 across the entire town and not just to the wealthier neighborhoods. The goal for Northern
60 Carrboro has been to increase its density, but the Town isn't implementing its own plans because
61 the wealthier neighborhoods have impacted the plan. Chapel Hill's traffic calming plan is a great
62 guideline to look at.

63
64 Council Member Foushee feels the council should get clearer on how to follow the policy more
65 succinctly. What role does topography play in these decisions with Connector Road Policy?

66
67 Trish McGuire, Town Planning Director, responded that there is no current decision on not to
68 connect based on topography. Lots of little lots have been developed over time and has caused
69 some impacts on connected roads.

70
71 Council Member Posada said we should keep the policy concise and simple so developers can
72 follow it. Spoke on bollards and how to go forward with them. How policy would impact quasi-
73 judicial roles. Really wants council to consider equity in these discussions. Wants to make it
74 complete streets and connecting the Town. Wants to ensure with Fire Chief that policies are in
75 line with regulations.

76
77 Council Member Nowell wants to have a procedure to have bollards lifted in neighborhoods by
78 getting a certain percentage of people in the affected area to agree to have them lifted.

79
80 Council Member Romaine discussed bollards and the Town's Connector Roads Policy is very
81 reasonable, but the Council needs to layout the reasons why they have the policy: equity, climate,
82 safety, congestion, complete streets, and community.

83
84 Council Member Haven-O'Donnell reminded the Council that the discussion wasn't supposed to
85 talk about bollards, but the discussion has gone to bollards, so wanted clarity on the topic.

86

87 Mayor Seils restated that the focus of the conversation isn't bollards. A decision shouldn't be
88 made about bollards absent a policy.

89
90 Council Member Nowell would like to see the procedure be initiated by neighbors with a priority
91 with the ones who live close. There is no standing policy on bollards, so the Council owes the
92 Town a policy.

93
94 Council Member Slade would like to see a policy on bollards based on conditions. Decisions
95 were made on conditions, so if conditions change, then the decision should change.

96
97 Mayor Seils agreed with conditions based. Roll up on issues are: interest in clarity and process;
98 Transportation Advisory Board engagement; having some clarity in policy on when there are and
99 are not going to be exceptions or flexibility and if exceptions or flexibility, why; if those
100 exceptions change down the road, does that trigger something else; where would flexibility move
101 the Council to make a decision; fold state fire code into policy; Holly Springs on traffic calming
102 when connecting streets and new Chapel Hill policy on examples; not all parts of town are
103 planned out in a grid format and presents problems on connectivity; some connections where
104 bollards were installed in neighborhoods and that this may not change by neighborhoods; about
105 the network of streets and how it functions as a network; how and when the policy is applied and
106 followed; would like to hear from attorney on quasi-judicial rules with connectivity, what
107 evidence can be considered; rational behind why the policy is in place (equity, climate, complete
108 streets) so the bar should be set high.

109
110 Council Member Foushee asked for a review by race equity on any revision of policy before
111 presented to Council.

112
113 Mayor Siels told the Town Manager that he wants Staff to provide feedback from tonight's
114 suggestions by Council and then Council will agree before proceeding to take any votes on
115 revisions.

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119 **TRAFFIC CALMING WORK SESSION**

120
121 The purpose of this Work Session is to provide an opportunity for the Town Council to discuss
122 the residential traffic calming process and how it might be simplified.

123
124 Trish McGuire, Town Planning Director, gave a presentation to Council on this item which
125 included purposes of traffic calming, the existing process of regulations and policies (Residential
126 Traffic Management Plan), Land Use Ordinance, and the State Fire Code.

127
128 Some considerations include removal of petition for traffic calming; establish request for quick
129 response to patrol/counts; discontinue Residential Traffic Management Plan (RTMP) and
130 develop systematic program, which would be more proactive and not reactive; guide evaluation
131 of street standards.

132

133 Mayor Seils discussed with Trish McGuire about how the Town's policy has gone since
134 implementation and if there is any need to look at the process to apply it. Noted that Chapel Hill
135 has adopted a Vision Zero goal and asked Trish McGuire about the details and how the Town
136 could do the same.

137
138 Council Member Romaine spoke on petition process and how it is cumbersome to obtain
139 signatures. Suggested that if traffic calming was identified for a neighborhood, the petition
140 would not be needed to expedite the process. Spoke on speed limits in all Carrboro
141 neighborhoods, suggested more speed limit signs, 20 mph in all neighborhoods to see
142 consistency and police patrolling.

143
144 Council Member Posada asked what the timeframe was once a petition is completed and
145 submitted to implementation (e.g. speed bump). Town (PZI) Staff will find out and stated it is
146 based on time of year and type of need. Recommended to have community conversations around
147 this and engagements.

148
149 Mayor Seils talked about the traffic calming policy and flow chart of process of traffic calming
150 to be available on the website. Wants to highlight the high-level view of the problem areas.

151
152 Council Member Nowell stated the need for funding plan for next 5 years and a funding
153 mechanism to address these issues. Street safety and connectivity should be a core function of
154 the Council.

155
156 Mayor Seils referenced Holly Springs rule on traffic calming measures be installed with new
157 construction and the developer pays for it.

158
159 Council Member Haven-O'Donnell asked what Town Staff recommends as far as speed calming
160 devices based on trouble spots. Agrees new developments should have traffic calming solutions
161 as part of their plan and have consistency on speed limits throughout town. Place on website a
162 map of where the traffic calming measures are in place in town.

163
164 Council Member Foushee spoke in favor of systemic, holistic approach to process and
165 community education on processes. If Carrboro Connects recommends update to plan, then
166 explore it. Community voices elevated more in process as they see every day in their
167 neighborhood.

168
169 Council Member Slade spoke on transportation planner needs and getting the position filled.

170
171 Council Member Nowell would like to see a concrete proposal on Vision Zero and what would
172 be entailed for Carrboro to be a certified Vision Zero community. Would like to see updated
173 ordinance to address this.

174
175 Mayor Seils would like to see Council separate from bulk of the traffic calming needs
176 individually. Likes lower speed limit throughout town, but it needs to be posted and enforced.
177 Noted staff capacity issues. Spoke on implementing the bike plan and other projects in pipeline
178 that would help with traffic calming measures. Interest in learning about Carrboro becoming a

179 Vision Zero community. Include traffic calming flow chart on website. Chapel Hill's traffic
180 calming policy and what inspiration can be drawn from that for Carrboro.

181
182 Council Member Romaine spoke in favor of removing the petition, and/or using digital
183 signatures and easier way for people to sign on to these petitions. Also, the area of influence
184 standards be reduced for petition needs. Spoke on crosswalk needs and ease of obtaining on town
185 streets if requested.

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189 **ADJOURNMENT**

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191 **A motion was made by Council Member Foushee, seconded by Council Member Posada to**
192 **adjourn the meeting.**

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194 **The motion carried unanimously.**

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