

Summary of, and staff response to, Board of Aldermen comments on the November 12, 2013, agenda item, Update on the Process for Developing a Town Parking Plan

Comments (paraphrased)

There needs to be an unbiased consultant and public forum.

- Staff response: The goal of including speakers from a range of perspectives in a public forum can be included in the RFP and discussed with the selected consultant in conjunction with the development of the proposed public involvement plan. The RFP submitting teams can be assessed in part on their experience with towns similar to Carrboro and their approach to developing recommendations given the analysis.

Prefer a consulting firm that has worked with towns of similar sizes and transit options as Carrboro.

- Staff response: See above.

Consultant should be able to integrate parking planning with bicycle planning.

- Staff response: This point can be discussed with the contracted consulting team. The proposed scope includes the development of bike parking recommendations as necessary.

Parking plan should include residents who would like to visit downtown and ride a bike to destinations after they arrive downtown.

- Staff response: Parking plan scope proposes a survey of a sample of residents representing all areas of town. Invitations to public events will be made publicly available. The desire to park downtown and ride a bike to various destinations may be best addressed by a bike sharing or bike rental program, were one to be started.

Take into account need to ensure northern neighborhoods' access to downtown with sufficient parking while also considering strategies to reduce car use.

- Staff response: Specific parking-related goals are expected to be developed as part of the parking planning process, taking into account feedback from the public.

Not interested in valet parking.

- Staff response: Valet parking could be removed as a possible option to be explored by the parking planning process, although some businesses may be interested in it.

One of the issues is the cost of the plan; the Board will need to have a discussion about this.

- Staff response: Town staff have made a request for the MPO to consider allocating planning-related funding to cover some of the cost of the plan. MPO staff support the request in concept; however, funding would likely be confirmed via the development of the FY15 Unified Planning Work Program, which provides opportunities for MPO member jurisdictions to request funds,

over and above routine planning allocations, for special projects, provided they identify the non-federal match.

Would like to confirm that an analysis of parking requirements in the Land Use Ordinance will take place as part of the plan.

- Staff response: This is expected to be included in the scope of the contract.

Note that the number of households without a vehicle in Carrboro has gone up.

- Staff response: Data on household vehicle ownership can be presented as background data in the RFP.

Would like to see projections for parking needs and supply over the next year or two.

- Staff response: Parking need projections are common elements of parking plans, and this can be included in the RFP.

Would like to see different models of shared parking in municipalities of different sizes.

- Staff response: This can be included in the RFP.

The Town should highlight the businesses who are sharing parking.

- Staff response: More detail would be needed on how this should be done. The January 31, 2014, Parking Summit provided an opportunity for businesses to discuss shared parking.

Discussion of the Town's goals with respect to parking, and when it is most appropriate to set goals on parking.

- Staff response: It is expected that goal-setting will take place during the planning process.