



## TOWN OF CARRBORO

NORTH CAROLINA

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**DATE:** February 21, 2017

**TO:** David Andrews, Town Manager  
Mayor and Board of Aldermen

**FROM:** Bergen Watterson, Transportation Planner

**RE:** Colorful Crosswalks

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Colorful crosswalks are becoming popular among municipalities that want to use artwork to make their pedestrian crossings more visible. Rainbow designs are popular among municipalities that want to show support for their LGBTQ populations, while other jurisdictions are using unique designs created by their residents. The Town of Chapel Hill is installing a number of colorful crosswalks around Town that were designed by local artists (below).



Members of the Board of Aldermen discussed the idea of rainbow crosswalks at a meeting with Chapel Hill elected officials and Town staff in July of 2015, and *colorful crosswalks* was placed on the Team Carrboro Work Plan in September 2015. Planning and Public Works staff have researched the options and received a quote from Transpo Industries for installation of a rainbow crosswalk at the E. Weaver Street mid-block crossing using ColorSafe paint, which is guaranteed to have a service life of 6-10 years. This quote was for \$5,800 and does not include traffic control. Public Works has since determined that they can install the same crosswalk using Sherwin Williams paint with glass beads for reflectivity for ~\$600. However, the in-house job is not expected to last as long without needing refreshing; Public Works estimates that with the level of traffic on



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E. Weaver Street that, with two coats of paint, it should last approximately 4-5 years. There are two options for the rainbow crosswalk on E. Weaver Street:







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The first option accentuates the rainbow aspect of the crosswalk, but the second option will be more visible to drivers because of the heavy use of white paint. Upon installation, the first option will have thicker white lines on the outside to make the contrast starker between the pavement and the crosswalk. Public Works staff can install whichever of these crosswalks when they receive the direction.

Since the original discussion there has been interest in a colorful crosswalk across Laurel Ave. from Town Commons to the Town parking lot. Planning and Public Works examined the location and came up with several options:

- 1) In order to install a crosswalk from the sidewalk on the east side of Laurel near the Town-leased parking lot there would need to be curb cuts and ADA ramps on both sides of the street, and a sidewalk on the Town Commons side where the crosswalk would land. This would likely require waiting until the Town Commons upgrade next year.



- 2) The crosswalk(s) can be installed at the intersection of Laurel and W. Weaver St. There are currently curb cuts on all four corners of this intersection, and crosswalks would be reasonable and feasible at three of the four crossings. The crossing from the grassy triangle to the car wash is also an option, though unlikely that many pedestrians would cross at that location. However, having all four crosswalks painted in rainbow colors could serve as traffic calming and alert drivers to the presence of heavy pedestrian activity in the area. Any or all of these crossings would be implementable right away.



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