

RESOLUTION TO NOT SUPPORT THE N.C. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION PROPOSAL TO WIDEN MERRIMON AVENUE TO FIVE LANES AND REQUESTING THE N.C. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION TO COLLABORATE WITH CITY STAFF TO DEVELOP ALTERNATIVES FOR MERRIMON AVENUE AND TO MEET REGULARLY WITH CITY STAFF TO REVIEW ALL OTHER N.C. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS WITHIN ASHEVILLE

WHEREAS, the City adopted a Complete Streets policy in 2012 to incorporate Complete Street philosophy into street and travel way design, and

WHEREAS, crashes and crash injuries and fatalities impact our quality of life and regional economic vitality, and

WHEREAS, Council's Vision 2036 calls for "pedestrian oriented development" that is "harmonized with an integrated transportation system," as calls for "Sidewalks, greenways, and bike facilities get us where we want to go safely and keep us active and healthy," and

WHEREAS, the N.C. Dept. of Transportation (NCDOT) is proposing to improve traffic operations on Merrimon Avenue near WT Weaver Boulevard and Edgemont Road; and

WHEREAS, City staff analysis of NCDOT's plan would not provide sufficient infrastructure for bicycles and pedestrians, and recommend NCDOT develop alternatives for Merrimon Avenue.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THAT:

1. The City Council finds that NCDOT's plan for Merrimon Avenue as proposed does not align with city goals and adopted plans and is not in the best interests of residents; and
2. The City Council requests that NCDOT collaborate with city staff to develop alternatives for Merrimon Avenue that safely accommodate all users and that align with city goals and adopted plans; and
3. The City Council requests NCDOT to partner with and include representatives from the city in the early planning and design stages of every road project in the city of Asheville (such as the Sweeten Creek Road widening project and others) going forward and to set up a regular meetings, at least quarterly, to review the status of all projects in the STIP that are within the city limits of Asheville

Read, approved and adopted this 13th day of February, 2018.

Magdalena Paulson
City Clerk

Edmund G. Miller
Mayor

Approved as to form:

[Signature]
City Attorney