



Date: February 3, 2012

To: Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager

Through: Theodore L. Voorhees, Deputy City Manager

From: Marvin G. Williams, Director of Public Works

Subject: NCDOT Municipal Agreement for Relocation of Utilities on Widening of Alston Avenue at East Lawson Street Project (W-5110)

Executive Summary

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has prepared and adopted plans to widen NC 55 (Alston Avenue) at E. Lawson Street under Project W-5110. The project improvements consist of adding left-turn-only lanes on Alston Avenue at the intersection of Lawson Street near North Carolina Central University. Environmental permits and rights-of-way acquisition have been accomplished by NCDOT. There are existing City water services and a fire hydrant within the project limits, and the City is financially responsible for the cost of relocating its utilities within the NCDOT rights-of-way. Therefore, it is necessary to enter into a project Municipal Agreement for the relocation of the City’s water line utilities.

Recommendation

The Public Works Department recommends that the City Council:

1. Authorize the City Manager to execute the Alston Avenue (Project W-5110) Municipal Agreement with the N. C. Department of Transportation at an estimated cost of \$38,000.00; and
2. Authorize the expenditure of \$38,000.00 from the Water Extensions and Improvements Account (and establish a contingency fund in the amount of \$7,600.00) for the water utility relocation cost.

Background

NCDOT project W-5110 includes plans to widen NC 55 (Alston Avenue) at Lawson Street to provide separate left turn lanes for the northbound and southbound movements on Alston Avenue. This will improve intersection capacity and safety. The addition of the left-turn lanes has been identified in the Department of Transportation’s Safety Program as a means to reduce accidents at this location. The NCDOT is scheduled to bid the project for construction in March, 2012.

Issues/Analysis

This project is a NCDOT project involving the widening of NC 55 (Alston Avenue) at Lawson Street. The widening of this intersection will require the existing fire hydrant and water services to be relocated; therefore, the City must reimburse NCDOT for this fire hydrant and water service relocation once the project has been completed.

Alternatives

As an alternative to the Municipal Agreement, the City could prepare plans and bid a separate contract to relocate the utilities in advance of the construction. This has been done in the past and results in a higher frequency of lines being damaged, and routine roadway changes result in the water lines being relocated a second time. This translates to a higher cost to the City in addition to more inconvenience to water customers and the motoring public. Furthermore, the NCDOT is moving the project forward expeditiously and separately contracting the utility work would cause a delay for the NCDOT project. Having one contractor responsible for all of the work saves time and money.

Financial Impact

The Municipal Agreement requires the City of Durham to reimburse NCDOT one hundred percent (100%) of the actual costs, estimated at \$38,000.00, for relocating the fire hydrant and water services affected by the project. Funds for water adjustments (\$38,000.00 with 20% contingencies) are budgeted for in the Water Extensions and Improvements Account. Upon acceptance of the Public Works Department's recommendations, these funds will be encumbered for this project.

SDBE Summary

This item does not require review by the Equal Opportunity/Equity Assurance Department.

Attachments

Municipal Agreement