



Date: October 16, 2012

To: Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager
Through: Keith Chadwell, Deputy City Manager
From: Mark D. Ahrendsen, Transportation Director
Joel V. Reitzer, Jr., General Services Director

Subject: Hillandale Road (U-3804) Landscape Agreement

Executive Summary

The City requested the N. C. Department of Transportation (NCDOT) allocate funds to provide enhanced landscaping for the Hillandale Road (U-3804) widening project. In accordance with NCDOT's Landscape Planting Policy, 0.75% (\$34,261.26) of the estimated project construction cost estimate is available from NCDOT for landscape enhancements. The funds will be allocated if the City agrees to perform the necessary on-going landscape maintenance following an initial one-year landscape establishment and maintenance period. The road widening project is scheduled to be complete in November 2012 and available for landscaping thereafter. The administration recommends that the City Council authorize the City Manager to execute the Hillandale Road (U-3804) Landscape Agreement to provide enhanced landscaped plantings along Hillandale Road from I-85 north to Carver Street. The agreement is attached.

Recommendation

The City Department of Transportation and General Services Department recommend that the City Council authorize the City Manager to execute the Hillandale Road (U-3804) Landscape Agreement with the N. C. Department of Transportation.

Background

NCDOT is currently widening Hillandale Road from I-85 to Carver Street. The project includes widening the former two-lane road to a four-lane divided curb and gutter facility with raised median, wide outside lanes for bicycles, and sidewalks. Construction is scheduled to be completed in November 2012 and available for landscape work. The total estimated project cost is \$11,941,000 including planning, design, right-of-way acquisition, utility relocation and construction.

The project grading, drainage, and utility relocation required the removal of significant street trees. The impact can be partially mitigated and the corridor enhanced with supplemental landscaping available through NCDOT. In accordance with NCDOT Landscape Planting Policy, the amount allocated and available for Hillandale Road landscape enhancements is 0.75% (\$34,261.26) of the final estimated project construction cost of \$4,568,168.00.

Issues and Analysis

If the City agrees to maintain the project landscaping, NCDOT will develop the landscape design and prepare the landscape plans and specifications in accordance with NCDOT's standard landscaping policies and procedures for State roads. All plantings will be located within the public right-of-way and will include lilies, ornamental grasses, and Crape Myrtles. NCDOT will prepare the landscaping sites and furnish the plantings in accordance with the project plans. The plans will be provided to the City's General Services Department for review and approval prior to plantings.

NCDOT will be responsible for the one year plant establishment and maintenance period. At the end of this period, the Landscape Services and Urban Forestry Divisions of the General Services Department will assume the landscape maintenance. This responsibility includes watering, mulching, pruning, fertilizing, weeding, pest control, mowing, and replacing plant materials. NCDOT anticipates completing the landscape improvements this winter with City maintenance responsibilities beginning one year later.

Alternatives

- City Council authorizes the City Manager to execute the Hillandale Road (U-3804) Landscape Agreement with the N. C. Department of Transportation. Enhanced landscaping materials are installed and maintained by NCDOT for one year at no cost to the City. The City assumes landscape maintenance after the one-year establishment and maintenance period.
- City Council does not authorize the City Manager to execute the Hillandale Road (U-3804) Landscape Agreement and forgoes \$34,261.26 in project landscape enhancements. The project median and other areas will be mulched and seeded for grass.

Financial Impact

The agreement requires no payment or reimbursement for the landscape design, plant materials, installation, or first year maintenance. Maintenance after the one-year establishment period will be provided by the Landscape Services and Urban Forestry Divisions of the General Services Department. The annual maintenance expense for the Hillandale Road landscaping project is estimated to range from \$6,058 to \$32,736, depending upon the nature of the final landscaping plans approved for the project.

SDBE Summary

NCDOT municipal agreements require that their contracting procedures be followed for these projects. The Department of Equal Opportunity/Equity Assurance did not review this item for compliance with the Ordinance to Promote Equal Business Opportunities in City Contracting.

Attachment

NCDOT Hillandale Road (U-3804) Landscape Agreement