



Date: April 4, 2014

To: Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager
Through: Keith Chadwell, Deputy City Manager
From: Mark Ahrendsen, Director of Transportation
Subject: TIGER FY 2014 Planning Grant Application

Executive Summary

On February 25, the US Department of Transportation announced a nationwide call for projects for the TIGER FY 2014 grant program. Congress has appropriated \$600 million toward this program, of which \$35 million can be used for planning grants. City staff has reviewed the funding criteria and potential projects in Durham and are preparing an application for a planning grant for the Duke Beltline Trail corridor.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Council adopt a resolution in support of the City’s application for a TIGER planning grant for the Duke Beltline Trail.

Background

The FY 2014 grant cycle is the sixth grant cycle since the TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) program began in 2009. The previous TIGER grant cycles have been extremely competitive. The City of Durham’s application for a TIGER FY 2014 planning grant must be submitted by April 28.

The Duke Beltline Trail would be a 2.2 mile trail built on the location of a rail corridor that is no longer in use. For many years there has been interest in converting the rail corridor into a bicycle and pedestrian connection between downtown Durham and neighborhoods to the north and east. The Beltline Trail is recommended by both the adopted Downtown Durham Master Plan and the Durham Trails and Greenway Master Plan. The scope of the master plan is under review; the grant request will be in the range of \$200,000.00 to \$300,000.00.

Alternatives

The Durham City Council could decide to:

- Approve the recommended resolution; or,
- Send the item back to staff for further review; or,
- Not approve the resolution.

Financial Impacts

TIGER planning grants do not require a local match. However, applications can increase their competitiveness by demonstrating significant non-federal contributions from public and private

sources. In addition, the administration of a planning grant would require a commitment of staff resources.

SDBE Summary

If a planning grant were to be awarded, the City would enter into a municipal agreement with the N.C. Department of Transportation. The municipal agreement will require that NCDOT procedures be followed for the planning project. 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.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Resolution