



Date: March 4, 2014

To: Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager

Through: W. Bowman Ferguson, Deputy City Manager

From: Marvin Williams, Director of Public Works
Mark D. Ahrendsen, Director of Transportation

Subject: U-0071 East End Connector Agreements with NCDOT

Executive Summary

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has prepared and adopted plans to construct the East End Connector from North NC 98 to Buck Dean Parkway NC 147 under Project U-0071. See Attachment C for a map of the project. The project will require the relocation of existing City of Durham water and sewer utilities that are within the project boundaries and the City is financially responsible for their cost of relocation. The relocation work will be performed by the contractor for NCDOT. The City will reimburse NCDOT for the cost of the utility relocation work. The cost responsibilities for this work are defined in the Utility Agreement (Attachment A). New sidewalks, fencing upgrades, traffic signal mast arms and conduit for future street lights are project enhancements to be constructed by NCDOT's contractor. The City is responsible for the non-federal match costs of these improvements and the ongoing maintenance for the sidewalks. The responsibilities for this work are defined in the project Municipal Agreement (Attachment B).

Recommendation

The Public Works Department recommends that the City Council authorize the City Manager to execute a Utility Agreement with NCDOT for the relocation of utilities associated with the East End Connector project (U-0071) associated with the relocation of the City's utility lines and authorize the expenditure of \$594,174.00 from the Water Extensions and Improvements Account and establish a contingency fund in the amount of \$59,417.40 (10%) for the relocation of the water lines, and authorize the expenditure of \$546,823.00 from the Sewer Extensions and Improvements Account and establish a contingency fund in the amount of \$54,682.30 (10%) for the relocation of the water lines. The total expenditure of utility funds is \$1,255,096.70. The Utility Agreement is provided as Attachment A.

The Transportation Department recommends that the City Council authorize the City Manager to execute the East End Connector (Project U-0071) Municipal Agreement with NCDOT at an estimated cost of \$59,397.40, and authorize the expenditure of an estimated \$59,397.40 from the Capital Improvement Program's Federal-State Match Project. The Municipal Agreement is provided as Attachment B.

The total estimated cost for the U-0071 East End Connector project is \$1,314,494.10.

Background

The East End Connector project is part of the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization's adopted Long Range Transportation Plan and Transportation

Improvement Program. A federal environmental assessment was conducted by NCDOT with extensive public engagement and input. Final environmental approval was issued by the Federal Highway Administration on December 20, 2011. The purpose of the project is to improve the capacity on the Durham Freeway (NC 147) and US 70 and improve connectivity between these high speed routes which provide direct access to I-40 to the south, and I-85 to the north. The proposed improvement will offer a number of secondary benefits to travelers and residents in East Durham, including improved access to major employment centers, particularly the Research Triangle Park; enhance connectivity between suburban areas to the north and east of downtown Durham; and divert traffic away from local surface streets, such as Mangum Street and Roxboro Street. Right-of-way acquisition and utility relocation is currently underway. Construction is anticipated to begin later this year. Due to the location of City utilities within the project limits, a Utility Agreement is required. NCDOT also requires a Municipal Agreement for major projects within municipal jurisdictions.

Issues/Analysis

The project will require the relocation and adjustment of City water line utilities located within NCDOT right-of-way. The related costs, terms and conditions for the municipal utility relocation are covered in the NCDOT Utility Agreement.

As part of the project design, the City requested that NCDOT include the construction of sidewalks along local streets reconstructed by the project. This includes new sidewalks along the affected sections of Holloway St., Muldee St., Carr St., East End Ave., Lynn Rd. and Pleasant Dr. Sidewalks removed by the project will be replaced at no cost to the City. The total cost of the sidewalks is \$246,675. Additional requested project enhancements include: upgraded vinyl coated chain link fencing adjacent to residential properties (\$2,012); conduit for future street lighting on Rowena Ave. and Angier Ave (\$12,362); and mast arm poles with illuminated pedestrian crosswalk push buttons for the new traffic signals installed along Holloway Street (\$35,938). The enhancements were included in the project to improve pedestrian safety and access, mitigate impacts, and enhance the resulting streetscape. The City has requested and received Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) funds to cover 80% (\$237,589.60) of the total \$296,987 betterment costs. The resulting non-federal City match is estimated at \$59,397.40.

Alternatives

The Council can choose to authorize the City Manager to execute the Utility Agreement and Municipal Agreement at an estimated cost of 1,314,494.10. The Council can choose to not authorize the Manager to approve the Utility Agreement in which case the proposed new project will be delayed until City forces can relocate the utilities.

Financial Impact

The cost to reimburse NCDOT for the utility relocations and betterments is \$1,314,494.10 for U-0071. There are currently funds available for these agreements in the Water Extensions and Improvements account, Sewer Extensions and Improvements account, and Federal-State Match account.

Water Extension Improvement Fund	4100P007-731000-P0AB3	\$594,174.00
Water Extension Improvement Contingency	4100P007-731900-P0AB3	\$59,417.40
Sewer Extension Improvement Fund	4100P007-731000-P2646	\$546,823.00
Sewer Extension Improvement Contingency	4100P007-731900-P2646	\$54,682.30

Federal-State Match Project	3612L990-764000-LC100	\$59,397.40
Total		\$1,314,494.10

SDBE Requirements

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.

Attachments