



Date: December 16, 2014

To: Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager
Through: Keith Chadwell, Deputy City Manager
From: Mark Ahrendsen, Director of Transportation
Subject: Agreement for Construction of Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities on University Drive (TIP # EB-5514)

Executive Summary

The City of Durham has been awarded federal and state funds through the N.C. Department of Transportation (NCDOT) to construct sidewalks and bicycle lanes on University Drive between Old Chapel Hill Road and Cornwallis Road. The estimated project cost is \$1,586,063. The federal funding amount is \$820,000, with a 20 percent local match from NCDOT of \$205,000. As much as \$561,063 in additional City funding is needed for construction, construction administration, inspections, testing, right-of-way acquisition, and contingency. The Public Works Department has designed the project and will manage construction. To utilize the state and federal funds, the City Council must approve a CIP Ordinance Amendment and a resolution accepting the funds and authorizing the City Manager to execute a grant agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT).

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Council adopt an ordinance amending the General Capital Improvement Project Ordinance, Fiscal Year 2014-15, as amended, the same being Ordinance # 14623, for the purpose of receiving the federal and state funds. It is further recommended that the City Council adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a grant agreement with NCDOT. City Council's approval of the resolution and CIP Ordinance Amendment does not authorize construction. Contract awards for construction will occur through subsequent action by the City Council.

Background

The need for sidewalks and bicycle lanes on this portion of University Drive was identified in both the 2006 DurhamWalks! Pedestrian Plan and the 2006 Durham Comprehensive Bicycle Transportation Plan. In the DurhamWalks! Plan, the University Drive project was ranked number 6 in priority out of more than 200 ranked corridors. The Public Works Department has prepared construction drawings for the project in-house.

While there is some existing sidewalk along this section of University Drive, the project will add additional sidewalk to close gaps, increase connectivity to bus stops, schools, businesses, and neighborhoods, and bring the sidewalk up to current accessibility standards. The project will also construct curb ramps on both sides of University Drive, construct and upgrade storm water infrastructure, add bicycle lanes between Hope Valley Road and Cornwallis Road, and construct and replace curb and gutter. Attachment D is a map that provides more details.

A public information meeting was held on December 9, 2014. City staff was on hand to discuss project details and answer questions. Letters about the meeting were mailed to property owners and residents of the corridor.

Alternatives

The Durham City Council could decide to:

- Approve the recommended resolution and CIP Ordinance Amendment; or,
- Send the item back to staff for further review; or,
- Not approve the resolutions and CIP Ordinance Amendment.

Financial Impacts

Many of the project costs will be covered by the federal and state funds. However, additional City funds up to \$561,063 are needed for construction and contingency, and for expenses that NCDOT will not reimburse (construction administration, inspections, testing, and right-of-way acquisition). The City funds are available in the Capital Improvements Program's Federal-State Matching Projects ordinance.. In addition, the administration of the project will require a commitment of staff resources.

The City of Durham must complete all pre-construction activities by June 30, 2015 in order to receive construction authorization from NCDOT and the Federal Highway Administration; otherwise, under state law the City will forfeit the matching state funds and will have to provide the 20 percent match from local funds.

SDBE Summary

The municipal agreement with NCDOT requires that their 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:

Attachment A – CIP Ordinance Amendment

Attachment B – Grant Resolution

Attachment C – NCDOT Agreement for Project EB-5514

Attachment D – Vicinity Map

cc: Marvin Williams, Director of Public Works