



Date: April 21, 2015

To: Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager
Through: Bo Ferguson, Deputy City Manager
Keith Chadwell, Deputy City Manager
From: Marvin Williams, Public Works Director
Mark D. Ahrendsen, Transportation Director

Subject: Sidewalk Project Delivery and Prioritization Presentation

Executive Summary

The Public Works and Transportation departments have prepared a presentation to inform City Council of the current process and specific projects in the sidewalk construction pipeline and to lay out a plan for prioritizing and delivering future sidewalk projects.

Recommendation

Receive the presentation from the Public Works and Transportation departments concerning the delivery and prioritization of sidewalk projects.

Background

In 2006, the Durham City Council adopted the DurhamWalks! Pedestrian Plan and the Durham Comprehensive Bicycle Transportation Plan. The Bicycle Plan, being a county-wide plan, was also adopted by the Board of County Commissioners.

The attached presentation from the Public Works and Transportation departments describes the project delivery process for sidewalk projects and components of the bicycle and pedestrian plans. The bicycle and pedestrian plans have guided investments of city, state, and federal funds over the past decade. Bicycle and pedestrian improvements have played an important role in the revitalization of Durham’s downtown and neighborhoods. There are 13 active Public Works projects that have bicycle and pedestrian components, and over 30 future projects proposed for delivery by 2022.

The presentation further discusses improvements to Durham’s bicycle and pedestrian environment since 2006. For instance, census data show that bicycle commuting doubled - from 0.5 percent of all work trips in 2006-8 to 1.1 percent in 2011-13. The percent walking to work has increased from 2.7 percent in 2006-8 to 3.2 percent in 2011-13.

Issues and Analysis

The DurhamWalks! Pedestrian Plan and Durham Comprehensive Bicycle Transportation Plan are almost 10 years old. The Transportation Department has proposed that the FY 16 budget include funding for an update of both plans, as well as an additional Transportation Planner position.

The attached presentation describes both the need to update the plans, the goals of updating the plans, and the ability to deliver future infrastructure projects, including bicycle and pedestrian projects. The Transportation Department is proposing that the current bicycle and pedestrian plans be combined into one updated plan that defines priority corridors and networks for the next decade.

Alternatives

N/A

Financial Impact

The adopted work program for the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO) includes \$100,000 in federal funding (80 percent) for the update of the 2006 DurhamWalks! Plan and the 2006 Durham Bicycle Plan. A local match of \$25,000 (20 percent) is requested in the FY16 city budget.

The Transportation Department's current bicycle and pedestrian position is allocated and funded one-half time for Durham Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator functions, including support services to BPAC, and half-time for MPO regional bicycle and pedestrian planning functions. An additional FTE Transportation Planner position is requested in the FY16 budget to oversee the plan update and other bicycle and pedestrian planning activities. Raleigh, Winston-Salem, and Greensboro have full-time bicycle and pedestrian coordinators; Charlotte has at least three FTEs in these roles.

The Public Works and Transportation Departments have requested \$19,710,000 in the CIP for new sidewalk construction.

SDBE Summary

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

A – Presentation

B – Public Works Project Flow Chart