



Date: October 6, 2015

To: Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager
Through: W. Bowman Ferguson, Deputy City Manager
From: Marvin G. Williams, Director of Public Works
Subject: Alston Avenue Widening Project U-3308, CSX Railroad Facility Encroachment Agreement

Executive Summary

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is scheduled to widen NC 55 (Alston Avenue) from NC 147 to NC 98 (Holloway St.). Project bidding will begin in February 2016 with an anticipated two years for construction. See Attachment B for a map of the project limits. The project requires the relocation of existing City of Durham water utilities that are within the project boundaries and for which the City is financially responsible to relocate. The relocation work will be performed by the contractor for NCDOT. The City will reimburse NCDOT for the cost of the utility relocation work which is defined in a previously executed Utility Agreement. Part of the utility work occurs within the CSX Transportation, Inc. Right of Way and Railroad Facility Encroachment Agreements (Attachment A) are required. Railroad Facility Encroachment Agreements must be approved by the City Council under current signature authority arrangements.

Recommendation

The Administration recommends that the City Council authorize the City Manager to execute a Railroad Facility Encroachment Agreement with CSX Transportation, Inc. for the relocation of City water utilities associated with the Alston Avenue Widening project (U-3308).

Background

Widening Alston Avenue from NC 147 to Holloway Street has been an element of the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization's DCHC MPO's long-range plan for many years. The project includes widening Alston Avenue to four lanes from just south of NC 147 to just north of NC 98 (Holloway Street).

There are City of Durham water utilities located within the boundaries of the project. Utility agreements with NCDOT are required and have already been approved. Additional permits are required when the utilities are also located within a Railroad Right of Way. This project requires a Railroad Facility Encroachment Agreement with CSX Railway.

Issues/Analysis

The project will require the relocation and adjustment of City utilities located within NCDOT Right of Way. The related costs, terms and conditions for the municipal utility relocation are covered in the NCDOT Use and Occupancy Agreement that was approved by Council in January 2015.

Alternatives

The Council can choose to authorize the City Manager to execute the Railroad Facility Encroachment Agreement. The Council can choose to not authorize the Manager to approve the Railroad Facility Encroachment Agreements in which case the proposed NCDOT project will not move forward.

Financial Impact

The fees associated with this Railroad Facility Encroachment Agreement will be processed under the department's approval. Expenses for the utility relocation are already encumbered as a part of the previously executed Utility Agreement with NCDOT.

SDBE Requirements

This section is not applicable to the item.