



Date: July 25, 2017

To: Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager
Through: Keith Chadwell, Deputy City Manager
From: Terry Bellamy, Director of Transportation
Subject: Grant Agreement for Development of Neighborhood Bike Routes (TIP # C-5605I)

Executive Summary

The City of Durham has received federal funds through the State’s Transportation Improvement Program to add signage and pavement markings on neighborhood streets to improve the City’s low-stress bicycle network. It is estimated that a total of \$644,728 is needed to sign and mark at least 7 miles of neighborhood streets. The federal funding amount is \$505,498, which requires a minimum 20 percent local match of \$126,375 from the City. It is estimated an additional \$12,855 is needed to cover non-reimbursable expenses related to construction administration. The Transportation Department will oversee the planning, design and construction. To utilize these 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

The Administration recommends that City Council,

1. Authorize the City Manager to accept the NC Department of Transportation grant for the Neighborhood Bike Routes project (C-5605I) by executing the grant documents;
2. Adopt a grant resolution to accept project related federal grant funding in the amount of \$505,498.00 from the NCDOT; and
3. Adopt an ordinance amending the General Capital Improvement Project Ordinance, Fiscal Year 2017-18, as amended, the same being Ordinance #15131, for the purpose of receiving additional funds in the amount of \$505,498.00 to the Neighborhood Greenways Project (LC409) where the existing CIP match funding of \$139,230.00 is currently appropriated.

City Council’s approval of the resolution does not authorize construction. Contract awards for construction will occur through subsequent action by the City Council.

Background

The recommendation for a network of neighborhood bicycle routes, often called bicycle boulevards, was made in the recently adopted Bike+Walk Implementation Plan. Residents, neighborhood associations, and advocacy groups have also asked the City to consider improving neighborhood streets for use by bicycle. Earlier this year, a project to fund the planning, design and construction of a neighborhood bicycle route network was submitted to the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHCMPO) to compete for federal funding as part of NCDOT’s Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality application process. DCHCMPO reviewed

projects based on emissions reduction, expected new bicycle and/or pedestrian trips, reduction in vehicle travel miles, and cost. This project was approved for funding by DCHCMPO and NCDOT

Issues and Analysis:

Selection of Corridors: The project application identified seven (7) miles of potential bicycle boulevard routes for modeling and cost estimate purposes. An independent organization, Durham Bicycle Boulevards, has also proposed a number of route options. The final selection of corridors, however, will come during the planning and design process and involve the opportunity for input from residents.

Project Timeline: If the municipal agreement is approved, the planning and design phase of the project is anticipated to begin in late 2017 and continue through mid-2018. Construction is anticipated to begin in late 2018 or early 2019.

Eligible Expenses: CMAQ funding for planning and design must be directly connected to what is constructed. Therefore, what is designed and built in this project may not be a full and complete network but a first phase of a network that could be expanded in the future. Additionally, CMAQ-eligible expenses are limited to signage and pavement markings. Other speed or traffic volume management tools to “enhance” the bicycle routes could be considered for installation in the future.

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 resolution and CIP Ordinance Amendment.

Financial Impacts

The federal CMAQ funds require a minimum local match of \$126,375. An additional \$12,855 is needed to cover non-reimbursable expenses related to construction administration. Funds are available in the CIP fund for the total local cost of \$139, 230. The administration of the project will require a commitment of staff resources.

SDBE Summary

The municipal agreements with NCDOT require 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 –Grant Resolution

Attachment B – NCDOT Grant Agreement for Project C-5605I