



Date: August 2, 2019

To: Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager
Through: Keith Chadwell, Deputy City Manager
From: Bill Judge, Interim Director of Transportation
Subject: U-4726HO Carpenter Fletcher Road Sidewalk and Bike Lane Municipal Agreement

Executive Summary

The City of Durham has received federal funds through the State's Transportation Improvement Program to construct sidewalks and bike lanes on Carpenter Fletcher Road between Woodcroft Parkway and Alston Avenue. Due to general construction cost increases affecting all transportation projects, the cost of the project has increased, and a new Municipal Agreement is needed with North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) to add federal funding to the project. The previous cost of the project was \$4,688,983 and it is now \$8,288,564. The funding increase was anticipated in the FY20 budget and the CIP ordinance already reflects the additional funding. To utilize these federal funds, the City Council must approve an ordinance accepting the funds and authorizing the City Manager to execute a grant agreement with the NCDOT.

Recommendation

The Administration recommends that the City Council adopt the Federal Highway Administration Funding from the North Carolina Department of Transportation for the Purpose of Constructing the Carpenter Fletcher Road Sidewalk and Bike Lane Grant Project Ordinance Superseding Grant Project Resolution #9937; and authorize the City Manager to execute the grant agreement with NCDOT.

Background

The need for sidewalks and bike lanes on Carpenter-Fletcher Road between Woodcroft Parkway and Alston Avenue was identified in the 2006 DurhamWalks! Pedestrian Plan and Comprehensive Bicycle Transportation Plan. The Carpenter-Fletcher Road project was ranked number 88 in priority out of more than 200 pedestrian corridors and improvements were called for in the bicycle plan. While there is some existing sidewalk along Cornwallis Road, the project will add additional segments of sidewalk to close gaps, increase connectivity to bus stops and neighborhoods, and bring the sidewalk up to current accessibility standards.

Funding for the project is from Surface Transportation Block Grant Direct Attributable (STBGDA) funds approved by the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO). The project is in the approved DCHC MPO Transportation Improvement Program and State Transportation Improvement Program. The federal funding is restricted to the project and limits identified in these documents.

Issues and Analysis

Project construction costs have risen significantly since the original municipal agreement was approved in 2015, and inflation cost increases were not considered in the original project

budgets. In addition, the City now has more experience with federal projects and the extra time and expenses associated with meeting all federal regulations. The share of project costs for design, construction administration and inspections, and right-of-way acquisition are a higher percentage of the total project cost for these relatively small projects due to the many rules and regulations that must be followed.

Due to workload, this project will require contracting with a consultant for real estate acquisition. Additional design professional services are also required as originally it was anticipated that the three large culverts across Carpenter Fletcher would not need to be replaced; however, it was determined during design that the culverts needed to be replaced due to poor condition and capacity issues. Additionally, following extensive subsurface location work, the design of sanitary sewer relocations is required due to conflicts with proposed storm drainage. All of these factors have contributed to significant cost increases on federally funded locally delivered projects.

The Carpenter Fletcher Road Sidewalk and Bike Lane project is in the design phase. The City has a cost estimate of \$8,288,564 for all phases of the project. NCDOT has agreed to increase the federal funding share of the project from \$3,531,053 up to \$6,630,851.

The design is scheduled for completion in December 2019. Right-of-way acquisition is scheduled to be complete by May 2021, and construction scheduled to begin in December 2021. Project schedules are posted here <http://codinetx.durhamnc.gov/sites/TransportationProjects/SitePages/Home.aspx>.

Alternatives

The Durham City Council could decide to:

- Approve the recommended ordinance; or,
- Send the item back to staff for further review; or,
- Not approve the ordinance.

Financial Impact

The federal STBGDA funds require a local match of up to \$1,657,713. These funds will be provided through stormwater capital funds and general City of Durham funds. The administration of the project will require a commitment of staff resources.

Equal Business Opportunity Summary

The municipal agreements with NCDOT require that their procedures be followed for these projects. The Equity & Inclusion Department did not review this item for compliance with the Ordinance to Promote Equal Business Opportunities in City Contracting.

Attachments

Grant Ordinance

NCDOT Municipal Agreement