



Date: August 5, 2019

To: Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager
Through: Keith Chadwell, Deputy City Manager
From: Bill Judge, Interim Director of Transportation
Subject: U-4726HN Hillandale 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 Hillandale Road between I-85 and NC 147. 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 \$3,107,941 and it is now \$4,824,071. 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 authorize 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 Hillandale Road Sidewalk and Bike Lane Grant Project Ordinance Superseding Grant Project Resolution #9939 and authorize the City Manager to execute the grant agreement with NCDOT.

Background

The need for sidewalks and bike facilities on Hillandale Road between Interstate 85 and NC 147 was identified in the 2006 DurhamWalks! Pedestrian Plan and Comprehensive Bicycle Transportation Plan. The Hillandale Road project was ranked number 99 in priority out of more than 200 ranked corridors in the DurhamWalks! Pedestrian Plan and bicycle improvements were called for in the Comprehensive Bicycle Transportation Plan. While there is some existing sidewalk along Hillandale 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 for additional retaining walls, golf course landscaping, golf cart crossing traffic control, stormwater with associated surveying and coordination/meetings that were added to the project following community involvement and the design process. All of these factors have contributed to significant cost increases on federally funded locally delivered projects.

The Hillandale Road Sidewalk and Bike Lane project is in the design phase. The City has a cost estimate of \$4,824,071 for all phases of the project. NCDOT has agreed to increase the federal funding share of the project from \$2,290,499 up to \$3,859,257.

This project includes the construction of two bus stops. The current Durham County Transit Plan includes \$20,000 for these bus stop improvements. The remaining \$944,814 non-federal match will be provided by the City. This funding is already reflected in the adopted FY20 CIP ordinance.

The design is scheduled for completion in January 2020. Right-of-way acquisition is scheduled to be complete by June 2021, and construction scheduled to begin in January 2022. 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 \$964,814. These funds will be provided through the Durham County Transit Plan 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 and 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