



Date: August 20, 2019

To: Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager
Through: Keith Chadwell, Deputy City Manager
From: Bill Judge, Interim Director of Transportation
Subject: U-4724 Cornwallis 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 Cornwallis Road between South Roxboro Road and Chapel Hill Road. 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 and to add right-of-way as a reimbursable expense. The previous cost of the project was \$5,432,020 and it is now \$8,063,554. 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 and NC Department of Transportation Cornwallis Road Sidewalk and Bike Lane Grant Project Ordinance Superseding Grant Project Resolution #9938; and authorize the City Manager to execute the grant agreement with NCDOT.

Background

The need for sidewalks and bike lanes on Cornwallis Road between South Roxboro Road and Chapel Hill Road was identified in the 2006 DurhamWalks! Pedestrian Plan. The Cornwallis Road project was ranked number 10 in priority out of more than 200 ranked corridors in the DurhamWalks! Plan and number 20 out of more than 200 ranked corridors in the Comprehensive Bicycle Transportation 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 - Anywhere (STBG-Any) program 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.

Cost increase factors specific to Cornwallis Road include right-of-way acquisition services and additional engineering services for water, sewer and stormwater design. Due to a heavy workload, City Real Estate staff are not able to provide acquisition services and a consultant must be hired to make the acquisitions. In addition, engineering services are needed for additional water, sewer and stormwater design services as required by field evaluations and subsurface location work. All of these factors have contributed to significant cost increases on federally funded locally delivered projects.

This project includes the construction a concrete bus stop landing pad. The current Durham County Transit Plan includes \$5,000 for this bus stop improvement. The remaining non-federal match will be provided by the City. This funding is already reflected in the adopted FY20 CIP ordinance.

The Cornwallis Road Sidewalk and Bike Lane project is in the design phase. The City has a cost estimate of \$8,063,554 for all phases of the project. NCDOT has agreed to increase the federal funding share of the project from \$4,217,153 up to \$6,450,843 and has agreed to reimburse for right-of-way acquisition expenses.

The design phase is scheduled for completion in April 2020. Real estate acquisition is scheduled to be complete by August 2021, and construction is scheduled to begin in March 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 STBG-Any funds require a local match of \$1,612,711. This funding will be provided through general City of Durham funds and the Durham County Transit Plan. 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