



Date: December 9, 2021

To: Wanda S. Page, City Manager
Through: Keith Chadwell, Deputy City Manager
From: Sean C. Egan, Director of Transportation
Subject: Roadway Safety Improvements on Holloway Street (NC 98) at Lynn Road

Executive Summary

The City of Durham Department of Transportation and the N.C. Department of Transportation (NCDOT) have jointly identified an existing safety concern associated with left-turn crashes on Holloway Street (NC 98) at Lynn Road. To address this existing crash pattern, NCDOT has proposed the construction of eastbound and westbound left-turn lanes on Holloway Street (NC 98) at the Lynn Road intersection. NCDOT estimates the project is likely to qualify for approximately \$1,000,000 in NCDOT safety funding, however the estimated cost of the improvements is approximately \$1,500,000. To allow this project to be funded, NCDOT has requested that the City of Durham contribute \$500,000 towards this project. Transportation has identified that this needed roadway improvement is eligible to use previously collected street impact fees and that there is adequate funding available for this purpose.

Motion

To find that the Holloway Street at Lynn Road safety improvements project is at least 33.33% necessitated by new construction and that up to 33.33% (or \$500,000) of the capital costs of this project may be paid by impact fees collected within the same service zone and collected for the same purpose.

Background

The City of Durham and NCDOT mutually identified the need for the construction of left-turn lanes on Holloway Street (NC 98) at Lynn Road to reduce vehicle crashes. NCDOT has identified that the project is likely to qualify for approximately \$1,000,000 in safety funding, but the estimated project cost is \$1,500,000 leaving a funding shortfall of \$500,000. Since the proposed improvements will provide additional roadway capacity along with the needed safety improvements, the project is eligible to utilize previously collected street impact fees. The project is located in street impact fee Zones 2 and 5 and there is adequate funding available in both Zone 2 and/or Zone 5 to cover the requested contribution. In order to apply for \$1,000,000 in available safety funding, NCDOT has requested the City agree to contribute \$500,000 toward this project.

Although this project has not been formally reviewed or considered for additional funding under the Green and Equitable Capital Infrastructure Project (CIP) funding authorized by City Council earlier this year, the project is located in an area of East Durham where the City has historically invested less in Transportation infrastructure than other areas of the City. Additionally, there is a proposed development project on Lynn Road just north of this intersection that is seeking state tax credits for affordable housing. If approved and developed, the residents of this affordable housing development will benefit directly from this needed safety improvement.

Issues and Analysis

The City and NCDOT have jointly identified the need for safety improvements along Holloway Street (NC 98) at Lynn Road. The estimated cost for this project is approximately \$1,500,000, but NCDOT estimates the project will only qualify for \$1,000,000 in safety funding. If the City agrees to contribute \$500,000 in street impact fee funding, the project is likely to become fully funded in early 2022. The design and construction of the improvements are anticipated to take an additional 24 months once the project is funded.

Alternatively, the project could be submitted for full funding from NCDOT under the Strategic Transportation Investments (STI) Law. However, given NCDOT's current funding situation, it is uncertain that the project would be selected for funding. Alternately, if it is selected for STI funding, the construction of these needed safety improvements would likely not be programed into the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for many years.

Staff recommends that the City assist NCDOT by agreeing to contribute up to \$500,000 in Street Impact Fees to help fund the project. There is a Street Impact Fee balance of \$2,894,644 in Zone 2 (the older zone for east Durham) and \$6,381,357 in Zone 5 (the newer zone for east Durham). Street Impact Fees are collected from developers for the purpose of mitigating for the traffic impact of development. Construction of the proposed turn-lane improvements at this location is an eligible expense.

Alternatives

Council could not authorize the contribution of \$500,000 street impact fees for these roadway safety improvements on Holloway Street, which would place the project on hold indefinitely until other funding sources can be identified.

Financial Impact

The cost to the City is \$500,000. The recommended funding source is Street Impact Fees for Zone 2 and 5 (East Durham).

Equal Business Opportunity Summary

The Equity & Inclusion Department did not review this item for compliance with the Ordinance to Promote Equal Business Opportunities in City Contracting.

Contractor Workforce Diversity & Hiring Practices

NCDOT agreements require that their contracting procedures be followed for these projects.

Attachments

NC 98 at Lynn Road Construction Cost Estimate
NC 98 at Lynn Road Improvement Concept Plan