



**Date:** April 17, 2023

**To:** Wanda S. Page, City Manager  
**Through:** Keith Chadwell, Deputy City Manager  
**From:** Sean C. Egan, Director of Transportation  
**Subject:** Municipal Agreement with NCDOT for Bike Lane Vertical Protection TIP # BL-0030

### **Executive Summary**

The City of Durham's Transportation Department has received federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds for the design and installation of vertical protection on existing buffered bike lanes in the City of Durham.

It is estimated that a total of \$198,217 is needed for the BL-0030 Bike Lane Vertical Protection project. The federal funding amount is \$172,035 and the City is providing a local match of \$26,182. To utilize the federal funds, the City Council must approve a resolution accepting the funds and authorizing the City Manager to execute a grant agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT).

### **Motion**

To authorize the City Manager to execute the municipal agreement with the NC Department of Transportation for the Bike Lane Vertical Protection project (TIP # BL-0030); and

To adopt Federal Highway Administration Funding from the NC Department of Transportation for the Purpose of Constructing Bike Lane Vertical Protection (BL-0030) Grant Project Ordinance and Authorize the Execution of the Grant Agreement, in the amount of \$198,217.

### **Background**

Vertical protection is needed on many existing and future bicycle lanes to ensure that these facilities are safe and comfortable for all ages and abilities. NCDOT Complete Streets Guidance recommends that bicycle facilities include physical separation from vehicle lanes when traffic volumes and speeds reach levels that make bicycling in the adjacent lane unsafe and uncomfortable.

Vertical protection is recommended for bicycle facilities on streets averaging 6,000 or more vehicles per day and or average vehicle speeds at or above 35 miles per hour. Vertical protection has also been a common request received during public outreach efforts for bicycle facility design projects on Duke Street, Chapel Hill Street, Erwin Road, and Broad Street. Vertical protection is most easily provided in the form of flex posts installed within the buffer of existing buffered bike lanes. Buffered bike lanes are thereby converted to separated bike lanes. The BL-0030 municipal agreement will fund the design and installation of vertical protection on the City's existing buffered bike lanes listed below:

1. S Roxboro Road from Summit Street to Cornwallis Road,
2. S Roxboro Road from Martin Luther King Jr Parkway to Shady Creek Drive,
3. Broad Street from Main Street to Guess Road, and

4. Durham-Chapel Hill Boulevard from Nation Avenue to University Drive.

The vertical protection installed on these buffered bike lanes will ensure that they are safe and comfortable for use by residents of all ages and abilities.

Federal funding for the BL-0030 Bike Lane Vertical Projection project is being provided with Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds. A portion of the municipal agreement (\$130,907) will require a 20 percent local match (\$26,182) from the City, whereas a secondary portion of the municipal agreement will be 100% federally-funded (\$67,310).

Project Name	Agreement Total	Sub Totals	Fed %	Fed Amount	Local %	Local Amount
Bike Lane Vertical Protection	\$198,217	\$130,907	80%	\$104,725	20%	\$26,182
		\$67,310	100%	\$67,310	0%	\$0

These federal funds are passed through to the City via the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT). The project is in the approved Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO) Transportation Improvement Program and State Transportation Improvement Program.

**Issues and Analysis**

Project Timeline: Design work for this project is expected to begin this year once a design consultant is procured by the Transportation Department and approved by NCDOT. The design phase of this project is expected to take place in the summer of 2023. The Transportation Department estimates that the project will be let for construction later this year and completed by early 2024.

**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**

Funding for this project is available in the following account:

Fund	Organization Code	Object Code	Project Code	Amount
Construction in Progress	3000LG00	731000	LC522	\$198,217

**Equal Business Opportunity Summary**

The municipal agreements require that the City follow NCDOT procedures for these projects. This item was not reviewed for compliance with the Ordinance to Promote Equal Business Opportunities in City Contracting.

**Contractor Workforce Diversity & Hiring Practices**

Due to the nature of this agenda item, obtaining Contractor Workforce Diversity & Hiring Practices information is not applicable.

**Attachments**

Grant Project Ordinance  
Map of BL-0030 Bike Lanes Vertical Protection  
NCDOT Municipal Agreement