

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. D(2)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: April 15, 2008

TITLE: Request for Approval: Municipal Agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation for the Conceptual Planning of the Bolin Creek Greenway

DEPARTMENT: Planning	PUBLIC HEARING: YES ___ NO <u>X</u>
ATTACHMENTS: A. Resolution B. Project Description C. Greenway Commission Recommendation D. Surfaces Memo	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Adena Messinger, Transportation Planner – 918-7329

PURPOSE

On February 19, 2008 staff presented the Board of Aldermen with a municipal agreement that would enable the Town to use federal funds for the conceptual planning of the Bolin Creek greenway trail. It was the consensus of the Board to refer the Bolin Creek municipal agreement to the Greenways Commission for a recommendation. A resolution authorizing the Mayor and Town Clerk to sign and execute the Municipal Agreement is recommended for Board of Aldermen approval.

INFORMATION

In 2003, the Town submitted a funding request to the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization for the planning and construction of a segment of the Bolin Creek Greenway and a segment of the Morgan Creek Greenway. The request was approved and \$1,457,500 was secured for these projects using federal Surface Transportation Program Direct Attributable (STP-DA) funds and local funds. The STP-DA funds would cover 80% of the costs (\$1,166,000) and the local funds would cover 20% of the costs (\$291,500).

In November 2003, the Town approved the Bond Referendum, which included the \$291,500 local match as part of the Sidewalk/Greenway bond projects.

The development of these trail systems is proposed by the Carrboro Recreation and Parks Comprehensive Master Plan and supported by Carrboro Vision 2020.

NCDOT has prepared a Municipal Agreement for the project, which requires authorization of the Mayor and Town Clerk to sign and execute the agreement (Mike Brough, Town Attorney, has reviewed the Municipal Agreement and found it satisfactory.)

This was first brought to the Board on February 19, 2008; however, there were concerns regarding the requirement of a paved trail surface. The use of federal transportation funds to plan and construct a greenway trail require that the project meet the guidelines set by the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO) *Guide for the Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities* and the *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*. AASHTO guidelines call

for shared-use paths to be paved and a minimum of 10' wide. The Board referred the item to the Greenways Commission for a recommendation.

On April 2, 2008, the Greenways Commission discussed the use of federal funds for the conceptual planning of the Bolin Creek greenway trail. A revised project description and the Commission's recommendation are provided in *Attachments B and C*.

Background information on paving surfaces, which was provided to the Greenways Commission, is found in *Attachment D*.

FISCAL IMPACT

The STP-DA funds require an 80/20 match between the State and the Town. The estimated cost of the Bolin Creek conceptual plan is \$70,000; NCDOT will allocate \$56,000 as the 80% from the STP-DA funds and the Town is responsible for \$14,000 for the 20% match. This match is included in the 2008/9-2013/14 CIP.

In the event that the Town decides against entering into a municipal agreement with NCDOT for the Bolin Creek conceptual plan, no other local funds have been budgeted for greenway planning.

STAFF IMPACT

Should the Town move forward with the conceptual plan for a Bolin Creek greenway trail, staff from the Planning and Recreation & Parks Departments will work with the consultant and Greenways Commission to bring the plan to completion.

RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Board of Aldermen adopt the attached resolution.