

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. C(2)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: April 6, 2010

TITLE: Request for Approval of a Municipal Agreement with NCDOT for Design and Construction of the Wilson Park Multi-Use Path

DEPARTMENT: Planning	PUBLIC HEARING: YES ___ NO ___ X ___
ATTACHMENTS: A. Resolution	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeff Brubaker – 918-7329

PURPOSE

The Board of Aldermen is asked to consider approving a Municipal Agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) to authorize federal funding to design and build the Wilson Park Multi-use Path.

INFORMATION

The Wilson Park Multi-use Path is identified as Phase 1A in the Bolin Creek Greenway Conceptual Master Plan. It is also recommended as an “interim treatment” with respect to bicycle improvements along Estes Dr. Ext. in the Comprehensive Bicycle Transportation Plan. The Adams Tract Management Plan, approved in 2006, also suggests a path from Wilson Park to Estes Dr. Ext. Estes Dr. Ext. was found to have a high perceived level of safety risk for bicyclists and a medium perceived level of safety risk for pedestrians in a survey conducted as part of *Identifying Locations for Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety Improvements in Chapel Hill and Carrboro, North Carolina*, a report by the UNC Highway Safety Research Center.

The project involves detailed design and construction of a 10-ft.-wide multi-use (bicycle and pedestrian) path from the southern section of Wilson Park, leading generally northeast through the park and along a sewer easement in the Adams Tract, continuing north-northeast along the western side of Estes Dr. Ext. and terminating near the railroad tracks. The length of the facility will be approximately 2,088 linear ft. The project will also include an approximately 30-ft. connecting path leading to a crossing on Estes Dr. Ext.

The Adams Tract includes two conservation easements: a 7.6-acre riparian easement extending 300 ft. from the centerline of Bolin Creek on the northern end of the property and a 27.3-acre conservation easement on the entire property for the purposes of maintaining woodland habitat for native flora and fauna, protecting water quality, and encouraging certain site-sensitive recreational uses. The latter conservation easement allows the construction of a paved, 10-ft. wide trail for bicycle and pedestrian use only along the sewer easement, consistent with the conservation values laid out in the easement.

Staff have had ongoing discussions with OWASA to incorporate their considerations early in the design process. The Municipal Agreement is necessary to authorize federal transportation

funding programmed for the project and allow the Town to proceed with the design and construction phases.

FISCAL AND STAFF IMPACT

Federal funding for the Wilson Park Multi-use Path under the Surface Transportation Program-Direct Attributable (STP-DA) category was programmed by the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization in 2008. The project is slated for implementation in the Capital Improvements Program for FY 10-11, with a 20% local match provided by the sidewalks and greenways bond.

Since the cost estimate has increased since federal funds were originally programmed, the local match may be needed to cover more than 20% of the total cost. To offset this contingency, Town staff have applied for two grants: a Recreational Trails Program grant through the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources and a Fit Community grant through the N.C. Health and Wellness Trust Fund. As of this writing, awardees have yet to be announced.

Below is a funding table detailing the estimated project cost and funding.

Category	Cost	Federal STP-DA	Local match
Preliminary engineering	\$35,000	\$22,050	\$12,950
Construction	\$231,000	\$146,634	\$84,366
Total cost	\$266,000	\$168,684	\$97,316

Staff time will be necessary to administer the design and construction of the project.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board of Aldermen approve the Municipal Agreement and authorize the Town Manager to execute the agreement.