

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. D(4)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: June 15, 2010

SUBJECT: Update on Bolin Creek Greenway Planning

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING	PUBLIC HEARING: YES _ NO _X_
ATTACHMENTS: A. Resolution	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Patricia McGuire, AICP 918-7327 Jeff Brubaker 918-7329

PURPOSE

An update on the progress of planning for Bolin Creek greenways was requested on May 25th and is provided herein. A resolution accepting this update is provided for the Board's use.

INFORMATION

Conceptual planning for the Bolin Creek greenway got underway in early 2008 when the Town selected Greenways Inc., as the design firm that would lead this effort. The completed plan was presented to the Board of Aldermen on December 8, 2009. The Board's action that evening was as follows:

- 1) Received this update and supported the continued pursuit of greenway development.
- 2) Adopted the recommendation to proceed with Phase 1A and 1B (the alignment of 1B was modified to stop at the confluence of Jolly Branch and Bolin Creek), and Phase 2.
- 3) Directed that all three options for Phases 3 and 4, as presented at the Public workshops, be included in the concept plan.
- 4) Directed staff to establish a process for public input on Phases 3 and 4.
- 5) Directed staff to pursue a municipal agreement with NCDOT to release an RFP and contract with (a) firm(s) to develop construction documents and initiate environmental permitting for Phases 1 and 2 of the greenway trail.

The plan was modified, per items 2 and 3, and is available on the Town's website at <http://www.townofcarrboro.org/AdvBoards/greenways/ResourceInfo.htm>.

STP-DA funds have been allocated for the Bolin Creek greenway for several years, and local match has been available since the 2003 bond referendum. Due to the impending time limits on the 2003 bond, staff has proceeded with the pursuit of municipal agreements for Phases 1A and 1B of the Bolin Creek greenway.

Phase 1A. On April 6, 2010, the Board of Aldermen approved a resolution authorizing the Town Manager to enter in to the municipal agreement for Phase 1A, the Wilson Park Multi-use path, with an expected cost breakdown as shown below:

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

The cost estimate has increased since federal funds were originally programmed for this project, so additional local funds may be needed (to cover the required 20 percent local match and the difference between original and updated cost estimates). To minimize the effect of this change on the local funding, Town staff applied for two grants this spring: a Recreational Trails Program (RTP) 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. The Town has advanced to the final stage of review for the RTP funds with final decisions of the awards due in August; the Town was not selected as a recipient of Fit Community funding this year.

Staff is expecting to release a Request for Proposals for the design and construction engineering by June 21, 2010, with hopes that a contract with a designer can be finalized by July 31, 2010.

Phase 1B. Staff has been working with representatives of CHCCS and UNC to determine the preferred alignment for this phase. Based on a recent site visit, it appears that the preferred alignment is approximately that designated in the Concept Plan as Alternative Route 3. Staff has also been working with the owners/developers of the Claremont projects on the details of the continuation of the trail already constructed in Claremont and the under-bridge crossing at Homestead Road. Staff is preparing the Project Information Data Sheet for submittal to NCDOT. Board of Aldermen approval of the Municipal Agreement for this project is tentatively scheduled for June 22nd.

Phase 2. There has been no activity on this phase.

Phases 3 and 4. The Greenways Commission has been receiving public comment on these phases. Staff expects to provide a report to the Board of Aldermen in FY 2011 with recommendations for a public input process.

FISCAL AND STAFF IMPACT

None noted with acceptance of this report.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Board of Aldermen consider the resolution (*Attachment A*) accepting this report.