

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. C(5)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: October 5, 2010

TITLE: Request for Approval of a Supplemental Agreement with NCDOT for Design and Construction of the Morgan Creek Greenway

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 Supplemental Agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) to administer federal funding to design and build early phases of the Morgan Creek Greenway.

INFORMATION

On March 16, 2010, the Board of Aldermen adopted the Morgan Creek Greenway Conceptual Master Plan, supported the ongoing development of the greenway, and directed staff to pursue a Municipal Agreement with NCDOT. 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. NCDOT has advised that since there is already a Municipal Agreement in place that allowed federal funds to be used for the conceptual planning process, the appropriate step would be a Supplemental Agreement that would expand the scope of work to include additional preliminary engineering activities (detailed design, flood studies, etc.), construction engineering, and construction.

The project involves detailed design of a 10-ft.-wide multi-use (bicycle and pedestrian) path along Morgan Creek from Smith Level Rd. west to the Weatherhill Pointe neighborhood, and construction of the path from Smith Level Rd. west to the Berryhill neighborhood, including a creek crossing. The scope of work also includes flood studies for four creek crossings proposed to be included in the future full length of the greenway, which is proposed to extend from Smith Level Rd. west to University Lake, with a connector trail to BPW Club Rd.

A copy of the Conceptual Master Plan is available at:

<http://www.ci.carrboro.nc.us/AdvBoards/Greenways/ResourceInfo.htm>.

FISCAL AND STAFF IMPACT

The amount of federal and local bond funding allocated for the project is not sufficient to fund the entire length of the greenway. Therefore, the consultants who prepared the Conceptual Master Plan – Coulter Jewell Thames – have recommended the above scope of work in order to balance limited funding with the goals of providing initial bike-ped connections in the Morgan Creek corridor, maximizing the available federal funding, and administrative efficiency (e.g., conducting all flood studies at the same time).

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Future funding opportunities will need to be pursued to complete later phases of the greenway. More information on funding can be found in the March 16, 2010 staff report, available here: http://townofcarrboro.org/BoA/Agendas/2010/03_16_2010_D3A.pdf.

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

RECOMMENDATION

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