

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. C(3)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: January 22, 2013

TITLE: STP-DA Funding Amendment for the Homestead-Chapel Hill High School Multi-use Path Project and Morgan Creek Greenway

DEPARTMENT: Planning	PUBLIC HEARING: YES ___ NO ___ X ___
ATTACHMENTS: A. Resolution B. Staff Memo C. Policy Framework for DCHC-MPO's Federal Funds	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeff Brubaker – 918-7329

PURPOSE

The Board is asked to consider approving a request for an amendment to the table of federal Surface Transportation Program-Direct Apportionment (STP-DA) funding maintained by the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC-MPO) in order to provide additional funds for the Homestead-Chapel Hill High School Multi-use Path project and Morgan Creek Greenway.

INFORMATION

The DCHC-MPO is responsible for allocating STP-DA funding for regional projects. MPO policy (*Attachment C*) allows a one-year grace period for each phase of an STP-DA- or Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ)-funded project. Funds that remain un-obligated by the end of the grace period are at risk of being removed from the project. Carrboro currently has an allocation for one project, which has not been obligated because funding for the required non-federal match (at least 20 percent) has not yet been identified, and which is past the grace period.

Project	STP-DA allocation	Federal fiscal year available
Jones Creek Greenway	\$214,700	2011

The DCHC-MPO is currently reviewing allocations for projects that have not been obligated. MPO members may shift STP-DA funding from one project to another but reallocations should be toward an existing STP-DA project, one that has already been selected through the MPO's competitive process. Members may also request additional STP-DA funding for projects experiencing cost increases, generally not to exceed 15 percent of the original allocation.

The Jones Creek Greenway allocation has now exceeded its one-year grace period. While the project remains an adopted Board priority (December 8, 2009 meeting), the absence of a local match has prevented obligation of the STP-DA allocation. To ensure that this funding is retained

for the Town of Carrboro, it is strongly recommended that the full \$214,700 amount be reallocated to other STP-DA projects that are in progress.

The December 8, 2009, Board priority of implementing Phase 2 can be addressed with support from a CMAQ allocation of c. \$280,000 for extending the current Twin Creeks Greenway into Phase 2. This allocation also requires a c. \$70,000 non-federal match, yet to be identified. Preliminary engineering for this project is eligible to begin at the present time, and construction may begin as early as October 1, 2013, which is the beginning of Federal Fiscal Year 2014.

The Town currently has two projects underway, which lack sufficient funding for completion: Homestead-Chapel Hill High School Multi-use Path (Homestead-CHHS Path) and Morgan Creek Greenway (phases 1 and 2). Securing additional STP-DA funding for the Homestead-CHHS Path, as proposed below, would likely provide enough funding to complete it. Securing additional STP-DA funding for the Morgan Creek Greenway would *contribute to* its progress toward completion through Phase 2, although further funding would still likely need to be identified since Phase 2 involves the cost of a Berryhill-Weatherhill Pointe creek crossing. In the absence of additional STP-DA funding, the Town would need to identify an alternative source of funding to cover costs.

Based on the current shortage, staff recommends the following two-part reallocation strategy:

- 1) The original Homestead-CHHS Path allocation was \$590,000; request an additional 15 percent of that allocation (\$88,500) to use toward cost increases.
- 2) Reallocate all of the Jones Creek Greenway funding between the Homestead-CHHS Path and the Morgan Creek Greenway, providing approximately \$103,684 toward the Homestead-CHHS Path and the remainder (\$111,016) to the Morgan Creek Greenway project.

Summary of funding changes for Homestead-CHHS Path	
Additional 15% STP-DA	\$88,500
Jones Creek Greenway	\$103,684
Total for Homestead-CHHS Path	\$192,184
<i>Remainder of \$214,700 to Morgan Creek Greenway</i>	<i>\$111,016</i>

The MPO Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) has requested a recommendation from MPO staff via the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) on how to proceed with these allocations. The TCC is expected to discuss this at its January 23 meeting, and the TAC is expected to discuss it as early as its February 13 meeting.

FISCAL AND STAFF IMPACT

Kimley-Horn, consulting engineers for the Homestead-CHHS Path, have estimated additional costs of approximately \$178,000 for the project. The proposed STP-DA Funds reallocation strategy would provide \$192,184 for that project, covering the additional expenses and contingency. Payment-in-lieu funds for Claremont South, required as part of CUP approval, would cover the 20-percent non-federal match requirement. Funding for the 20 percent match for the Morgan Creek Greenway portion of the reallocation, roughly \$28,000, would need to be identified. A more detailed analysis is provided in the staff memo (*Attachment B*).

The proposed reallocation strategy would also provide staff with an opportunity to better align transportation funding with the Town's CIP.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend that the Board of Aldermen approve the resolution in *Attachment A*.