THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: October 24, 2023

Subject: Supplemental Agreement and Budget Amendment for the Greenway Connectors Project.

Staff Resource(s): Ken Putnam, PE, Transportation Department Director
Lucy Crown, AICP, Transportation Planning Manager

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into and execute a supplemental agreement with the N.C. Dept. of Transportation (NCDOT); and adoption of the associated budget amendment to accept Transportation Alternative Grant Funds to construct the "Greenway Connectors" project (EB-5790).

Background:

- This "Greenway Connectors" project was awarded a federal transportation grant in 2016. In April 2016 the City entered into the first grant agreement with NCDOT for the original project scope: to construct shared-use path connections between three priority greenways: Beaucatcher, Nasty Branch, and Bacoate Forest within existing right-of way
- These shared-use paths will be off-street and will serve pedestrians, bicyclists, and other micromobility users, enhance multimodal safety, and provide wayfinding from one greenway to the other.
- This project includes two separate pieces, one on each side of the (future) Nasty Branch Greenway located in the Southside neighborhood. The two project areas are the following:
    - From the eastern trailhead of the Nasty Branch Greenway on the corner of Phifer Street and McDowell Avenue through Southside Avenue, Short Coxe Avenue, Biltmore Avenue, and Buchanan Avenue, ending at the parking lot of Memorial Stadium. The connector will remain within the right-of-way of the street. This facility will feature improved high-visibility crosswalks, a wide shared use-path along a portion of Southside Avenue and on Short Coxe Avenue, and greenway wayfinding
    - From the western trailhead of Nasty Branch Greenway on Depot Street, just south of the Dr. Wesley Grant Center, to the southern trailhead of the Bacoate Branch Greenway on Clingman Extension. This facility will feature speed cushions on Depot Street, high-visibility crosswalks and greenway wayfinding.
- Prior grant funding of $1,050,000 and a corresponding City match of $262,500 has already been budgeted in the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP).
- An additional $356,800 in grant funds for the project were recently awarded. The proposed budget amendment would authorize the City to accept the additional grant funds and approve the required additional matching funds of $89,200, which have already been budgeted in the CIP.
- This action will also authorize the City Manager to execute a supplemental agreement with NCDOT to reflect the updated grant funding and additional match.
- Final design documents for the project are currently being reviewed by NCDOT.
- Right-of-way acquisition is being finalized and will be sent to NCDOT for certification by November 2023.
- Bidding for construction of the project will be completed by the end of calendar year 2023.
- Construction of the project is planned to start in Spring 2024 and last approximately 9 months.

Vendor Outreach Efforts:

- The City followed all procurement policies to contract with a design firm to complete the design work.
- When the project is ready to put out to bid, our efforts will comply with all procurement policies.

Council Goal(s):

- Improve and Expand Core Services

Committee(s):

- N/A

Pro(s):

- Additional grant funds have been awarded for the construction phase.
- Fills a funding gap in the Greenway Connector project for the construction phase.

Con(s):

- None

Fiscal Impact:

- Funding for this project, including the City's required match, was previously budgeted and is available in the Capital Projects Fund.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into and execute a supplemental agreement with the N.C. Dept. of Transportation (NCDOT); and adoption of the associated budget amendment to accept Transportation Alternative Grant Funds to construct the "Greenway Connectors" project (EB-5790).

Attachment(s):

- Budget Amendment
- Resolution

ORDINANCE NO. _____

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

That Section 2 of the City of Asheville FY 2023-24 Budget Ordinance be amended to provide an appropriation of $356,800 for the Greenway Connector project as follows:

SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

Revenues:

Federal Grants	$	356,800

Expenditures:

Construction	$	356,800

That this ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon the date of final passage.

Read, approved and adopted this 24th day of October, 2023.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

_____

City Attorney

RESOLUTION NO. 23-____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AND EXECUTE A SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO ENABLE THE CONSTRUCTION PHASE TO MOVE FORWARD FOR THE GREENWAY CONNECTORS PROJECT

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville has authority, pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 160A-17.1, to enter into contracts to accept grants from State governments and their agencies; and

WHEREAS, this project has been a grant-funded project since April 18, 2016, when the City entered into the first grant agreement for the original scope; and

WHEREAS, prior grant funding of $1,050,000 and a corresponding City match of $262,500 has already been appropriated; and

WHEREAS, additional grant funds totaling $356,800 have since been awarded and will be appropriated by this action; and

WHEREAS, The City's required match for the additional funding is $89,200 and is already appropriated in the capital fund; and

WHEREAS, this project is nearly ready for construction, and the Supplemental Agreement will allow the construction funds to be made available;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THAT:

The City Manager is hereby authorized to enter into and execute a supplemental agreement with the N.C. Dept. of Transportation (NCDOT) to release Transportation Alternative Grant Funds for constructing the Greenway Connectors project (EB-5790).

Read, approved, and adopted on the 24th day of October, 2023.

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City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney