

Item Title: Accept and Appropriate Funding from Research Triangle Park for the Triangle Bikeway Project in the Parks Recreation & Open Space CIP

Specific Action Requested:
That the Board of Commissioners:

- 1. Authorizes the County Manager to execute a funding agreement between Wake County and Research Triangle Park for partial funding for the Triangle Bikeway; and**
- 2. Accepts and appropriates \$485,000 from the Research Triangle Park into the Triangle Bikeway project in the Parks Recreation & Open Space CIP.**

Item Summary:

Purpose: The Board of Commissioners must approve funding agreements with other governmental entities.

Background: The Triangle Bikeway, a proposed multi-use paved bikeway between Raleigh, Durham and RTP, is a component of the County-wide Greenway System Plan. To make the project “shovel-ready”, and thus more competitive for future state or federal grant funding opportunities, the County committed \$4,695,000 in funding to the design of the Eastern section of the Bikeway, a 13.4-mile route from I-440/Wade Avenue in Raleigh to the new transit hub on Davis Drive in Research Triangle Park in Durham County. Due to the regional nature of the Bikeway and its focus on transportation, the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) is managing the design process.

In June 2022, the Research Triangle Park (RTP) committed \$485,000 to be used in conjunction with the County’s funding for the design of the Triangle Bikeway, thereby extending the design to the western edge of RTP.

CAMPO has selected a consultant and is ready to begin work on design. The County’s funding is in place, and this item adds RTP’s funding in the amount of \$485,000.

Strategic Plan: This action supports Growth, Land Use and Environment Goal 3: Protect 1,000 acres of green space, including open space, parks, greenways, farmland, and forests by 2029.

Fiscal Impact: Wake County previously appropriated \$4,695,000 of the 2018 Parks Greenways Recreation & Open Space bond for the design of the Triangle Bikeway. This item accepts and appropriates the RTP’s funding in the amount of \$485,000 to the Triangle Bikeway Unit in

the Parks Recreation & Open Space CIP, increasing the project's total budget to \$5,180,000.

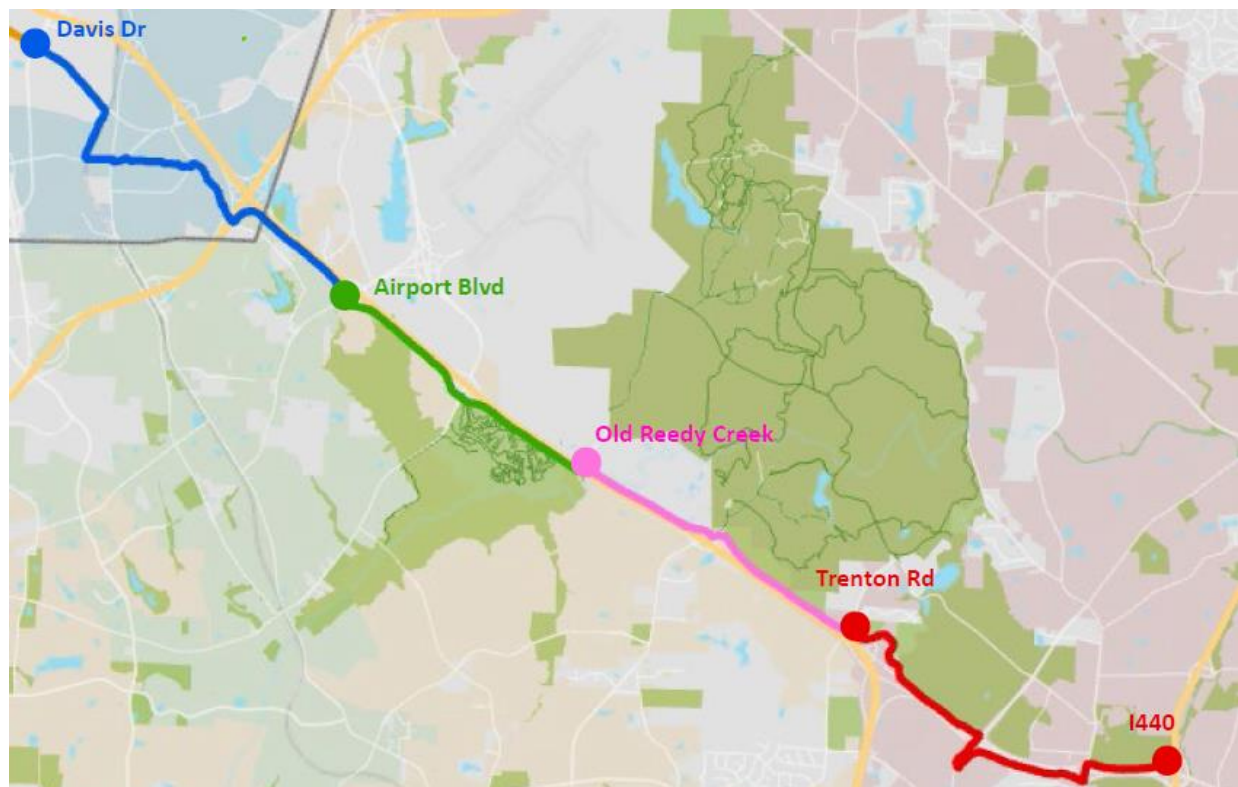
Additional Information:

A bikeway along Interstate I-40 between Raleigh and Durham has been discussed since the early 2000s and has appeared in past Triangle J Council of Governments' (TJCOG) Center of the Region Enterprise (CORE) plans and City of Raleigh Transportation Plans.

At its May 1, 2017 meeting, the Board of Commissioners approved the Wake County Greenway System Plan. The Plan's vision is to create a connected and comprehensive system of greenway trails and connections that enhances the quality of life throughout Wake County. This includes increasing connectivity for multi-modal transportation.

At its June 19, 2017 meeting, the Board of Commissioners approved a funding agreement with CAMPO that included budget appropriation of \$23,200 to complete a feasibility study for the Triangle Bikeway. The Bikeway was subsequently added to the Wake County Greenway System Plan in October 2017 at the completion of the study.

In 2019, CAMPO and DCHC MPO continued to develop the Triangle Bikeway concept by selecting a consultant for a feasibility and implementation study. The firm of McAdams was selected to determine a preferred alternative route and conceptual design. This study is now complete and, to make the project more "shovel-ready", and thus more competitive in future state or federal grant funding opportunities, it was recommended the County complete design development of the Eastern section of the Triangle Bikeway from I-440/Wade Avenue in Raleigh to the new transit hub on Davis Drive in Research Triangle Park in Durham County.



At its March 14, 2022 work session, the Board of Commissioners asked staff to prepare an agenda item that would allow Wake County to move the Triangle Bikeway forward to the construction phase, and at its June 6, 2022 meeting the Board appropriated \$1.4 million. Wake County had submitted a funding request to the U.S. Congress for this project, but the project did not make it into the appropriations bill.

At its September 19, 2022, the Board appropriated an additional \$3.295 million in 2018 Parks Greenways Recreation and Open Space bond funding to be utilized with the \$1.4 million appropriated on June 21, 2022 to complete 100% final design documents for the Eastern section of the Triangle Bikeway including:

- NCDOT Control of Access Committee Approval
- NEPA Documentation
- Public Engagement
- Design
- Permitting
- Construction Cost Estimates
- RAISE Grant Application (or similar) for Construction Funding
- Bidding (after all funding is identified)

In a letter dated June 15, 2022, Scott Levitan, President & CEO of the Research Triangle Foundation of North Carolina committed \$485,000 to the design of the Triangle Bikeway, thereby extending the design to the western edge of RTP.

Due to the regional nature of the Bikeway and its focus on transportation, the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) is managing the design process. CAMPO, through a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process, selected the firm of McAdams as their consultant and is ready to begin work on design. Design agreements are currently being negotiated.

The Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee (OSAPAC) reviewed this project at its March 28, 2022 meeting and voted unanimously to forward the item to the Board of Commissioners for their consideration with two stipulations:

1. NC DOT give their written support/approval of this bikeway in their Right-of-Way, and
2. If the bikeway is designed into Durham County, that Durham County, the DCHC MPO, or others provide some level of funding. (OSAPAC's action was prior to the Research Triangle Park's commitment of \$485,000.)

In an email dated April 1, 2022, Brandon Jones, NC Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Division 5 Engineer, confirmed NCDOT's involvement in the Triangle Bikeway project planning and that NCDOT's Control of Access Committee and the Federal Highway Administration were aware of the project and are also supportive. CAMPO has since drafted a Review & Oversight Agreement with NCDOT for their review of the Bikeway; this agreement will be reviewed by CAMPO's Executive Board at its June 2024 meeting.

The County's funding has been appropriated, and this item adds RTP's funding in the amount of \$485,000 to the Triangle Bikeway Unit in the Parks Recreation & Open Space CIP.

Attachments:

1. Funding Commitment Letter
2. Agenda Materials - June 21, 2022 BOC Regular Meeting
3. Agenda Materials - September 19, 2022 BOC Regular Meeting
4. CIP Budget Memo – FY2024 County Capital Fund – PGROS
5. OS Bond and NCDOT Funding Tracker