

Item Title: Resolution Supporting the Preservation and Enhancement of Tree Canopy within North Carolina Department of Transportation Highway Corridors in Wake County

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners adopts a resolution supporting the development of a policy by the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization that authorizes the NC Department of Transportation (NCDOT) to identify opportunities for revegetation and reforestation along highway projects in Wake County; and that NCDOT use all project resources and funds available for implementation under their facilitation of the overall highway project.

Item Summary:

Purpose: NCDOT requires local governing boards to make official requests for certain project investments.

Background: The NCDOT assists in developing roadside improvements that enhance the visual and environmental aspects of highway corridors throughout the state. In doing so, NCDOT highway projects make available a small percentage of funds that can be used for revegetation and reforestation. The enhancements are then incorporated into the overall highway construction project. However, local jurisdictions must request that NCDOT use these funds and implement the project. Wake County supports a policy that incorporates this approach into all NCDOT highway projects in Wake County.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation requires local jurisdictions to make a formal request for the use of NCDOT highway project funding, when available, for roadside enhancements such as revegetation and reforestation. This policy resolution makes this official request. This item was presented to the Board's Growth and Sustainability Committee on August 15th with direction to draft the resolution for consideration by the Board.

Board Goal: This action supports Growth and Sustainability Goal 1: Preserve and enhance the County residents' quality of life through coordinated land use and transportation planning.

Fiscal Impact: NCDOT will use available project resources and funds for revegetation and reforestation for this highway project. This resolution does not require a financial contribution from the County.

Additional Information:

Wake County recognizes that the enhancement of tree canopy in our public right-of-way and highway corridors reduces negative impacts such as noise, air pollution and stormwater runoff. Therefore, the County desires that all highway construction projects in Wake County engage these funds, when available, for revegetation and reforestation with respect for transportation needs, required maintenance and long-term growth. The County supports formalizing this approach for all NCDOT highway projects in Wake County through the adoption of a policy. The Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) is the appropriate agency to achieve consensus among all jurisdictions in Wake County for the development of such a policy. The attached resolution supports the Board's desire for the policy that would authorize the NCDOT to identify opportunities for revegetation and reforestation along highway projects in Wake County; and that NCDOT use all project resources and funds available for implementation under their facilitation of the overall highway project.

Attachments:

1. Board of Commissioners' Resolution