Item Title: Complete 100% Final Design Documents for the Eastern section of the Triangle Bikeway

Specific Action Requested:
That the Board of Commissioners:

1. **Authorizes staff to utilize 2018 Parks Greenways Recreation and Open Space bond funding in an amount not to exceed $1.4 million to complete 100% final design documents for the Eastern section of the Triangle Bikeway; and**

2. **Authorizes the County Manager to formally request CAMPO lead the design effort for the Eastern section of the Triangle Bikeway and develop a funding agreement between Wake County and CAMPO for said design, subject to the terms and conditions acceptable to the County Attorney.**

Item Summary:

This item is placed on the agenda at the request of Chair Hutchinson.

The Triangle Bikeway, a proposed multi-use paved bikeway between Raleigh, Durham and RTP, is a component of the County-wide Greenway System Plan. The Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO), The Durham Chapel Hill Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO) and its consultant McAdams recently completed the Triangle Bikeway Feasibility & Implementation Study including a preferred route and conceptual design for the Bikeway as a part of its Center of the Region Enterprise (CORE) plan.

At its March 14, 2022 work session, the Board of Commissioners asked staff to prepare an item that would allow staff to move forward with design development documents for the Triangle Bikeway.

Due to the regional nature of the Bikeway and its focus on transportation, it has been suggested that CAMPO manage the design process through completion.

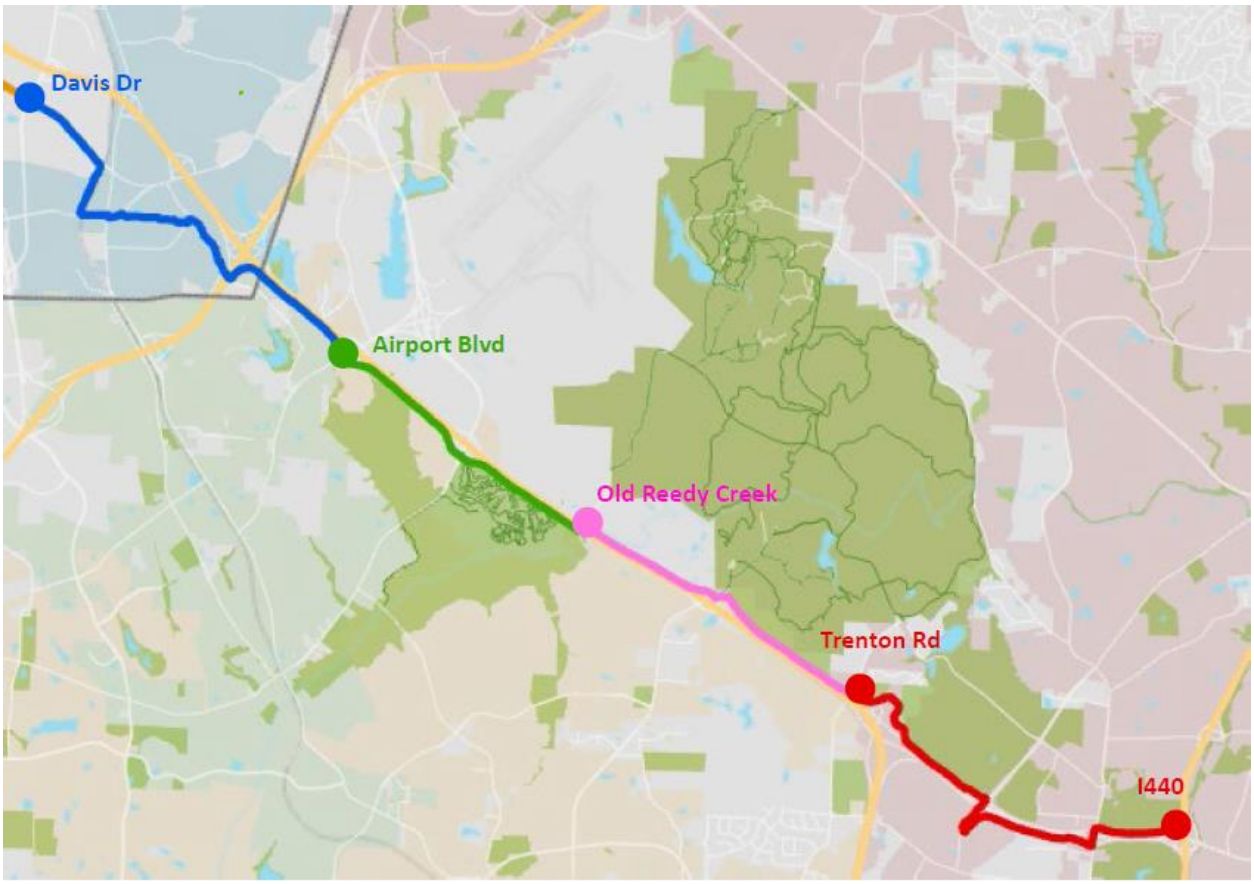
Wake County has submitted a request to the U.S. Congress for additional funding for this project. A final determination of that funding may not be known until Fall of 2022.

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 vision for the plan 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 the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (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, in an effort 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. Based on work by McAdams during the Triangle Bikeway Feasibility & Implementation Study, the following work is required:

- 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)

Due to the regional nature of the Bikeway and its focus on transportation, it has been suggested that Wake County request CAMPO's management of the design process through completion. If CAMPO agrees to the County's request, a funding agreement will be needed between the two agencies.

Until a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process is completed, a consultant is selected and staff has a detailed scope proposal, the exact cost of the work for final design (as outlined above) is not known; the current estimate is $5.25 million. The full design and permitting process is estimated to take between 18 and 24 months. Allocation of funding for the final design will be brought forward to the Board of Commissioners for approval at a future meeting, after a consultant is selected through the RFQ process.

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.

Attachments:
None