

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 additional 2018 Parks Greenways Recreation and Open Space bond funding in an amount not to exceed \$3.295 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.

In an effort to make the project “shovel-ready”, and thus more competitive for future state or federal grant funding opportunities, it was suggested the County complete 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, it has been suggested that CAMPO manage the design process through completion.

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. This item appropriates \$3.295 million in 2018 Parks Greenways Recreation and Open Space bond funding to be utilized with the \$1.4 million appropriated on June 6, 2022 and other partner contributions totalling \$485,000 to complete 100% final design documents for the Eastern section of the Triangle Bikeway.

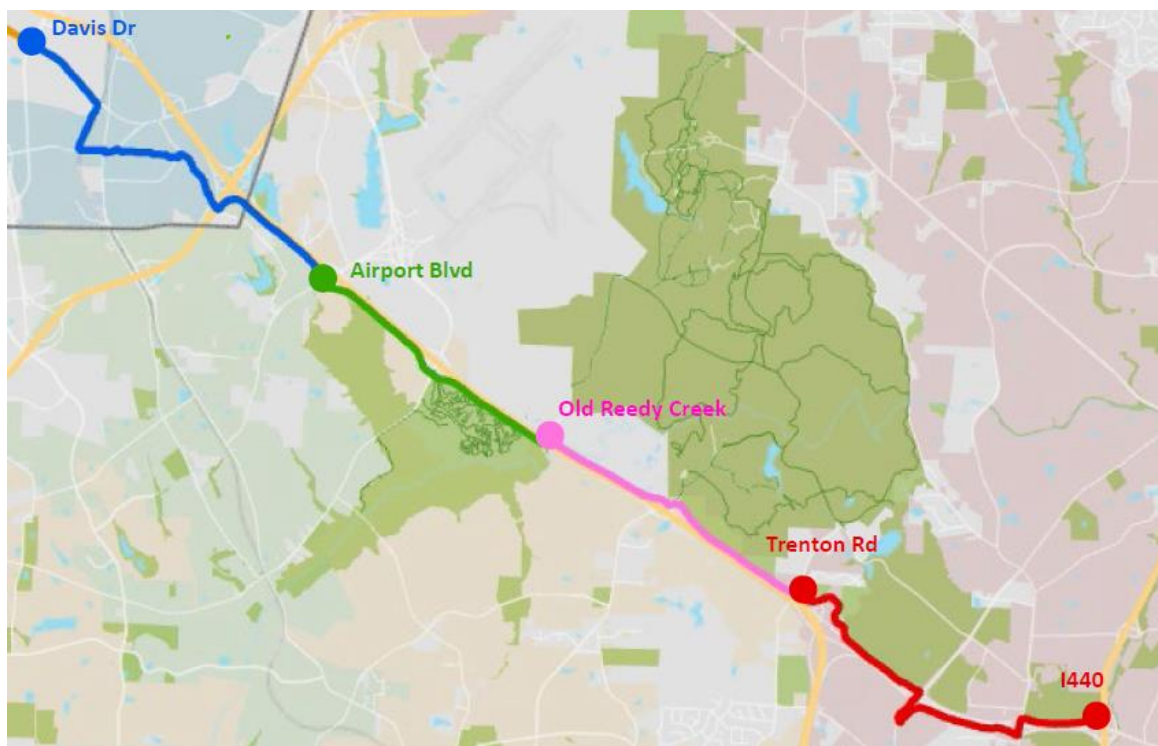
Additional Information:

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, 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, 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.

This item appropriates \$3.295 million in 2018 Parks Greenways Recreation and Open Space bond funding to be utilized with the \$1.4 million appropriated on June 6, 2022 and other partner contributions totalling \$485,000 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)

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 unknown; the current estimate is \$5.18 million. The full design and permitting process is estimated to take between 18 and 24 months. An exact 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.

In an email dated April 1, 2022, Brandon Jones, NC Department of Transportation (NC DOT) 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 also supportive but with many details still to be worked out during the design phase.

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 project.

Follow-up Questions:

The following response to a question posed by Commissioner Adamson is included below.

Commissioner Adamson asked how much of the proposed design money for the Triangle Bikeway will be spent designing the Wake County section and how much would be for the section within Durham County.

The current plan is for the Bikeway to end at the new Transit Hub at Davis Drive in Durham County. At this time the total estimated cost to do 100% design plus NEPA is \$5,180,000.

The cost of doing the work in Wake County along I-440 up to the County line is \$4,250,000.

The cost from the County line to the new Transit Hub at Davis Drive is \$930,000. The Research Triangle Foundation has indicated that they would contribute \$485,000 so the County's cost for doing the design beyond our border is estimated at \$445,000 (or 9.5% of the County's funding.)

Estimated cost of design	\$5,180,000
Previous BOC allocation (June)	(\$1,400,000)
Research Triangle Foundation	<u>(\$485,000)</u>
Funding still needed	\$3,295,000

Attachments:

1. CIP Budget Memo – FY 2023 County Capital Fund – PGROS
2. OS Bond and NCDOT Funding Tracker