

MEMORANDUM

TO: Roger L. Stancil, Town Manager

FROM: J.B. Culpepper, Planning Director
David Bonk, Long Range and Transportation Manager
Lance Norris, Public Works Director
Kenneth Pennoyer, Director of Business Management

SUBJECT: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 – Surface Transportation Program and Surface Transportation Program Direct Allocation Funds

DATE: June 22, 2009

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Council with information on transportation projects proposed to utilize federal funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The attached resolution would authorize the Town Manager to enter into Municipal Agreements with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT). The attached budget ordinance would establish the budget for the Pedestrian Safety Improvements project. In addition, a second ordinance rescinding the Ordinance to amend a capital projects ordinance for streets funded from the 2003 Bonds enacted October 15, 2008, which is superseded by the first ordinance, is attached.

BACKGROUND

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 provides funding for transportation projects including highways, transit, rail, airports, and enhancements. The funding provides up to 100 percent federal funding with no local match requirements. A portion of the funds are being provided through existing funding programs such as Surface Transportation Program (STP), Surface Transportation Program Direct Allocation (STPDA), and the Section 5307 transit program. The NCDOT will be managing the ARRA STP projects, local governments will be implementing the ARRA STPDA projects, and transit agencies will be implementing the ARRA Section 5307/5340 projects. Attachment 1 summarizes the various transportation programs utilizing ARRA funds.

DISCUSSION

The Durham –Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization was allocated \$7,889,000 in ARRA funds through the Surface Transportation Program Direct Allocation program. These funds were sub allocated to member jurisdictions using a population based methodology. Chapel Hill was allocated approximately \$1,171,000 representing 15% of the regional total.

Town staff met with the Chapel Hill representatives to the Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Advisory Committee, reviewed candidate projects and identified the following projects for funding:

STPDA Program (Municipal Agreements needed with the NCDOT)

- Pedestrian Safety Improvements along Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and selected locations - \$350,000.
- Sidewalk Construction: US15-501/NC54 (Manning Drive to Old Mason Farm Road) - \$185,000
- ADA ramps at selected locations - \$50,000
- Raised crosswalks/traffic calming - \$50,000
- Installation of in-street pedestrian lighting at three locations (Willow Drive, Rosemary Street and Raleigh Street) - \$61,563.
- Morgan Creek Greenway, Phase I - \$300,000
- Bike Detection Loops-Signal System Upgrade: Townwide- \$175,000

In addition to the STP-DA funds the North Carolina Department of Transportation has selected the Chapel Hill Signal System Upgrade for stimulus funding from the statewide allocation. The cost of the signal system upgrade is approximately \$5,250,000, which includes bicycle detection loops listed above. The timetable for getting these funds spent is included as Attachment 2.

The following steps will need to be taken to implement projects. All of these steps do not apply to every project but a critical part of the process is finalizing an agreement between the Town and NCDOT outlining the project scope and budget. Once NCDOT has completed the proposed local agreement the Town must approve the agreement. These agreements must be completed by July 1, 2009.

The schedule below includes a more detailed list of steps needed to complete the projects.

July 1, 2009 (local approval)

- Step 1 – Agreement Preparation and Execution
- Step 2 – Preliminary Engineering Authorization
- Step 3 – Scoping Meeting
- Step 4 – Procuring Professional Services
- Step 5 – Environmental Documentation
- Step 6 – Design
- Step 7 – Right-Of-Way Certification
- Step 7a – Right-Of-Way Acquisition

October 1, 2009

- Step 8 – Construction Authorization

January 1, 2010

- Step 9 – Procuring Construction Services
- Step 9a – Force Account
- Step 10 – Construction Administration
- Step 11 – Close Out

Step 12 – Final Audit

In order to use a portion of the stimulus funds for detailed design we propose setting up the project budget for the Pedestrian Safety project. The attached budget ordinance would establish the Pedestrian Safety project budget. The budgets for the remainder of the projects will be completed in September, 2009.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council adopt the attached resolution which would authorize the Town Manager to enter into Municipal Agreements with the North Carolina Department of Transportation to fund projects identified for Surface Transportation Program Direct Allocation funding. The attached budget ordinance would set up funding for the Pedestrian Safety Improvements project.

ATTACHMENTS

1. April 8, 2009 Memorandum to Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Advisory Committee (p. 7).
2. Schedule for Expenditure of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Funds (p. 29).