



CITY OF HARRISONBURG PUBLIC WORKS

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TO: Eric Campbell, City Manager
FROM: Thomas Hartman, PE, Director of Public Works
DATE: June 8, 2021
RE: Recreation Trails Program Grants – Northend Greenway Brookside phase project

Summary:

Consider adopting a Resolution for the Northend Greenway Brookside Phase Project to compete for Recreational Trails Program (RTP) funding.

Background:

The Recreation Trails Program (RTP) is an 80-20 matching reimbursement grant program established for the purposes of providing and maintaining recreational trails. It is funded through the Federal Highway Administration which establishes a program for allocating funds to the States for Recreational trails. In Virginia, these funds are administered through the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.

The Northend Greenway is envisioned to be a 2.5-mile shared use path connecting people in north Harrisonburg with places they want to go, including downtown Harrisonburg. It is included in the 2017 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, which plans for the Northend Greenway to be connected with the Bluestone Trail by way of Federal Street downtown, to eventually provide a seamless, dedicated north/south bicycle and pedestrian route in the City.

The City of Harrisonburg constructed 0.6 miles of the Northend Greenway in 2019 through the VDOT Revenue Sharing Program. A disconnected 0.1-mile segment of the Northend Greenway was also built in 2019, primarily through the efforts of community volunteers. The Brookside phase of the Northend Greenway would improve the connection between these path segments through construction of a nearly 0.1-mile segment of path along Blacks Run in the Brookside subdivision. The path, to be a 10' wide asphalt path that is ADA accessible, would begin at the existing Northend Greenway path at Jefferson St and extend to connect to the sidewalk and road at Drake Ln. This path segment would be constructed on property that is existing City property or on which the City already has an easement for the purpose of constructing the path. At a future time, additional funding will be pursued to extend the path to the sidewalk and road at Roberts Ct. The purpose of the project is to create a safe, desirable path for those walking and biking, including those who live in the neighborhood and those who are using the Northend Greenway to reach destinations such as downtown Harrisonburg.

Key Issues:

None

Environmental Impact:

None foreseen. An environmental document will be prepared for the project, as the funds are of federal origin.

Fiscal Impact:

The 20% local match amount is currently provided in the City Capital Projects Budget.

Prior Actions:

City Council approved funds for Northend Greenway design and construction in 2013.

Alternatives:

Do not pursue the grant funds for this segment at this time.

Community Engagement:

Extensive public outreach was conducted in 2015-2016 to collect the bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure needs of the community for inclusion in the 2017 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends adopting the resolution.

Attachments:

1. Resolution
2. Presentation

Review: