

Buncombe County Agenda Item Information Sheet

AGENDA ITEM:

Resolution Authorizing the Execution of A Maintenance Agreement related to the NCDOT Safe Routes to School Program for a Sidewalk to Serve Charles D. Owen Middle School

MEETING DATE:

June 25, 2013

REQUESTED BY:

Buncombe County Planning and Development
Denise Braine for Jon Creighton, Assistant County Manager and Planning Director

Background information:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has authorized up to \$100,000 to construct a sidewalk along Old U.S. Highway 70 from Eastwood Avenue to the Charles D. Owen Middle School. The funding supports transportation activities associated with the Safe Routes to School Program. The NCDOT administers FHWA funding for these project and now also constructs these projects on behalf of local governments. The project would be funded 100% by federal dollars and will not require a local match.

The NCDOT will design and construct the project to meet all applicable federal and state requirements. Buncombe County must agree to maintain the sidewalk at its own expense after construction is completed.

The Town of Black Mountain previously expressed their willingness to work with Buncombe County and maintain the sidewalk on behalf of the County as long as any maintenance costs incurred are reimbursed to the Town. Following approval of the agreement, Buncombe County Planning and Development will contact the Town again and work with them to ensure maintenance is performed should the need arise in the future. If the Town is unable to assist in this regard, the County will subcontract with a local company to maintain the sidewalk when necessary.

Pro's

- 100% funding available
- supports policies and programs that focus on health and wellness and healthier community environments having safer routes to and from schools can decrease pedestrian and bicycling related injuries, not just for students, but for the entire community

Con's

- County does not construct or maintain sidewalks in unincorporated areas

Funds required:

None at this time.

Alternatives:

None

Action recommended:

Adopt the proposed resolution authorizing the execution of the Locally Administered Project Agreement with NCDOT.