

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA



Agenda Date:	July 17, 2023
Action Required:	Move to second reading in August
Presenter:	Chris Gensic, Park and Trail Planner
Staff Contacts:	Chris Gensic, Park and Trail Planner Krisy Hammill, Director of Budget
Title:	Appropriating VDOT grant funds for Washington Park to Madison Avenue Trail - \$285,665 (1 of 2 readings)

Background

The City of Charlottesville, through Parks and Recreation, received an award from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) in the amount of \$88,350 to assist with efforts to construct a bicycle and pedestrian trail connector from Madison Avenue to Preston Avenue adjacent to Washington Park. In 2021, \$100,000 in surplus funding from another Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) project was moved over to this project. The project was put to bid in 2023 and the bids came at double the amount of funding available. The City recently cancelled another HSIP project and VDOT has agreed to move that funding over to the Washington project to enable it to be re-bid and proceed to construction.

Discussion

There is currently a staircase at the end of Madison Avenue that provides pedestrian access into lower Washington Park. The City will use these funds to improve access to the park by also providing access improvements for ADA accessibility, bicycles, and strollers as well as pedestrians.

Alignment with City Council's Vision and Strategic Plan

Construction of this trail will further council goals of being a Connected City by establishing a portion of the bicycle and pedestrian trail system that enhances our residential neighborhoods.

Community Engagement

The bicycle, pedestrian and trail master plan was developed with multiple public meetings and was approved by council to be an addendum to the City Comprehensive Plan.

Budgetary Impact

No additional local funding is required for this project. Federal and state funding from VDOT will be transferred to fund the additional costs of the project.

Recommendation

Staff recommends appropriation of grant funds.

Alternatives

If grants funds are not appropriated, the project will either have to be supplemented with local dollars or may not be constructed.

Attachments

1. Resolution_VDOT Grant Appropriation Washington Madison Bike Ramp \$285,665