

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: OCTOBER 18, 2006

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE
NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION APPLICATION
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007-08 TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT
GRANT FOR FOUR MILE RUN PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE
BRIDGE

ISSUE: Consideration of a resolution supporting the Northern Virginia Regional Commission application for a Fiscal Year 2007-08 Transportation Enhancement grant for the Four Mile Run Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) Adopt the resolution supporting the NVRC application (Attachment 1) (Attachment 2) for FY 2007-08 funding in the amount of \$500,000 for Phase 1 in the design and preliminary engineering of a pedestrian and bicycle bridge over Four Mile Run at Commonwealth Avenue to South Eads Street in Arlington County;
- (2) Request the City Manager to assure the Commonwealth of Virginia that the City of Alexandria will provide a local match of \$50,000 if the grant is awarded; and
- (3) Authorize the City Manager to apply for these grants, and to enter into agreements with the State to accept any of these grants.

DISCUSSION: The adoption of the Four Mile Run Restoration Master Plan by City Council in March 2006 culminated five years of extensive work between the residents of the Four Mile Run watershed, the City, Arlington County, the US Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Protection Agency, and Congressman Moran's office.

The Four Mile Run Restoration Master Plan includes, as part of a demonstration project, a proposed pedestrian and bicycle bridge from Commonwealth Avenue to South Eads Street in Arlington. The purpose of the pedestrian and bicycle bridge in the demonstration project is to provide a link between two communities separated by the

and will provide safer and more convenient access to the Four Mile Run corridor and its nearby trails. Arlington County has agreed to maintain the bridge.

The Four Mile Run master planning process has been an extensive collaboration process across jurisdictional boundaries. The 18-member, citizen-led Joint Task Force (JTF) and Agency Coordination Group (ACG) conducted numerous public outreach and information gathering meetings to determine the initial goals for the Master Plan. The bridge was selected in part because it:

- ✓ ties together Arlington and Alexandria's communities;
- ✓ demonstrates visible environmental, engineering and design improvements;
- ✓ will be noted as a significant, positive change for the corridor;
- ✓ is located east of the Mount Vernon Avenue bridge;
- ✓ will be sustainable, involving limited risks of failure; and
- ✓ does not require land acquisition at this time

This pedestrian and bicycle project also exemplifies the vision in the City Council 2004-2015 Strategic Vision. In that vision, Goal #3 is: "There is an Integrated, Multimodal Transportation System that Efficiently and Effectively Gets People from Point 'A' to Point 'B.'" That goal includes the following objective: "Improve and Increase Connectivity within and throughout the City by Transit, Car, Bicycle or Walking."

Similarly, in the 2002 "City of Alexandria Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities Strategic Master Plan," walking and bicycling trails (55%) had the highest percentage of respondent households rating it as one of their four most important facilities. Multi-purpose trails (52%) had, by a wide margin, the highest percentage of respondents indicating it as one of the four new parks/facilities that they would be most willing to support with tax dollars.

FISCAL IMPACT: The grant amount for Phase I design and preliminary engineering of the Four Mile Run pedestrian and bicycle bridge is \$500,000. To apply for funding through the Transportation Enhancement program, the City must pledge to contribute \$50,000. This sum comprises one-half of the necessary 20 percent match required by the grant. Arlington County has pledged to commit the other half of the 20 percent match (\$50,000) for a total match of \$100,000. The City's matching contribution is available in the existing, approved Capital Improvement Program project, Bike Trails, managed by the Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities Department.

The very preliminary estimate of the cost of constructing this bridge is \$4.0 million. This estimate would be refined in the design and preliminary engineering phase. Construction of the bridge would not commence before FY 2009 and possibly later. At this time there is no known funding source for construction, either grant funds or local funds from the City of Alexandria or Arlington County, although grant funding would be sought for construction costs. If obtained, such grants typically would have a 20% local

share that would be shared equally with Arlington County. So under this scenario the additional cost to the City for the construction phase would be \$400,000. Construction would be unlikely to proceed without such grant funding.

ATTACHMENT: Resolution for Four Mile Run grant

STAFF:

Mark Jinks, Deputy City Manager

Richard J. Baier, P.E., Director, T&ES

Kirk Kinkannon, Director, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

Bruce Johnson, Director, Office of Management and Budget

James Maslanka, Division Chief of Transit, T&ES

Aimee Vosper, Landscape Architect Supervisor, Park Planning, RP&CA

Yon Lambert, Pedestrian and Bicycle Coordinator

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, in accordance with Transportation Enhancement Program of the Virginia Department of Transportation allocation procedures, it is necessary that a request by City Council resolution be made in order that the Virginia Department of Transportation fund a project known as the Four Mile Run Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge in the City of Alexandria.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council that the City Manager is authorized, for and on behalf of the City of Alexandria, hereafter referred to as the PUBLIC BODY, to execute and file an application to the Department of Transportation, Commonwealth of Virginia, hereafter referred to as the DEPARTMENT, for financial assistance in the amount of \$400,000 to defray the costs borne by the PUBLIC BODY for constructing a multi-use stream crossing over Four Mile Run at Commonwealth Avenue and South Eads Street in the County of Arlington; and to accept from the DEPARTMENT reimbursements in such amounts as expenses are submitted, and to authorize the City Manager to furnish the DEPARTMENT grants in such amounts as may be awarded, and to authorize the City Manager to furnish to the DEPARTMENT such documents and other information as may be required for processing the application. The City Council certifies that the funds shall be used in accordance with the requirements of Section 58.1-638.A of the Code of Virginia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the PUBLIC BODY will provide funds in the amount of \$50,000, which will be used as Alexandria's share of the 20 percent match¹ to the state funds in the ratio as required in such Act, that the records of receipts of expenditures of funds granted the PUBLIC BODY may be subject to audit by the DEPARTMENT and by the State Auditor of Public Accounts, and that funds granted to the PUBLIC BODY for defraying the expenses of the PUBLIC BODY shall be used only for such purposes as authorized in the Code of Virginia. The undersigned duly qualified and acting as City Clerk of the PUBLIC BODY certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution, adopted at a legally convened meeting of the City Council held on the 26th day of September 2006.

ADOPTED: _____
Date

WILLIAM D. EUILLE MAYOR

ATTEST:

JACQUELINE M. HENDERSON CITY CLERK

¹ Arlington County has also committed to \$50,000 for its share of the 20 percent match.