

INTRODUCED: October 12, 2015

A RESOLUTION No. 2015-R61-65

To request the Commonwealth Transportation Board to fund the James River Branch Trail project to provide bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure improvements on the proposed James River Branch Trail between its intersections with Basset Avenue and North Hopkins Road.

Patron – Mayor Jones, President Mosby

Approved as to form and legality
by the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: NOV 9 2015 AT 6 P.M.

WHEREAS, in accordance with Commonwealth Transportation Board’s construction allocation procedures, it is necessary that a request by City Council resolution be made for the Board to fund the James River Branch Trail project to provide bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure improvements on the proposed James River Branch Trail between its intersections with Basset Avenue and North Hopkins Road;

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND:

That the City of Richmond, Virginia requests the Commonwealth Transportation Board to fund the James River Branch Trail project to provide bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure

AYES: 9 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: _____

ADOPTED: NOV 9 2015 REJECTED: _____ STRICKEN: _____

improvements on the proposed James River Branch Trail between its intersections with Basset Avenue and North Hopkins Road.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the City of Richmond, Virginia hereby agrees to pay its share of the total cost for planning and design, right of way and construction of this project in accordance with section 33.1-44 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, and that, if the City subsequently elects to cancel this project, the City hereby agrees to reimburse the Commonwealth Transportation Board for the total amount of the costs expended by the Board through the date the Board is notified of such cancellation.

RECEIVED

4-4019

SEP 18 2015

O & R REQUEST

AUG 20 2015



CITY OF RICHMOND INTRACITY CORRESPONDENCE

Chief Administration Office City of Richmond

O&R REQUEST

DATE: August 10, 2015 EDITION: 1

TO: The Honorable Members of City Council

THROUGH: Honorable Dwight C. Jones, Mayor

THROUGH: Selena Cuffee-Glenn; Chief Administrative Officer

THROUGH: Christopher L. Beschler, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

THROUGH: Dr. Emmanuel Adediran; Director of Public Works

THROUGH: M.S. Khara, P.E.; City Engineer

THROUGH: Lamont L. Benjamin, P.E; Capital Projects Administrator

FROM: David McNeel, Senior Policy Advisor - DPW

RE: Application to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to request project funding from FY2017 Transportation Alternatives (TA) program for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure improvements to the James River Branch Trail Project

ORD. OR RES. No.

PURPOSE: To authorize the chief Administrative Officer (CAO) or designee, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond to formally request funding from VDOT for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure improvements to the James River Branch Trail Project from North Hopkins Road to Basset Ave.

REASON: In accordance with the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) construction allocation procedures, it is required that a supporting resolution and City Council public hearing of the resolution be held for the application to be considered for awarding of Transportation Alternatives Program funds.

RECOMMENDATION: The Department of Public Works recommends approval.

BACKGROUND: the Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program was replaced by the Transportation Alternative (TA) Program with the passage of MAP-21. The federal transportation legislation (MAP-21) Transportation Alternative (TA) is transportation bill that began in federal fiscal year 2013. The Transportation Alternatives (TA) program provides funding for programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives, including on and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities and environmental mitigation, recreational trail program projects; and safe routes to school projects. This funding program mandates 20% matching funds to be supplied by the applicant.

A concept plan for the James River Branch Trail (JRBT), also known as the Southside Richmond Rail Trail, was developed beginning in 2009 with a grant assistance from the National Park Service. The project's intent was to develop a plan for the abandoned rail corridor to convert it into a community greenway that provided neighborhood connections, spurred economic vitality, preserved open space, facilitated community health through recreation and active, cost-effective transportation and to advance the social welfare of the impacted neighborhoods and to enhance the local community. The corridor extends more than two miles from Bassett Ave, just west of George Wythe High School, to North Hopkins Road, East of McGuire Veterans Hospital.

Upon completion of the concept plan in March 2010, the Mayor's Pedestrian, bicycle and Trails Planning Commission included the JRBT as one of several community greenways. It was subsequently recommended as a part the City's Strategic Multimodal Transportation Plan as well as the city's Bike Master Plan (BMP). The BMP included this project as a priority greenway for implementation given the intact right-of-way and the detailed concept plan that had been completed.

Through the concept plan development process much of the city's due diligence was completed, along with community and citizen engagement and key stakeholder involvement. This corridor provides an alignment that is not served by the City's transportation network, while providing critical community connections between neighborhoods and places of employment and commercial activity, thus providing a valuable transportation corridor for biking and walking. In fact, the corridor is currently used by some pedestrians as a means to transit between neighborhoods, even though it is not improved or intended for that use. Lastly, this and other greenways projects are consistent with the aims of the City of Richmond's sustainability initiatives by providing non-motorized transportation options, especially within underserved communities.

The JRBT's approximately 2.5 miles linear greenway would also include amenities such as wayfinding, benches, trashcans and trailheads with parking as well as landscaping and interpretive elements that convey the history of this corridor and the surrounding community. Additionally, emergency call boxes and appropriate lighting would be installed to ensure a broad range of people find the corridor to be a safe and inviting place to recreate or travel. The JRBT is also envisioned to intersect with, and connect to other bikeway improvements, including other proposed greenways, notably the Reedy Creek Greenway which is currently undergoing the development of a similar concept plan, also with support from the National Park Service.

The Department of Public Works and CSX has each had appraisals done on the property and is currently negotiating a fair market value for the acquisition. The City's Right of Way purchase is estimated at \$450,000. The amount of \$360,000 is being requested under the TA Program for

purchase of the Right of Way. The TA funds require 20% matching funds. If federal funding for this project is received, then the City will need to provide matching fund in the amount of \$90,000 through the upcoming CIP budget.

The TA application requires a Council Public Hearing of the resolution to be held and submitted to VDOT prior to November 1, 2015, the application deadline.

FISCAL IMPACT/COST: \$90,000. If federal funding for this is received, the City's share will be 20% of the total project cost. The City will need to fund this via upcoming CIP budgets upon federal grant approval.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: Not adopting this resolution will not allow the project to compete for the Federal Transportation Alternatives funds.

BUDGET AMENDMENT NECESSARY: No.

REVENUE TO CITY: \$360,000 in Federal Transportation Alternative Funds if project is approved by VDOT.

DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon adoption.

REQUESTED INTRODUCTION DATE: September 14, 2015

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING DATE: September 28, 2015

REQUESTED AGENDA: Consent Agenda

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL COMMITTEE: Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee (LUHTSC) September 22, 2015

CONSIDERATION BY OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES: None

AFFECTED AGENCIES: Department of Public Works, Legal Department, Planning and Development, Economic and Community Development, Department of Public Utilities,, Finance Department, Budget & Strategic Planning, Copies also sent to : City Mayor, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (Christopher L. Beschler), and City Attorney (2).

RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING ORD. OR RES.: None

REQUIRED CHANGES TO WORK PROGRAM(S): Routine maintenance costs are expected in the future years after construction is completed.

ATTACHMENTS: Map

STAFF: Prepared for Dr. Emmanuel O. Adediran, DPW Director
David McNeel, Sr. Policy Advisor – DPW
Contact No. 804-646-2022

James River Branch Trail

City of Richmond, VA

Geographic Information Systems

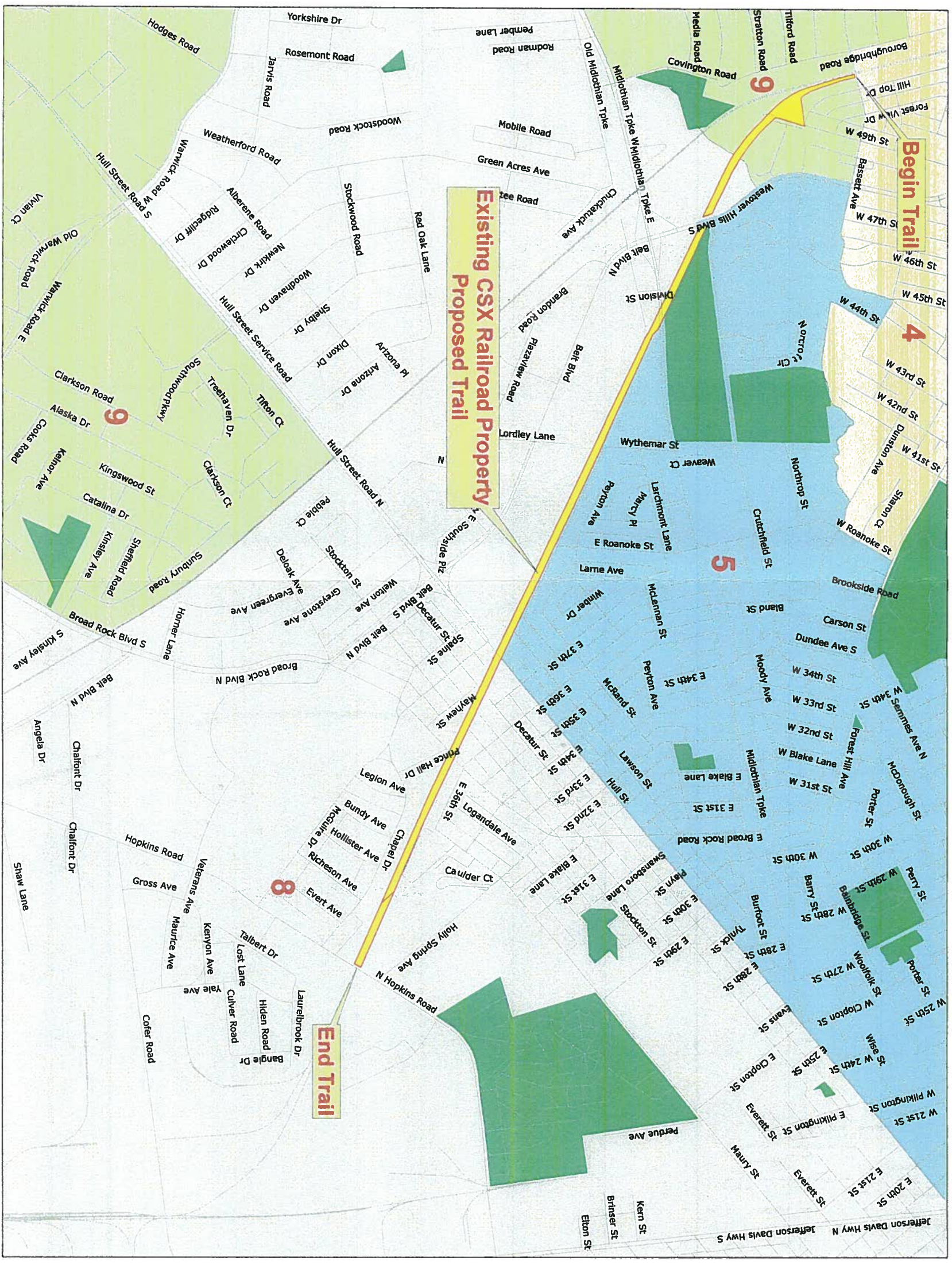


Legend

- Interim_Parcel_10232014
- Railroads (small extent)
- Carriageway View
- James River Branch Trail_10232014
- Parks and Recreation Locations

Council Districts

Name	Color
4	Light Blue
5	Light Green
8	Light Yellow
9	Light Purple



City of Richmond, VA
Department of Planning and Economic Development
Geographic Information Systems



Map Date: 10/23/2014
Map Time: 10:23:20 AM
Map User: gisadmin