



CITY OF RICHMOND

Department of Planning & Development Review *Staff Report*

Ord. No. 2014-201: To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to accept funds in the amount of \$617,037 from the Virginia Department of Transportation and to appropriate the increase to the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Capital Budget by increasing estimated revenues and the amount appropriated to the Department of Public Works' Virginia Capital Trail – Phase II project in the Transportation category by \$617,037 for the purpose of funding the construction of Segment 2 of the Virginia Capital Trail.

To: City Planning Commission
From: Land Use Administration
Date: October 20, 2014

PETITIONER

Lamont L. Benjamin, P.E., Capital Projects Administrator
City of Richmond

LOCATION

900 East Broad Street

PURPOSE

To accept \$617,037 reimbursable funds from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) for the "Virginia Capital Trail – Segment 2" project.

SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATION

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% in matching funds to be supplied by the applicant.

In the winter of 2013 the City submitted a TA application requesting federal funding for the construction of the Virginia Capital Trail- Segment 2. The application was successful and the City was awarded \$617,037 in FY14 for the project.

The Virginia Capital Trail (VCT) is a pedestrian and bicycle trail that connects the Commonwealth's past and present capitals Jamestown, Williamsburg, and Richmond. The City of Richmond has developed a plan called the Virginia Capital Trail Riverfront Section that will implement three segments of the Virginia Capital trail within the City limits. *Segment 1* of the VCT is from 17th Street to Great Ship Lock Park and was constructed in 2010. *Segment 2* of the VCT is from the Great Ship Lock Park and extends to the Lehigh Cement Property and is currently under design. *Segment 3* (currently under construction) begins at Lehigh High Cement property and extends to the Henrico County line.

This budget amendment is for *Segment 2* of the VCT. Once implemented, *Segment 2* will be a 0.20 mile long pedestrian/bike trail completing the final phase of the Richmond Riverfront section of the Virginia Capital Trail thereby connecting downtown Richmond to the 55-mile Capital to Capital Route that originates in Jamestown.

The City has been awarded \$617,037 in federal funds. This award requires a 20% City match in funds for federal grant in the amount of \$154,259. The matching funds are available in the Virginia Capital Trail- Segment 2 project account Award # 500459.

The Department of Public Work recommends approval of this ordinance.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Site Description

Segment 2 of the VCT is from the Great Ship Lock Park and extends to the Lehigh Cement Property and is currently under design.

Proposed Use of the Property

The Virginia Capital Trail (VCT) is a pedestrian and bicycle trail that connects the Commonwealth's past and present capitals Jamestown, Williamsburg, and Richmond.

Master Plan

The Master Plan designates this area as Public and Open Space. "Primary uses include publicly owned and operated parks, recreation areas, open spaces, schools, libraries, cemeteries and other government and public service facilities. (p. 135)"

Zoning & Ordinance Conditions

The property is zoned M-2 Heavy Industrial District

Surrounding Area

The properties to the north and west are zoned M-2 Heavy Industrial District and consist of undeveloped wooded areas. The properties to the east are zoned M-2 Heavy Industrial District and are occupied by the City of Richmond. The property to the south consists of the James River.

Neighborhood Participation

There has been no neighborhood participation associated with this request.

Staff Contact: M. S. Khara P.E., City Engineer, 646-5413

Lamont L. Benjamin, P.E., Capital Projects Administrator 646-6339