



Jetton Street Sidewalk Grant Funding Opportunity

To: Mayor and Board of Commissioners
From: Jamie Justice, Town Manager
Date: May 14, 2019
Re: Jetton Street Sidewalk Grant Funding Opportunity

1. OVERVIEW

The Jetton Street sidewalk project was originally identified in the 2013 Walks and Rolls Plan to provide sidewalks on both sides of Jetton Street. The project would entail sidewalk on the south side of Jetton Street between Potts Street and Davidson Gateway Drive. In 2016, the town applied for Transportation Alternatives Funding for a few projects, including the Jetton Street sidewalk. It ranked highly but did not receive funding at that time. This project has continued to be eligible for funding opportunities.

This project recently became eligible from the STIP (Statewide Transportation Improvement Program) to receive funding at an 80/20 match for non-highway projects. The town has been asked to provide a letter of support and commit to spending at least 20% of the overall project costs if it was awarded funds. The cost estimate for the total project is \$290,000 with the town's 20% estimated at \$58,000. Once the town responds, the Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization (CRTPO) will advise the town if the project will receive the grant.

Staff recommends the local match funds come from the annual appropriation in the town budget that goes towards sidewalk projects. If awarded the grant, the construction funds are identified for 2025, however there is a possibility the funds could become available sooner and town staff would work with CRTPO to pursue accelerating the schedule.

2. RELATED TOWN GOALS

Strategic Plan Goal: *The Town of Davidson will enable citizens to move freely throughout town via transit, car, bicycle, and on foot.*

Comprehensive Plan: Davidson remains committed to controlling our own destiny as a distinct, sustainable, and sovereign small town. Our sense of community is rooted in citizens who respect each other; in racial and socioeconomic diversity; and in **pedestrian and bicycle orientation**; all in the presence of a small liberal arts college. Our history and character guide our future.

Core Values:

Citizens need to move easily throughout the town and region, so government will provide a variety of options, such as sidewalks, bike paths, greenways, connected streets, and transit.

Citizens entrust town government with the stewardship of public funds, so government will provide high quality services at a reasonable cost.

3. OPTIONS/PROS & CONS

Option 1:

Support the project and commit the estimated \$58,000 and any overages to complete the sidewalk on Jetton Street.

Option 2:

Decline support and utilize the funds for other projects.

Pros:

Accepting the grant allows for an important project to be completed that might otherwise not be completed until much later.

Accepting the grant maximizes the town's funds for infrastructure projects and funds this project at \$.20 on the dollar.

Cons:

Accepting the grant does commit the 20% local match to this project and those funds could be appropriated for other sidewalk projects.

Accepting the grant does add increased administrative staff costs.

4. FYI or RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends supporting the project and accepting the grant including committing the 20% local match.

The recommended action: Motion to approve authorizing the town manager to accept the grant and to commit the 20% local match funds.

5. NEXT STEPS

Next step, if supported, is to create a letter of support for this project by the Town Manager.