



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

To: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Robert L. Tetens, Director
Date: March 12, 2013
Re: Transportation Alternatives Program Application - Scio Twp.

Background

In 2012 the Commission awarded \$250,000 to Scio Township through the Connecting Communities program to construct a non-motorized path along Zeeb Road. The proposed 1.5-mile trail would connect the Township offices, just north of I-94, to Huron River Drive and the future extension of the Border-to- Border trail. The approved funding was to be used for construction of the first phase of the trail which would extend north on Zeeb Road to Dexter-Ann Arbor Road. The project has since stalled due to problems acquiring the necessary easements to complete the trail. Scio Township will lose the Connecting Communities grant if they are unable to secure the easements and enter into a construction contract before March 2014.

Staff has been in discussions with Scio Township about the possibility of shifting the Connecting Communities funds to help construct a portion of the B2B in the Township (see attached). Specifically, extending the recently completed River Terrace Trail from Dexter-Huron Metropark east 1.1 miles to Zeeb Road. This project is estimated to cost approximately \$1,400,000 and will be constructed completely on HCMA property and in the Huron River Drive right-of-way. The project is reflected in the current Capital Improvement Plan where \$1.5 million is allocated for construction in 2014.

Discussion

The Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) is a source of Federal transportation funding targeted towards non-motorized transportation. The program is administered through SEMCOG. Approximately \$5 million in TAP funding was awarded in fiscal year (FY) 2013 and SEMCOG is preparing to distribute a second round of approximately \$5 million in FY 2014.

Staff is proposing to complete a joint TAP application in partnership with Scio Township and the Washtenaw County Road Commission to construct the B2B segment described above. The application deadline is April 22, 2013. Staff is proposing to use the \$250,000 of Scio Township Connecting Communities funds and an additional \$50,000 to provide the local match for the application. The \$300,000 match will slightly exceed the 20% minimum required.

Recommendation

I propose that the Commission authorize staff to proceed with the TAP application for \$1,400,000 in partnership with Scio Township and the Washtenaw County Road Commission. Further, that WCPARC provide the \$300,000 local match, of which, \$250,000 is a reallocation of the Scio Township Connecting Communities award.

*E. Spaulding Clark, Supervisor
Nancy C. Hedberg, Clerk
Donna E. Palmer, Treasurer*

Township of Scio

*Trustees: Richard A. DeLong
Christine A. Green
M. Jack Knowles
David S. Read*

March 6, 2013

Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
2230 Platt Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48107

RE: 2012 Connecting Communities grant for the Zeeb Road Pathway in Scio Township

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for awarding a 2012 Connecting Communities grant of \$250,000 to Scio Township to be used in the construction of the Zeeb Road Pathway project.

As you may be aware, the project has run up against multiple problems in acquiring the necessary easements to move this project forward. The Township has been exploring alternatives and is very committed to somehow putting these grant dollars to work in Scio.

The township has now been made aware of new money that has recently become available through the Federal Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) for a variety of non-motorized transportation projects. Washtenaw County Parks has offered the possible opportunity for Scio to partner with WCPARC and WCRC in an application to the program for a grant to build the Border to Border Trail segment from Dexter Huron Metro Park to Zeeb Road (1.1 miles).

Scio Township sees this partnership as a desirable way to advance bike/pedestrian pathway facilities for the Scio community and also sees this opportunity as a key component in advancing other phases of the Zeeb Path corridor in the future.

Thus, I am writing to request that the Connecting Communities grant monies of \$250,000 awarded to Scio Township now be used to assist in the 20% local share required by the referenced TAP grant. We understand that the grant application is due April 22 and that notification of awards will be in July, 2013.

If the application receives no award, then we further understand that Connecting Communities monies would remain available to the Township while we continue to search for alternative ways to apply the grant monies here in Scio Township.

*827 N. Zeeb Road • Ann Arbor, MI 48103
734/369-9400 • 734/665-0825 Fax
www.ScioTownship.org*

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Spaulding Clark". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

E. Spaulding Clark
Scio Township Supervisor

cc: Scio Township Board of Trustees
Allison Arcscott