



Agenda Action Form Overview

Durham Memorial Stadium Capital Improvement to Support USA Track and Field.

Background/Justification

The Durham Sports Commission’s mission is to create economic and social impact by leading the community’s efforts to attract, support, and promote youth, amateur, collegiate, and professional sporting and recreational events. After conferring with the Stadium staff, they submitted a proposal in September of 2017 to host the United States of America Track and Field (USATF) Youth Outdoor National Championship in 2019. In December of 2017 USATF awarded the 2019 event to Durham.

With the Durham Stadium as the venue for the event, the USATF requires several inspectional walk throughs to determine specific detailed requirements of the venue. Since the Stadium was originally designed with the emphasis on football there were strategic modifications that are required for track and field that to meet USATF standards.

The Board is asked to appropriate \$1,471,403 in Capital Financing Plan Fund fund balance and transfer the funds to the Pay as You Go Fund in order to create the Durham County Memorial Stadium Capital Improvement Project to support maintenance issues and renovations at the Durham County Stadium, and the specified requirements of USA Track and Field (USATF) event.

Of the \$1.4 million, \$717,320 supports maintenance issues including: home side bleacher wall replacement, lead paint and mold abatement, driveway entrances repaving, spectator seating replacements. The FY 2017-26 capital improvement plan includes a project for the stadium renovations, starting in FY 2019-20 and going through FY 2026 at an estimated total cost of \$5.2 million.

The remaining \$754,082 address USATF specified stadium modifications to include: Hammer cage installation, storage room construction for certified equipment check in and issuance, track repair and resurfacing, fencing the officials’ locker room for drug screening, and equipment purchases for field events.

The Durham Sports Commission led the successful bid and will captain the local organizing committee that includes participation from the North Carolina USATF Association, Durham County Memorial Stadium and Stadium Authority, Durham Convention & Visitors Bureau, City of Durham, and Durham County. As many as 4,500-6,000 athletes, aged 7-18, are expected to travel to Durham and compete in the event, which would generate a forecasted economic impact of over \$7 million. Its projected the USATF event will fill 18,000 hotel room nights over six days. The overall stadium renovations will expand opportunities for the Durham community to compete with other sites across the state and county to host regional and national track and field events, yielding additional sales and occupancy tax revenue.

Above and beyond the 2019 USATF Youth Outdoor National Championship is the opportunity to pursue other events that would utilize the improvements made to the stadium.



One example of this would be the opportunity to bid on the 2020 & 2021 NAIA Outdoor Track and Field National Championship. This event requires a hammer throw cage, quality track surface and seating for over 3,500 spectators. Durham County Memorial Stadium is the only viable option for this event in Durham. The NAIA event is awarded for 2 years with 1,300 participants and 3,000 fans annually. The total economic impact of the event over two years is anticipated at over \$5 million.

The Durham Sports Commission is also in discussions with USATF regarding their Club Track and Field Championship, as well as additional discussions with conference championships, youth state championships, and other future bookings.

The Durham Sports Commission has stressed that quality facilities drive these decisions and are what event owners are seeking. Our current competition is NC A&T's Stadium in Greensboro and the Irwin Belk Track Complex at UNC-Charlotte. With both facilities on University campuses, Durham County Memorial Stadium will have to not only maintain the facility, but also continually improve the facility to compete against the resources of a college campus. However, the market share of track and field events and the economic benefits of hosting that sport are worth not only this improvement but future evaluations of other improvements.

Policy Impact

This action does not impact existing Board policies.

Procurement Background

The Architect of record for the stadium is DTW. The firm is preparing drawings for the stadium modifications. Upon funding approval, the project will be bid out for a general contractor.

Fiscal Impact

Capital Finance Fund fund balance will be used to support the requested project cost. The FY 2017-26 capital improvement plan includes a project for the stadium project renovations, starting in FY 2019-20 and going through FY 2026 at an estimated total cost of \$5.2 million. The timing of stadium repairs related to the requested project requires an escalation of timing and funding from the CIP approved project. This change does not impact the overall CIP County stadium project costs, but rather just moves up a portion of the funding to FY 2018-19 to support USATF needs for the national track event occurring in the County stadium.

Recommendation

Recommend that the Board appropriate \$1,471,403 in Capital Finance Fund fund balance to support maintenance issues and renovation at the Durham County Stadium.