



Legislation Text

File #: 24-0365, Version: 1

Item:

Approval of the Final Grant Agreement in the Amount of \$1,220,000 between Durham County and the Federal Railroad Administration for the Durham Rail-crossing Engagement, Planning, and Innovative Revitalization (Durham REPAIR) Study

Date of BOCC Meeting: July 8, 2024

Request for Board Action:

The Board is requested to authorize staff to execute the final grant agreement in the amount of \$1,220,000 between Durham County and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for the Durham Rail-crossing Engagement, Planning, and Innovative Revitalization (Durham REPAIR) Study.

The agreement will facilitate the start of a study analyzing three rail-crossings in East Durham (Ellis Road, S. Driver Street, and S. Plum Street) for opportunities to improve the safety, mobility, and community near the three adjacent railroad crossings. From 1997 to 2022, there were 19 crashes, including three fatalities and nine injuries at these crossings.

Executing the final grant agreement with FRA will allow Durham County to move forward with the Durham REPAIR project. The draft grant agreement was reviewed at the June 3 and June 10 meetings. Staff are coordinating with FRA on the final agreement and expect limited change from the draft agreement.

The REPAIR project is anticipated to be funded for \$1,525,000. Durham County was awarded a grant through FRA to fund 80% of the project cost (\$1,220,000). The remaining 20% (\$305,000) will be fully reimbursed by Durham County Transit Plan funds administered by GoTriangle. Funding for the REPAIR project is reflected in the approved FY25 County Budget and the FY25 Durham County Transit Work Program.

Alignment with Strategic Plan: The Durham REPAIR project will further the County's Strategic Plan goal for Safe Communities by addressing unsafe rail crossings in East Durham and the goal for Environmental Stewardship and Community Prosperity by providing better rail services that connect to jobs, education, housing, healthcare, and opportunity.

Resource Persons: Ellen Beckmann, AICP, Transportation Director; Curtis Scarpignato, Transportation Planner

County Manager's Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Board authorize staff to execute the final grant agreement in the amount of \$1,220,000 between Durham County and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for the Durham Rail-crossing Engagement, Planning, and Innovative Revitalization (Durham REPAIR) Study.

County Manager: _____