

RESOLUTION #19-1202-10

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AUTHORIZING MIKE SCHUILING, LIBERTY TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR, TO APPLY FOR CAPITAL FUNDS FOR A MULTI-USE TRAIL ON HOME ROAD, "HOME ROAD LIBRARY TRAIL"

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio has capital funding available to municipalities for capital projects such as multi-use trails, and

WHEREAS, State Representative Andrew Brenner has agreed to present a Liberty Township request for funding from the capital budget for multi-use trail construction, and

WHEREAS, if the funds are awarded to the Township, Liberty Township would be responsible for approximately 10% of the project costs, and

WHEREAS, the Home Road Library Trail total costs are estimated to be \$345,200.00; the state funding requested is 90% or \$310,680.00 and the Township's 10% portion would be approximately \$34,520.00.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF LIBERTY TOWNSHIP, DELAWARE COUNTY, OHIO that Township Administrator Mike Schuiling is hereby authorized to work with State Representative Andrew Brenner in a request for capital funding for the construction of the Home Road Library Road Trail.

Motion made by Richhorn and seconded by _____.

Vote: _____ Mrs. Eichhorn _____ Mrs. Leneghan _____ Mr. Gemperline

This Resolution shall be in force and become effective immediately upon its execution.

Dec. 2, 2019

Date

Melanie Leneghan, Trustee

Mike Gemperline, Trustee

Shyra Eichhorn, Trustee

I, Fiscal Officer of Liberty Township, Delaware County, Ohio, hereby certify that Liberty Township has the amount of \$ 34,520.00 available in the TRAIL FUND fund, and that this amount will be used to pay the local share of the project known as Home Road Library Trail when it is required.

Dec. 2, 2019

Date

Nancy Denutte, Liberty Township Fiscal Officer

Capital Funding Request

1. Project Name: Home Road Library Trail

2. Description of what the state capital dollars would be used for

Build a section of the Home Road Trail, which will connect the new Delaware County Library with churches, schools, parks, neighborhoods, and a future medical center located along Home Road. The project also includes safe pedestrian crossings at the intersections of: (1) Steitz and Home Roads; and (2) Northway Drive and Home Road.

3. Physical location of the project (City or TWP)

The Home Road Library Trail will be located within Liberty Township, along the north side of Home Road between Steitz Road and Sawmill Parkway. More specifically, the path is located on the Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church and Olentangy Local School District properties between the proposed developments to the west and the westerly entrance to Liberty High School. This trail will eventually connect with other planned sections of the Home Road Trail which will extend into the City of Powell, as well as Concord and Orange Townships, providing a major east-west trail corridor spanning both the Scioto River and the Olentangy River.

4. Physical location of the project (County)

The Home Road Trail will be located within Delaware County, along the north side of Home Road between Steitz Road and Sawmill Parkway.

5. Entity or organization sponsoring the project

This project is sponsored by Liberty Township, Delaware County.

6. Owner of the asset or facility

The Home Road Trail will be owned by Liberty Township, Delaware County.

7. Total project cost

Total project cost for the Home Road Trail project is estimated to be \$345,200.00. This cost estimate includes safe pedestrian crossings at the intersections of: (1) Steitz Road and Home Road; and (2) Northway Drive and Home Road. The Cost Estimate provided by Delaware County Engineer's Office is attached, along with a conceptual alignment exhibit for the proposed trail.

8. Amount of state funding requested

State funding requested is 90% of the total project estimate: \$310,680.00

9. What non-state funding will be available for the project?

Liberty Township will provide funding for 10% of the project: \$34,520.00

10. Amount of state funding the project has received in the past

This project has not received any state funding in the past.

11. Any additional information that would be of assistance in evaluating the project's eligibility to receive state capital funding.

The new Delaware County Library planned for the northwest corner of Steitz and Home Roads will be a major asset for the Powell and Liberty Township communities. However, the only way to safely access that location currently is by car. The heavy traffic along Home Road makes it far too dangerous for either pedestrians or bicyclists to use. Therefore, on August 20, 2019, the Delaware County District Library Board of Trustees issued a resolution which states: "the Board of Trustees strongly endorses plans for multi-use trails that will allow people to walk, run, or bicycle to the new library"; and "the Board will work with the stakeholders in and around the new library to help ensure that the building is bicycle and pedestrian friendly" (See attached resolution).

Along Home Road near the new library site there are several large neighborhoods, the Beautiful Savior Church and Preschool, Indian Springs Elementary School, Olentangy Liberty High School (OLHS), Liberty Park, and the planned Wexner Medical Center. Again, there is currently no trail connecting these community assets. There are several planned projects for adding trail segments along Home Road. However, there is currently no planned project to build the trail segment between Steitz Road and OLHS which this Home Road Library Trail project proposes to address. Therefore, by building this Home Road Library Trail, the new library will be accessible to all the aforementioned neighborhoods, schools, churches, and parks, as well as the future Wexner Medical Center. The Home Road Library Trail will also be connected to the Sawmill Parkway Trail which connects downtown Powell with Delaware City, and provides access to the Columbus Zoo via the Powell Road Trail. Other planned projects will then extend the Home Road Trail west across the Scioto River to Dublin Road and east across the Olentangy River past SR-315. This will eventually provide a major community trail system, providing safe pedestrian and bicycle access to the new library and other key community assets. This Home Road Trail Corridor is consistent with the trail vision developed and adopted by the OPAL Trails Committee of Liberty Township, the Delaware County Trail Committee, MORPC, the Central Ohio Greenways, and ODOT.

The developer of Middlebury Crossing, which includes the new library, has agreed to include trails along their Home Road and Steitz Road frontage. The developer of the Liberty Grand Community on the east side of Steitz Road has also agreed to include trails along their Home Road and Steitz Road frontage. And the developer of the property just east of the Liberty Grand Community includes a trail segment along Home Road in their development plan. The OPAL Trails Committee has reached out to the remaining property owners along the north side of Home Road to discuss the proposed Home Road Library Trail. Olentangy Local Schools has indicated that there should be no problem granting right-of-way across their property, and Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church has indicated that they are open to granting right-of-way across their property. Thus, at this point, there is strong local community support for the proposed trail, and no known opposition.