

**TOWN OF BLACK MOUNTAIN BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

Meeting Date: September 14, 2009

SUBJECT: Adoption of Resolution of Support and Request for endorsement to submit a joint application with the City of Asheville and Buncombe County for an ARRA application to develop a regional greenway from Old Fort to Black Mountain to the City of Asheville.

AGENDA INFORMATION

Agenda Location: New Business
Item Number: C
Department: Planning & Development Services and Recreation & Parks Depts.
Contact: Elizabeth Teague/Jim Orr
Presenter: Elizabeth Teague/Jim Orr

BRIEF SUMMARY:

The Town has been working with Buncombe County to conduct a feasibility study for a regional greenway to connect the Point Lookout Trail, into Black Mountain, through Swannanoa, and connecting to the City of Asheville's planned Wilma Dykeman Riverway. The City and County asked Black Mountain to consider participation in a Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) proposal for the development of this regional trail system.

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION: Direct staff to pursue the TIGER grant proposal and Adoption of the attached resolution.

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ATTACHMENTS: Resolution of support for a proposal for a TIGER grant under the federal stimulus program.

MANAGER'S COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: This is a time-sensitive grant application which requires a resolution of support from the Board in order for us to submit a proposal. The minimum grant amount under this program is \$20 million and there is no required match. However, the Town may be asked to assist with preliminary engineering funds with the County and City at a later date if the proposal is accepted and we have further clarification of project requirements from the Federal Highways Administration.

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT
FOR SUBMITTAL OF A PROPOSAL TO THE TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENTS**

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan envisions a “community-wide network” of trails, walking paths and sidewalks and Black Mountain as “one of the most walkable communities in the region” as well as the protection of the surrounding mountains and viewsheds of our area, and

WHEREAS, the Town’s Greenways Commission is working to implement the Greenway Master Plan which includes a regional trail connection to Old Fort, Swannanoa and the City of Asheville; and

WHEREAS, the potential trail and greenway connections among Black Mountain, Asheville and Old Fort will enhance regional tourism, transportation and trail development opportunities, possibly complementing a program of future passenger rail service and increasing tourism for Buncombe County as a bicycling destination; and

WHEREAS, This regional trail alignment was recently awarded funding through the MPO for a feasibility and alignment study through the French Broad River MPO; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Black Mountain is committed to working with the general public and Town Boards to implement the Town’s Comprehensive Plan and to promote pedestrian safety, non-motorized transportation, and a healthy community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Black Mountain, North Carolina, Board of Alderman support a proposal to the Federal Highways Administration under the Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program, and is committed to working with Buncombe County and the City of Asheville and other local organizations to develop a regional multi-use trail facility linking Old Fort to Asheville to the economic and transportation benefit of the adjacent communities and the region.

I move the adoption of the foregoing resolution:

Alderman

READ, APPROVED AND ADOPTED, this 14th day of September, 2009.

ATTEST:

Carl Bartlett, Mayor

Town Clerk

Marcy Onieal, Town Manager