

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-32

**AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AGREEMENTS WITH NCDOT
REGARDING SIDEWALK AND LANDSCAPING BETTERMENTS ON PROJECT R-5799**

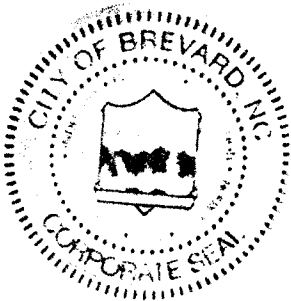
WHEREAS, on June 5, 2023 the Brevard City Council heard a presentation from staff, summarized in the affixed staff report, on the need to designate funds for sidewalk and landscape betterments on NCDOT's Project R-5799;

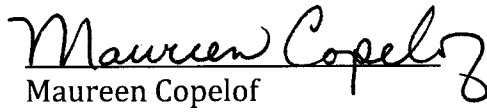
WHEREAS, attractive landscaping on Brevard's transportation gateways and wide bicycle/pedestrian paths align with City Council's priorities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BREVARD,
NORTH CAROLINA THAT:**

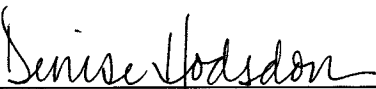
The City Manager (or his designee) is hereby authorized to execute necessary agreements with the North Carolina Department of Transportation for the purposes described in the above referenced staff report.

Approved and adopted this 5th day of June, 2023.




Maureen Copelof
Mayor

ATTEST:


Denise Hodsdon, CMC
City Clerk

STAFF REPORT

City Council, Monday, June 5, 2023

Title: Commitment to Landscaping and Sidewalk Costs for R-5799 - Roundabouts at Pisgah Forest entrance and Deavor Rd.

Speaker: Dean Luebbe, Assistant City Manager/Finance Director

Prepared by: Dean Luebbe, Finance Director

Approved by: Wilson Hooper, City Manager

Background

The City established a Roundabout Capital Project by Ordinance 2022-48 on August 1, 2022. Initially, this project was endowed with \$100,000 to cover voluntary betterments, such as landscaping and wide sidewalks, on all NCDOT roundabout projects planned for Asheville Hwy. NCDOT allows for landscaping costs of up to 1.5% of the total project cost, any additional costs for voluntary enhancements must be borne by the locality. Of the initial \$100,000 endowment, about \$90,000 has been spent or encumbered to pay for landscaping design services and the enhanced landscaping currently being installed on the recently completed roundabout.

Project R-5799 is NCDOT's next project. It includes two separate roundabouts on the Asheville Highway (at the entrance to Pisgah Forest, and at Deavor Road).

Discussion

NCDOT estimates the landscaping plans for R-5799 previously approved by Council will exceed the 1.5% ceiling by approximately \$113,727, and that extra wide sidewalks in keeping with the nearby bike/pedestrian trails will exceed by \$40,410.

The roundabouts at these two locations are the first thing many visitors see as they enter the City. City Council has recognized the importance of a positive "first impression", and the landscaping design was approved by City Council on July 15, 2020. Likewise, the sidewalks are essentially segments of the nearby Estatoe/Ecusta Trails and are important pieces of a Council-designated priority.

At the moment, the funds to pay for the betterments have not yet been collected. The project fund's balance is about \$10,000, and will increase to about \$62,000 on July 1 since the proposed FY23/24 budget includes an additional \$52,000 for roundabouts. Though the bill will not come due until the project is completed (probably 2025 or beyond), the City will need to continue budgeting annual transfers into the Roundabouts Capital Project to pay for this and other discretionary enhancements on forthcoming NCDOT roundabout projects.

By taking action tonight, the Council is committing to budgeting and reserving money for at least the next two fiscal years for this specific purpose.

Proposed Action

Though Council typically waits until its next scheduled meeting to take action on items such as this, staff requests action this evening due to the time sensitive nature of the matter. Staff requests Council approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into agreements with NCDOT committing the City to pay an additional approximately \$113,727 for landscaping betterments and \$40,410 for sidewalk betterments for R-5799.