



REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

ITEM NO. 17.

DATE OF MEETING: January 4, 2011

REQUESTED BY: Benjamin Andrea, Planner II, Planning and Community Development

SHORT TITLE: Resolution Authorizing Submission of a Federal Recreation Trails Grant Application in the Amount of \$75,000 for the West Pender Rail-Trail Project

BACKGROUND: In December 2010, the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation (DPR) announced that applications are now available for the 2011 Federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant program. Applications are being requested in the event that Congress approves the \$1,600,000 Federal Highway Administration funding request for the Recreational Trails Program. Applications will be awarded pending availability of funds. The grant request is \$75,000, requiring a 25% local match (\$18,750) either in cash, in-kind services or donations.

The purpose of the grant is to construct the critical first segment of the West Pender Rail-Trail within the existing reserved right of way in the county-owned Pender Commerce Park. Aside from providing a much-needed area for public recreation in western Pender County, the development of this approximate one-mile segment of trail would also serve as a demonstration site to aid in future negotiations with property owners along the former rail corridor. Additionally, the trail segment may be perceived as a benefit for companies considering locating along the US 421 industrial corridor. The rail-trail segment within the commerce park would eventually be incorporated into a larger network of sidewalks as development of the commerce park continues.

The West Pender Rail-Trail (WPRT) project continues to gain support and momentum, and the development of the mile within the Pender Commerce Park would support Pender County's goal of improving parks and recreation opportunities for county residents.

At their November 17, 2010, meeting the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board unanimously approved a resolution supporting the RTP grant application and is forwarding a recommendation of approval to the Board of Commissioners.

SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED: To consider a resolution authorizing submission of a Federal Recreational Trails Program Grant application in the amount of \$75,000 for the West Pender Rail-Trail Project to construct the Pender Commerce Park segment of the rail-trail.

COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

Respectfully recommend approval.

Initial

RESOLUTION

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Pender County Board of Commissioners that:

the Board hereby authorizes submission of a Federal Recreational Trails Program Grant application in the amount of \$75,000 for the West Pender Rail-Trail Project to construct the Pender Commerce Park segment of the rail-trail. The Chairman/County Manager is authorized to execute any/all documents necessary to implement this resolution.

AMENDMENTS:

MOVED _____ SECONDED _____

APPROVED _____ DENIED _____ UNANIMOUS

YEA VOTES: Brown ___ Tate ___ Rivenbark ___ Ward ___ Williams ___

George R. Brown Jr., Chairman Date

ATTEST Date