

8 Funding Sources

Introduction

The following sources for greenway and pedestrian / bicycle project funding are considered viable for those improvements identified by this master plan report.

Town Funding

There are several options available to the Town of Zebulon to fund greenway and bicycle / pedestrian improvements projects. These options include allocations from the annual town budget under transportation or parks and recreation, bond referendums dedicated to greenways and Recreation Project Fees. The town charter (section 8.32) allows the town to charge Recreation Project Fees which are kept in a separate trust fund and spent on community facilities, such as greenways within 10 years of their collection. Other sources include various public and private grant sources.

LAPP (Locally Administered Projects Program)

The Locally Administered Projects Program (LAPP) was adopted by the NC Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) on October 20, 2010. The program is used by the CAMPO to prioritize and program all projects in the region that will utilize federal funding that is the responsibility of the CAMPO (such as Surface Transportation Program – Direct Allocation (STP-DA), Congestion Mitigation for Air Quality (CMAQ), etc.). This process will involve a once-a-year call for all local highway, transit, bicycle and pedestrian projects, and will result in an annual program of projects in the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP).

The call for applications is typically in August with selections around the first of the year. This is an 80/20 grant program where the municipality agrees

to pay for 20% of the entire project. Funds can be used for design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction. CAMPO uses a scoring system to assist in determining projects that receive funding. Priority is given to communities that have not had many projects administered under this program. The following funding types are included in LAPP:

- CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality)
- STP-DA (Surface Transportation Program - Federal Direct Allocation)
- STP-EB (Surface Transportation Program - Bike and Ped Federal Funding)

Park and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF)

The North Carolina General Assembly established the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) on July 16, 1994 to fund improvements in the state's park system, to fund grants for local governments and to increase the public's access to the state's beaches. The Parks and Recreation Authority, a nine-member appointed board, was also created to allocate funds from PARTF to the state parks and to the grants program for local governments.

The PARTF program provides dollar-for-dollar grants to local governments. Recipients use the grants to acquire land and/or to develop parks and recreational projects that serve the general public. Applications are available each October and are typically due by the end of January of each year. The funding over the last few years has been more limited but still available. In 2014, PARTF awarded 17 grants to municipalities totaling about \$4 million. The awards are announced from May through July.

NC Trails: Recreational Trails Program/Grant Program (Through NC Parks & Recreation Grant Manager)

The RTP is a federal grant program authorized by Congress in 2012 as Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21 Century (MAP-21). The intent of the RTP is to help fund trails and trail-related recreational needs at the State level. Funding for the RTP comes from federal gas taxes paid on non-highway fuel used in off-highway vehicles, and the program is administered at the Federal level by the Federal Highway Administration.

At the State level, the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has assigned that responsibility to the Division of Parks and Recreation and its State Trails Program. The North Carolina Trails Committee is a seven member advisory committee who will review all applications and make recommendations for funding. The Secretary of DENR has the final approval authority for North Carolina.

Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

LWCF is a Federal grant program managed through the National Park Service and the NC Division of Parks and Recreation (DPR). The program began in 1965 and has funded 874 park projects in North Carolina providing more than \$74,700,000 in Federal grant funds for outdoor recreation. This grant was used for about \$32k for the Zebulon Community Park back in the mid-90s and most recently used for a total of \$100k for the Town of Rolesville Main Street Park. Historically, North Carolina's LWCF annual allocation has been split 60/40 between local governments and state agencies. Applications must go through the state LWCF liasons.

NCDOT Bike and Ped Grants

The NCDOT Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation and the Transportation Planning Branch created an annual matching grant program – the Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant Initiative – to encourage municipalities to develop comprehensive bicycle plans and pedestrian plans. This program was initiated in January 2004 and is currently administered through NCDOT-DBPT. To date, a total of \$4.1 million has been allocated to 154 municipalities through this grant program.

Safe Routes to School/Active Routes to School

Since 2005, 79 projects totaling approximately \$10 million have been selected for funding in North Carolina. There are two pots of federal dollars currently available for Safe Routes to School programs and projects. The first pot is from the old transportation law (SAFETEA-LU), and does not require matching funds. This pot is still available in many states, including North Carolina. The second pot of money is from the Transportation Alternatives Program, in the current transportation bill (MAP-21), and it requires local matching funds of 20%.

Active Routes to School is a NC Safe Routes to School Project supported by a partnership between the NC Department of Transportation and the NC Division of Public Health. Through this project there are ten Active Routes to School project coordinators working across North Carolina to make it easier for elementary and middle school students to safely walk and bike to school. The project coordinators work with partners in their communities to increase:

- One-time awareness events about the importance of Safe Routes to School.
- The number of ongoing programs that encourage walking and biking to or at school.
- The number of trainings on how to implement Safe Routes to School-related activities.
- The number of policies that support walking and biking to or at school.
- The number of safety features near schools.

In addition to working directly with schools, the project coordinators work within communities to identify opportunities for shared use of facilities and Complete Streets to improve access to physical activity.

Wake County Partnership Grant Program

The goal of Wake County's Open Space Program is to work in partnership with willing municipalities, nonprofit organizations and individual property owners to protect remaining open space in the county. The Partnership Grant Program was created to streamline protection of open spaces that are not located within the county's 11 priority acquisition corridors.

County policy states that protection of any property that lies outside of one of the county's 11 acquisition corridors must be funded as a partnership effort. The County will provide a 50% funding match to any partner who wants to collaboratively pursue land protection outside the 11 priority stream corridors. The Partnership Grant Program operates on a case-by-case basis. Usually, a landowner or organization interested in protecting a piece of land as open space will contact County staff and will engage in a pre-proposal discussion regarding whether or not this property will help the Open Space Program meet its goals. During the pre-proposal discussion, if County staff and the interested party agree that purchase of the particular property or easement will help the Open Space Program meet its goals, then a project proposal must be created.

If an organization or municipality is interested in participating in the partnership grant program and receiving matching funds to purchase property, then they must complete a project proposal form and provide necessary supplementary materials such as maps and property analysis documentation. Proposals are accepted on a year-round basis.

After the project proposal has been written, then County staff submit the proposal to LARC and OSAPAC for review and approval. Favorable proposals are then presented to the Wake County Board of Commissioners (BOC), which votes to either approve or reject the proposed acquisition. If the BOC approves expending County funds, then a series of legal and financial transactions are undertaken that include signing a legal agreement and exchanging funds.

NC Department of Public Health/ Federal Dollars for Public Health

Besides Active Routes to Schools, these two groups often advertise grant opportunities which are constantly changed each part of the year. Currently, there are no grants related to greenways, but that may change in the upcoming years. These sources should be checked with regularity.

North Carolina Community Transformation Grant: Part of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention Grant Program

The Community Transformation Grant (CTG) Program helps communities design and carry out local programs that prevent chronic diseases such as cancer, diabetes, and heart disease. In 2011, CDC gave \$103 million to 61 state and local governments, tribes and territories, and nonprofit organizations in 36 states. CDC also gave nearly \$4 million to 6 national networks of community-based organizations.

CTG awardees are working with partners from many sectors. Some partners include:

- Schools and school districts
- Transportation experts
- Businesses
- Faith-based organizations

In 2012, CTG added the Small Communities Program. More than \$70 million went to 40 neighborhoods, school districts, villages, towns, cities, and counties with fewer than 500,000 people. These grants help smaller communities make lasting changes to reduce health gaps and expand services to prevent and manage chronic diseases. CTG Small Communities will help improve health for about 9.2 million more Americans.

Urban & Community Forestry Grant Program

This is a grant program through the North Carolina Forest Service. The intent is to protect trees within an urban environment, but the grant is not strictly for tree planting. It is to go to projects that will do their part to protect trees and the environment. It is a 50% match grant and the application process starts every January 1. The total grant can be up to \$15k but can be increased for special projects to \$30k that show an innovative approach or can be considered a regional or statewide program.

NC Department of Commerce

NC DOC has numerous grants that can be applied to infrastructure, such as the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and multiple job and economic development grants. A lot of their grant funded leans toward job creation, so it would have to be shown that any new greenway would develop jobs in the area.

Duke Energy Foundation Grants (can be used for stormwater as well) (Water Resources Fund)

In September 2014, the Duke Energy Foundation announced a \$10 million fund for projects benefiting waterways in the Carolinas or immediately downstream of their operational facilities in Virginia, Tennessee and Georgia. The fund includes a \$1.5 million designation for projects in the Dan River Basin Region that benefit waterways or help develop the economic and community vitality of the region.

Programs supported by the fund are science-based and research-supported and provide direct benefit to at least one of the following focus areas:

- Improve water quality, quantity and conservation
- Enhance fish and wildlife management habitats
- Expand public use and access to waterways
- Increase citizens' awareness about their roles in protecting water resources

Grants are for up to \$100k and can be used for public use and access to waterways, as well as conservation of waterways. The grant Request For Proposals opens each fall.

John Rex Endowment

The John Rex Endowment supports an environment where children and families in greater Wake County live healthy lives. Guided by the belief that all children should reach their full potential, the John Rex Endowment works with the community to support the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of children.

The portion of funding that would be relevant to greenway development is the Healthy Foods and Active Living goal. The John Rex Endowment wants to assure Wake County children have opportunities for healthy eating and active living. Families need safe, reasonably priced, and convenient access to healthy foods and opportunities for physical activity.

Funding is awarded through a Request for Proposals process and Grants are awarded three times a year. Their website will be kept current with the dates for applications for grants. www.rexendowment.org

Blue Cross Blue Shield of NC Foundation

BCBSNC does not have a traditional grant cycle. They announce opportunities to apply for grant funding on a periodic basis. Their grants range from small-dollar equipment grants to larger, multi-year partnerships. They do not accept unsolicited applications and all applications must be submitted through their online system.

When grants are available, they will provide specific instructions and requirements.

Triangle Community Foundation (TCF)

This foundation has multiple grants that could be applicable to Zebulon. The Community Development grants are intended to improve access to opportunity for lower income families.

There is also a grant for Environmental Conservation. Triangle Community Foundation is investing in comprehensive and collaborative efforts to promote land conservation and sustainable land use. Specifically, the Foundation will provide funds to increase land conservation and its stewardship, build public awareness, understanding, and support of conservation through innovative programs.

TCF is using a web-based grant application. They have an online tutorial available for viewing.

GlaxoSmithKline's Ribbon of Hope

This is a one-time grant of \$25,000 for projects that further science, health, and education in local communities. This grant can only be applied for by a community-based nonprofit group and it can not be used for construction.

Ribbon of Hope proposals will be considered that relate to the establishment and implementation of projects which:

- Tightly align with goals and objectives of local community agencies
- Demonstrate their sustainability after grant funds are expended
- Address critical community needs that have been identified through comprehensive needs assessment activities.

Applications are accepted in October and April. Applications are submitted through <http://www2.mcrel.org/NCGSKFRibbonOfHope/index.asp>

US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Grants

There are multiple grants offered by the USDA that could be application to this master plan. One is the Economic Impact Initiative Grant. This grant can be used for street improvements. Grants of up to 75% of eligible project costs are available. The requirements of this grant are as follows:

- Applicants must be unable to finance the project from their own resources and/or through commercial credit at reasonable rates and terms
- Facilities must serve the rural area where they are/will be located
- Projects must demonstrate substantial community support
- Environmental review must be completed and determined to be acceptable
- Priorities are given to projects related to public health and safety, energy efficiency and education.

NC Wildlife Commission

As part of their mission, the North Carolina Wildlife Commission provides boating access across the state. The NC Wildlife Commission has experience building boat launches and access points of all different sizes, including kayak and canoe launches. These projects typically are funded by the state of North Carolina through fees collected from fishing permits and the sale of tackle.

The Wildlife Commission has partnered with communities in the past to help with the design and construction of boat launches and water access points. If after an evaluation it is determined that a specific project meets the goals and objectives of the Commission, they potentially could be in the position to provide design and/or construction assistance on the project.

Contact the NC Wildlife Commission Engineering Department at 919.707.0150

Summary

Depending on the specific project, one or a combination of funding sources may be needed to fund a project.