

To	Niki Jones, Assistant City Manager
Thru	Stephen Bentley, Director
From	Kimberly Siran, Landscape Architect
Department	Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources (PRCR)
Date	June 12, 2025
Subject	Professional Engineering Services – Marsh Creek Greenway Trail Project

Background Information

The Marsh Creek Trail Project is a proposed 6.5-mile greenway corridor intended to provide a continuous trail connection along Marsh Creek. The project will link the existing Crabtree Creek Trail to Spring Forest Road and create vital access to several underserved communities – including the King Charles neighborhood, Hill Street Park, the Brentwood neighborhood, Brentwood Elementary School, and Green Road Park. The project will involve multiple crossings of major and minor roads, thoroughfares, and rail lines—all of which must be carefully designed to ensure safety and accessibility. This trail will significantly expand recreational and transportation access for a broad portion of Raleigh’s population.

The 2022 Parks Bond allocates \$3,375,000 for the planning, feasibility study, and preliminary design phases of the project. While no dedicated funding has yet been identified for full design development or construction, staff intend to use the bond funding as a foundation to pursue additional resources through grants and other funding opportunities. In August 2024, for instance, the City submitted a \$500,000 grant application to the State of North Carolina “Great Trails State Program. Award announcements are expected in the coming months.

In accordance with NCGS 143-64.31, a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Professional Design Services was advertised on January 9, 2025. A pre-submittal conference was held on January 23, 2025, and PRCR staff received formal responses from eight (8) firms on February 27, 2025. Each response was evaluated and scored according to the criteria identified in the RFQ by a committee comprised of Transportation and PRCR department staff. The three (3) firms with the highest evaluation scores were shortlisted and invited to interview and based on the RFQ response and interview, the committee recommended Alta Planning + Design, Inc. to perform professional design services for the project.

Alta Planning + Design will initially be contracted to complete Phase 1 of the project, which includes feasibility, alignment analysis, and preliminary design. If additional funding becomes available, future contract amendments may be executed to advance the project through further design phases.

Funding

Adequate funding is available in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) as part of the 2022 Parks Bond. The adopted FY25 CIP includes a phased project rollout as follows:

- \$1,000,000 in FY26
- \$2,375,000 in FY27

A budget amendment of \$300,000 is recommended to support the design consultant contract in FY26, utilizing partial funds from the FY27 scheduled budget. Finance and Budget Services Management have reviewed this proposed amendment and are in agreement.

Recommended Action

Authorize the City Manager to execute a contract with Alta Planning + Design, Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$1,181,769, and authorize a budget amendment in the amount of \$300,000 for Phase 1 of the Marsh Creek Trail Project.