

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Programs, Projects, and Operations Subcommittee  
FROM: Eric Williams, Natural Resources Planner  
DATE: August 6, 2020  
SUBJECT: NEAT Connectors Project, MOU with MAPA

The District has been awarded funding from MAPA (Metropolitan Area Planning Agency) through the Heartland 2050 program in order to study a set of short trail projects known as the NEAT Connectors (Neighborhood Expanded Access to Trails). This study will determine if the projects (connectors) are viable to move forward with full design and eventual construction.

The funding is provided from a federal source, and MAPA will oversee the contract on behalf of the NRD to complete this work. The specific scope of the work for the contract on the conceptual studies is being developed by District staff with assistance from MAPA. MAPA will release an RFP in order to select a consultant to carry out the work.

Federally funded projects typically have a 20% local match contribution. During the original planning of the scope and expected cost of this work, the District application listed a 25% local contribution in the amount of \$40,000 and that amount is included in the current FY 2021 budget. The attached MOU from MAPA reflects a lower amount of local cost share (\$30,000), but correctly lists the federal aid funding of \$120,000 which would be provided by MAPA for this project. An updated version of the MOU will be provided by MAPA, reflecting the correct District contribution, and total amount (\$160,000) for the project.

After the RFP is complete, District staff will work with MAPA to make a selection of the consultant for the work, and refine the detailed scope and fee of the contract. The exact amount is not currently known, but will not exceed \$120,000 from MAPA, and \$40,000 from the District. This program will involve coordination with other local agencies within the District. Outreach will also be conducted with residents who would potentially have increased recreation, active transportation, and access to natural resources from the projects being studied.

- **Management recommends that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board of Directors that the General Manager be authorized to execute the proposed Memorandum of Understanding with the Metropolitan Area Planning Agency for the Neighborhood Expanded Access to Trails Project, with the District's contribution not to exceed \$40,000, subject to changes deemed necessary by the General Manager and approval as to form by District Legal Counsel.**