



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: June 20, 2017

Agenda Item #: 6

TO: Mayor and Town Council
FROM: Susan Parker, Town Administrator
RE: **Bike Lane Widening/NC 179 Business Proposed Project**
ATTACH: Aerial Photo of Proposed Project

Summary: The State of North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) plans to mill and resurface NC 179 Business Highway (Sunset Beach Boulevard North) in calendar year 2018. Staff inquired if there was an opportunity to partner with NCDOT similar to the Main Street Project to widen Sunset Boulevard North 5 feet on both the north and south side of the highway. NCDOT responded to this request with a project that would include 1.35 miles of bike lanes on both sides of the road, beginning at approximately Queen Anne Street (Fibber McGee's Restaurant) and ending at the roundabout.

The installation of these bike lanes would provide a safe route for both pedestrians and cyclists to access both the Town Park and island and reduce the need to use their vehicles. In addition, it would provide additional recreational/health opportunities and space for vehicles to move over to the right to heed emergency vehicles.

NCDOT would need a commitment by the end of August 2017 to allow this proposed widening project to be included in the bid process for construction in the Fall of 2018.

Background: This project directly assists in addressing one of the priority goals in the Town of Sunset Beach 2016 Land Use Plan (pg. 2-2); to enhance options for walking and cycling in Town, while also ensuring that roadways and intersections are safe for non-motorized users of all ages.

Financial Implications: This proposed project can be funded with \$145,000 from the Bike/Walkway Fund and \$141,786 from Fund Balance.

Legal Implications: N/A

Council Action: Move to approve proposed project and execute contract with the State of North Carolina Department of Transportation for the sum of \$286,786 for the Bike Lane Widening of NC 179 Business.