

**To:** Transportation Committee  
**From:** Sotoria Montanari, CRCOG Program Manager  
**Date:** October 16, 2020  
**c:** Peter Hughes, Town of Marlborough  
Rob Aloise, CRCOG Director of Planning  
**Subject:** Marlborough Funding Request for Blackledge River Trail Project

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A Transportation Committee meeting will take place at 12 PM on Monday, October 26, 2020. At the meeting, we will be discussing and acting on the following:

- A CRCOG staff and Town request to approve \$760,800 of LOTCIP funding for Marlborough's North Main Street Sidewalk Phase 3 project as submitted under CRCOG's 2020 LOTCIP Solicitation. Funding for the project would be provided via transfer of \$512,400 of LOTCIP funding from Marlborough's previously awarded Blackledge River Greenway Trail Phase 2 project and an additional award of \$248,400 of LOTCIP funds.

### **Blackledge River Greenway Trail Phase 2 and North Main Street Sidewalk Phase 3 Projects**

The Marlborough Blackledge River Greenway Trail Phase 2 application was originally approved under CRCOG's 2018 LOTCIP Solicitation as a rural set-aside project for \$512,400. The final LOTCIP application cost estimate submitted to CTDOT in July 2019, after Staff review was for \$610,000, and a



cost increase was not requested because it was under the 20% threshold.

After an extensive and lengthy review, CTDOT recently indicated that it considered the trail recreational in nature, and therefore ineligible for LOTCIP funding. Due to this determination, CRCOG Staff and the Town are requesting that the project's \$512,400 of LOTCIP funding, and an additional \$248,400 of LOTCIP funds, be utilized to fund Marlborough's North Main Street Sidewalk Phase 3 Project as submitted under CRCOG's 2020 LOTCIP Solicitation.

Originally, the North Main Street Sidewalk Phase 3 Project was submitted under the LOTCIP 2020 Solicitation. The project competed under the stand-alone sidewalk category and was the highest ranked rural set-aside project not receiving funding within the pavement rehabilitation/stand-alone sidewalk category. The project proposes 2,900 linear feet of sidewalk installation on North Main Street adjacent to Lake Terramuggus. North Main Street is categorized as a major collector with an ADT of over 4,000. The sidewalk would provide a safe walking environment to lakeside and other residents, including access to and from the beach area. Additionally, the project would provide a connection to commercial and institutional areas and an art center.

**Staff recommends Committee approval of a request to transfer \$512,400 of LOTCIP funding from the previously awarded Blackledge River Greenway Trail Phase 2 under CRCOG's 2018 LOTCIP Solicitation, and an additional \$248,400 of LOTCIP funds, totaling \$760,800 for Marlborough's North Main Street Phase 3 Sidewalk Project, as submitted under CRCOG's 2020 LOTCIP Solicitation.**

# Town of Marlborough

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TO: Sotoria Montanari, CRCOG Program Manager  
Rob Aloise, CRCOG Director of Planning

FROM: Peter F Hughes, Planning & Development Director

DATE: October 16, 2020

RE: Marlborough CRCOG 2018 Award – Blackledge River Greenway Trail Transfer Request

The Town of Marlborough is requesting the above 2018 LOTCIP award be transferred to the North Main Street Sidewalk LOTCIP application submitted in the CRCOG 2020 LOTCIP solicitation. As you are aware, the DOT after having the trail application since July 2019, made a determination on October 9, 2020, the project was ineligible. The determination made is the trail is not a multi-use trail rather it is a recreational trail under federal guide lines. Despite numerous attempts by CRCOG staff to receive comments and a commitment to fund letter for the award since July 2019 from DOT, the DOT did not respond until April 2020 stating they were checking into eligibility of the application. Since April 2020, again despite numerous attempts by CRCOG staff to get the determination from DOT there was no response or if there was one it was we are working on it. Despite a sit down meeting in July with CROCG, and a follow-up e-mail with the Town on August 18<sup>th</sup> stating they would be done shortly the DOT does not act until Friday, October 9 at 3:30 p.m. on a holiday weekend, despite numerous requests between August 18<sup>th</sup> and mid-September.

As result of the DOT actions the Town was given three (3) days to work with CRCOG staff to react to this determination of ineligibility fourteen (14) months after submitting the application. After discussions with CRCOG staff the Town followed their recommendations. The Town has changed its Connectivity Grant application from the North Main Street Sidewalks (which application was 75% complete) to the Blackledge River Greenway Trail, and is requesting a transfer of the 2018 LOTCIP award to North Main Street Sidewalks per the recommendation of CRCOG Staff in their memo.

No municipality should be in position Marlborough is in currently, and changes to LOTCIP are necessary to assure this does not repeat itself in the future.