

01-22-2020 Town Council Meeting

Responses to Council Questions

ITEM #11: Consider Adopting a Resolution for a Path Forward Process to Further Assess the Greene Tract and a Resolution Authorizing the Town Manager to Execute an Interlocal Agreement for Greene Tract Environmental Assessment Cost Share with Carrboro and Orange County

Council Question:

As a result of the discussions to date, are the mayors and chair in agreement on and supportive of the proposed way forward as described in resolutions A and B?

Staff Response:

The three jurisdictions attended a Greene Tract session in December and all parties agreed to the process. The Town of Carrboro and Orange County are taking similar resolutions to their boards on January 21, 2020 and Chapel Hill will see the same resolution on January 22, 2020.

Council Question:

Do we have an estimated timeline of how long the MOU process will take? How long are we delaying public engagement for?

Staff Response:

The Environmental study will provide some needed details for the MOU and substantial progress should be made by summer/fall. The three jurisdictions have agreed to reconvene in February following the Assembly of Governments meeting to discuss in more detail. The three jurisdictions have also agreed to not initiate formal public engagement until the completion of the MOU document.

Council Question:

How long will the Environmental Impact Study or assessment take in estimation?

Staff Response:

Staff anticipates the study will take 3-4 months to complete. Staff will prepare a scope of work collaboratively with its partners and develop a RFP for prospective providers.

Council Question:

When would the study's results be reported out in estimation?

Staff Response:

Staff anticipates study results will be available later this spring/early summer.

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Council Question:

What's the difference between an environmental assessment and an environmental impact study?

Staff Response:

The terms have been used interchangeably and the study will be defined as part of the development of the scope of work. For consistency, the term "assessment" is being used by the three partners.