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INFORMATION:

Rail Trail Framework Plan Funding

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Charlotte Center City Partners (CCCP) has asked the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County to partner with them to develop plans for the Charlotte Rail Trail by each committing \$30,000 toward a framework plan for the implementation of the trail. The City Manager has approved the contribution of \$30,000 toward this effort. The funds are being taken from existing capital funding.

The proposed Rail Trail will be a 3.3-mile public park created within the Blue Line light rail right-of-way. The Rail Trail involves the conversion of the existing multi-use path alongside the light rail alignment in South End into a linear park that will extend across I-277 into Uptown. The concept was highlighted in the 2020 Center City Vision Plan adopted by City Council in 2011. In 2012, CCCP commissioned a team of three top local designers to further develop the vision for the Rail Trail.

The next step in the creation of the trail will be development of a framework plan for designing and building the Rail Trail over the next 5-10 years, as opportunities for private collaboration arise. The framework plan will include an organizational structure, programming plan, design guidelines, management plan, funding strategy, and recommended construction phasing. A consultant will be hired to prepare the framework plan, and their work will begin in the fall of this year. Planning will serve as the lead department for the City. Staff from other departments, including CDOT and CATS, will also be participating.

The total budget for the framework plan is \$100,000, with the City and Mecklenburg County each contributing \$30,000 and CCCP contributing \$40,000.

City Facilities Are Competing in the 2013 ENERGY STAR National Building Competition

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On August 20, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency launched the 2013 Energy Star National Building Competition: *Battle of the Buildings*. Teams from more than 3,000 buildings across the country are competing to see who can most reduce their building's energy use. The City has entered three buildings into this year's competition: CMGC, Old City Hall, and CMPD Headquarters.

The number of participants in the Battle of the Buildings has increased from 14 buildings in 2010—the competition's first year—to more than 3,200 buildings in 2013. Altogether, last year's competitors cut their energy costs by more than \$50 million and reduced annual greenhouse gas emissions equal to the electricity used by more than 43,000 homes.

More than 25 different types of commercial buildings are facing off in this year's Energy Star

National Building Competition. Building in each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands are participating.

Staff will measure and track City buildings' monthly energy consumption using Portfolio Manager, EPA's Energy Star online energy measurement and tracking tool, and work over the year to cut energy waste through improvements that range from equipment replacement to changes in occupant behavior. Currently, new LED garage lights are being installed at the parking deck for CMPD Headquarters.

EPA features a list of all competitors and their weigh-in results on the Energy Star, a live Twitter feed where competitors will post updates on their progress, an interactive map of the competitors' locations, and a user-generated photo stream where competitors can upload pictures of their energy-saving efforts. The City plans to participate in all areas. Charlotte's progress can be followed at the following link: www.energystar.gov/BattleOfTheBuildings