



Washtenaw County Office of Strategic Planning

STAFF REPORT: Allen Creek Drain Stadium Blvd Project Drain Project
Full-Faith and Credit Review

Date: January 20, 2009

Background

The Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner was petitioned by City of Ann Arbor, under the Michigan Drain Code, to install storm water controls along Stadium Boulevard, between Pauline Boulevard and White Street. The Allens Creek Initiative (a collaboration between the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner, the City of Ann Arbor, Ann Arbor Public Schools, and the Allens Creek Advisory Committee) identified construction of stormwater control measures along Stadium Boulevard between Pauline Boulevard and White Street as a high priority to control water quantity and improve water quality within the creekshed during storm events. Much of Allen Creek is contained in underground piping that carries stormwater runoff from the urban core of Ann Arbor. Nearly 44% of the land draining to the creek is impervious, and as a result, stormwater frequently enters the creek too quickly, causing localized flooding during rain events. These rain events also carry pollutants from impervious areas to the creek, lowering water quality. Allen Creek falls within the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) area of the Huron River. The goal of the TMDL is to remove 50% of the phosphorus from storm water, and reduce E. coli by a significant amount.

Stadium Boulevard from Pauline Boulevard to White Street is currently scheduled for reconstruction, phased into segments over the next 4 years. Stormwater controls are intended to be included in each segment of the road construction, provided funding is available. This project will provide needed detention and will improve downstream water quality, and manage quantity as well. It is estimated that 0.5 lbs of phosphorous per year per acre of the upstream drainage area will be removed from the creek as a result of stormwater control features being installed in all segments of the road reconstruction project. The first two phases of this project include construction of stormwater controls in the Stadium/Pauline intersection and along Stadium from Pauline to Seventh Street. Work in the intersection will occur in 2009, while work between Pauline and Seventh is planned for 2010. Project funding is through a low interest (2.5%) loan from the Michigan Drinking Water/Clean Water State Revolving Fund. The Water Resources Commissioner was awarded \$8 million in low interest loan monies to complete several projects in the Allen Creekshed.

The Water Resources Commissioner is requesting the Planning Advisory Board recommend that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners approve to pledge the County's limited full faith and credit for payment of bonds for the Allen Creek Drain Stadium Blvd Project Drain Project in an amount not to exceed \$290,000. Bonds will be retired through special assessments against the following:

City of Ann Arbor
County of Washtenaw for benefits to County Roads
State of Michigan for benefits to State Highways

Section 280.24 of the Michigan Drain Code authorizes the Water Resources Commissioner or Drain Commissioner to borrow funds on behalf of drainage districts and the Board of Commissioners to pledge its Full Faith and Credit to back such borrowing upon approval of two-thirds of its membership.

By utilizing Washtenaw County's full faith and credit, local communities are able to more effectively finance major infrastructure projects. This Project will provide drain improvements to the City of Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County.

The County has a Full Faith and Credit Policy that identifies a procedure for receiving comments by County Administration when considering a project. Specifically, this procedure, calls for comments as to whether the County's land use policies are consistent or inconsistent with a proposed project.

The Planning Advisory Board has established procedures for Full Faith and Credit Reviews to provide recommendations to the County Administrator and the Board of Commissioners. The procedure calls for review of how a proposed project affects the following:

- 1) Existing land use;
- 2) Compliance with local unit master plans;
- 3) Compliance with Washtenaw County's Comprehensive Plan;

Existing Land Use

The current land use north of Stadium Boulevard is mostly single-family residential and institutional uses as well as small areas of multi-family residential and commercial uses. South of Stadium Boulevard is mostly single-family residential, institutional, and parks and recreation some commercial uses and a small area of woodland and wetlands.

The proposal is to install stormwater controls, which include the installation of oversized stormwater pipe, swirl concentrators and bio infiltration. This project will provide needed detention and will improve downstream water quality, and manage quantity as well. Staff sees no effect on land use on the surrounding areas.

Compliance with Local Unit Master Plans

The Ann Arbor Central Area Plan, the Ann Arbor South Area Plan, and the Ann Arbor West Area Plan are applicable to this project. The Ann Arbor Central Area Plan calls for developing enforceable mechanisms to protect wetlands, watercourses, woodlands, and landmark trees. The Ann Arbor South Area Plan identifies "preserve and enhance remaining natural areas including areas along creeks, drains, and hedgerows," as well as "pay special attention to development in proximity to natural areas" as overall goals for the area. The Ann Arbor West Area plan includes the following two objectives: "prevent future, and correct existing, flooding and drainage problems," and "prevent and correct flooding and drainage

problems both in the West Area and downstream.” The installation of stormwater controls will help to protect watercourses (Central Area Plan), enhance the Allen Creek Drain (South Area Plan) and prevent future and correct existing flooding and drainage problems (West Area Plan), thus, this action is fully compliant with the City of Ann Arbor Central Area Plan, South Area Plan and West Area Plan.

Compliance with Washtenaw County’s Comprehensive Plan

The County’s Comprehensive Plan recognizes the continuing need for the Washtenaw County Drain Commissioner to maintain deteriorating waterways and drains. Specifically, this action is supported by the following recommendations;

Natural Resources Recommendation 1.4 – Urban Storm Water Systems: Pursue grants and local funding sources to retrofit urban stormwater systems;

Natural Resources Recommendation 1.12 – Drain System Maintenance: Pursue a dedicated funding source for adequate routine maintenance through state legislation or local sources.

Recommendation

Washtenaw County Community Planning staff recommends that the Planning Advisory Board support the use of the County’s Full Faith and Credit for to install storm water controls along Stadium Boulevard, between Pauline Boulevard and White Street in the Allen Creek Drain.

Attachment: Report from the Office of the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner.



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WATER RESOURCES COMMISSIONER

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To: William Lewis, Vice Chair
Washtenaw County Planning Advisory Board

From: Janis A. Bobrin
Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner

Re: Allen Creek Drain Stadium Blvd Project Drain Project

Date: January 9, 2009

Action Requested: County Planning Advisory Board recommendation for County Board of Commissioners' approval to pledge the County's limited full faith and credit for payment of bonds for the Allen Creek Drain Stadium Blvd Project Drain Project in an amount not to exceed two hundred ninety thousand (\$290,000.00) dollars. Bonds will be retired through special assessments against the following:

City of Ann Arbor
County of Washtenaw for benefits to County Roads
State of Michigan for benefits to State Highways

Background: Section 280.434 of the Michigan Drain Code authorizes the Water Resources Commissioner to borrow funds on behalf of drainage districts and the Board of Commissioners to pledge its Full Faith and /credit to back such borrowings upon approval of two-thirds of its membership.

Discussion: Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner was petitioned by the City of Ann Arbor to undertake improvements to the County Drain known as **ALLEN CREEK DRAIN - STADIUM BOULEVARD STORM WATER CONTROLS DRAIN PROJECT** to install storm water controls along Stadium Boulevard between Pauline Boulevard and White Street. The Allens Creek Initiative identified construction of stormwater control measures along Stadium Boulevard between Pauline Boulevard and White Street as a high priority to control water quantity and improve water quality within the creekshed during storm events. The Allens Creek Initiative was launched in 2007 and is a collaborative effort with the Washtenaw County Drain Commissioner, the City of Ann Arbor, Ann Arbor Public Schools and the Allens Creek Advisory Committee. Its goal was to identify, prioritize and select stormwater management projects that would reduce flooding and improve water quality in Allen Creek.

Much of Allen Creek is contained in underground piping that carries stormwater runoff from the urban core of Ann Arbor. Nearly 44% of the land draining to the creek is impervious, and as a result, stormwater frequently enters the creek too quickly, causing localized flooding during rain events. These rain events also carry pollutants from impervious areas to the creek, lowering water quality. Allen Creek falls within the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) area of the Huron River. The goal of the TMDL is to remove 50% of the phosphorus from storm water, and reduce E. coli by a significant amount.

Stadium Boulevard from Pauline Boulevard to White Street is currently scheduled for reconstruction, phased into segments over the next 4 years. It is the City and WCWRC's intent to include stormwater controls in each segment of the road reconstruction if funding is available. This project will provide needed detention and will improve downstream water quality, and manage quantity as well. It is estimated that 0.5 lbs of phosphorous

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per year per acre of the upstream drainage area will be removed from the creek as a result of stormwater control features being installed in all segments of the road reconstruction project.

The first two phases of this project include construction of stormwater controls in the Stadium/Pauline intersection and along Stadium from Pauline to Seventh Street. Work in the intersection will occur in 2009, while work between Pauline and Seventh is planned for 2010. Stormwater controls include installation of oversized stormwater pipe, swirl concentrators and bio infiltration. Project funding is through a low interest (2.5%) loan from the Michigan Drinking Water/Clean Water State Revolving Fund. The Water Resources Commissioner was awarded \$8 million in low interest loan monies to complete several projects in the Allen Creekshed.

Impact on Human Resources: None.

Impact on Budget: None.

Impact on Other County Departments or Outside Agencies: None

Conformity to County Policies: The County's full faith and credit policy requires County Planning Advisory Board review and approval.

Attachments: Location maps.