



## AGENDA ITEM COVERSHEET

**PREPARED BY:** Jeremy Hardison, Community Development Director

**DEPARTMENT:** Community Development Director

**MEETING:** Town Council – 2/10/2026

**SUBJECT:** Sidewalk from Carolina Beach Lake to Carolina Sands

### **BACKGROUND:**

In May of 2023 the Town Manager was in discussions with North Carolina Department of Transportation (DOT) about how we could get sidewalks added from Carolina Sands to the Lake. Later that summer funding from DOT was earmarked for this project. Several on-site meetings occurred with Town staff and DOT. In November a plan was given to the town. The plan showed the sidewalk meandering from DOT right of way to private property. There were multiple conflicts with power poles, mailboxes, utilities, trash bins, signage, etc. Costs of purchasing the additional needed right-of-way was also a significant concern.

Staff worked with DOT on an alternative that would bump out curb and gutter and avoid all the conflicts. DOT met with staff on-site again and determined there was adequate drive aisle width to accomplish this task. Money agreed to be allocated by DOT: **\$183,118**

In 2023 the cost estimate came in at \$640,000. Below is the breakdown of the cost share

<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$640,000.00</b>
<b>NCDOT Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$183,119.84</b>
<b>Town Contribution:</b>	<b>\$456,880.16</b>

In 2025 the Town was notified by DOT the cost has increased due to requiring additional preliminary engineering and design costs. The revised costs are below.

<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$850,000.00</b>
<b>NCDOT Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$183,119.84</b>
<b>Town Contribution:</b>	<b>\$666,880.16</b>

The initial concept placed the new sidewalk within the roadway with the curb line bumped out, and travel lane reduced to 12'. However, during design development, DOT identified significant drainage concerns. The proposed curb alignment would create a berm, trapping water behind the sidewalk, and

prevent it from draining into the roadway, which would lead to flooding in adjacent properties. To address this, we evaluated adding inlet catch basins and piping between nearly every driveway. This increased the estimated construction cost significantly. With further investigation by the drainage designer, they determined that this design was feasible because they were unable to provide adequate drainage for a number of properties on the southern end of the project because of the existing grades of the property.

They are now considering other possible alternatives. The latest is a hybrid design in an attempt to minimize the impacts to the drainage, this concept proposes the sidewalk from North of Carolina Sands to South of Sumter Ave be placed behind the existing curb, and reduces easements required by combining the curb bump-out design from Sumter Ave to the existing sidewalk at Carolina Lake. This approach reduces impacts to the existing drainage network while improving pedestrian connectivity. One drawback from this approach is that more temporary construction and permanent easements will be needed to construct this portion of the sidewalk behind the existing curb.

Attached you will find the updated concept plans, and below is a summary of the construction and right-of-way cost estimates below.

<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$1,418,800</b>
<b>NCDOT Project Funds:</b>	<b>\$143,800</b>
<b>Town Contribution:</b>	<b>\$1,275,000</b>

Attached you will find the updated concept plans, and a summary of the construction and right-of-way cost estimates below.

Construction: \$900,000

Right-of-Way (Easements): \$308,800

PE/Design: \$210,000

Total Cost Share Responsibility for Town of Carolina Beach: \$1.275M

#### **ACTION REQUESTED:**

Next Steps:

- Should we consider alternative options if this approach is not feasible?
- Is the Town of Carolina Beach interested in pursuing the proposed alternative? If so,
- Would the town be able to contribute additional funds to move forward with the proposed alternative?