Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	**Dragonfly Connection**
AGENDA SUMMARY:	Approval is requested to authorize the next Columbus Dragonfly Trails connector within Midtown that will connect Lakebottom Park from 13th Street to Garrard Street along Cherokee Avenue.
INITIATED BY:	**City Manager's Office**

Recommendation: Approval is requested to authorize the next Columbus Dragonfly Trails connection within Midtown that will connect Lakebottom Park from 13th Street to Garrard Street to 13th Street along Cherokee Avenue.

Background: The Friends of the Dragonfly Trails Fund located at the Community Foundation of the Chattahoochee Valley and the City of Columbus has partnered with the PATH Foundation Inc. to develop and expand the trail network within the city of Columbus. The Friends of the Dragonfly Trails have funded an Executive Director to focus efforts on the marketing, education and expansion of the Dragonfly Trails. The Fund has paid for the engineering and design of the next proposed trail connection from Dinglewood Park to Lakebottom Park ending at the intersection of Garrard Street and Cherokee Avenue. There will be three proposed sections of the connector, each designed to maintain the multi-use trail, landscape buffer, and M10 trail. Alignment planning occurred from 2021 to 2023. This planning included the following: a study of multiple alignments; the gathering of input from stakeholders, residents, and park users; and the exploration of walked options. In February 2023, the stakeholder meeting resulted in the preference of the Eastern option for the trail. In November 2023, two public meetings resulted in the preference of maintaining M10/Gravel for a parallel trail. The Dragonfly Trail System has been a catalyst in making Columbus more accessible and connected by providing a safe way for people travel without a vehicle both for necessity and recreation.

Analysis: The current trail network is 30+ miles with 1.5 miles under construction for the goal to be 60 miles. The next connection will connect Lakebottom Park from 13th Street to Garrard Street along Cherokee Avenue as presented to Council in February 2024 by the Executive Director of the Dragonfly Trails.

Financial Considerations: Funding is budgeted in TSPLOST Discretionary for the construction of this connection.

Legal Considerations: City Council must authorize the next trail connection.

Recommendation/Action: Approval is requested to authorize the next Columbus Dragonfly Trails connector within Midtown that will connect Lakebottom Park from 13th Street to Garrard Street along Cherokee Avenue.

<center>**A RESOLUTION**</center>

<center>**NO.**</center>

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, APPROVING THE DRAGONFLY TRAIL CONNECTION THAT WILL CONNECT LAKEBOTTOM PARK FROM 13th STREET TO GARRARD STREET ALONG CHEROKEE AVENUE

WHEREAS, the Dragonfly Trails include 30+ miles of developed trails; and

WHEREAS, The Executive Director of the Dragonfly Trail System has presented the proposed plan to connect Lakebottom Park from 13th Street to Garrard Street along Cherokee Avenue in February 2024; and

WHEREAS, this connection will add 1 mile to the current trail network.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, AS FOLLOWS:

1. This resolution shall constitute approval of the next trail connection as outlined on the attached map.

2. Funding is available in TSPLOST Discretionary for this connection.

3. The use of existing City right of way along the proposed trail route is hereby authorized.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held on the _____ day of _____, 2024 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said Council.

Councilor Allen voting   _____.
Councilor Barnes voting   _____.
Councilor Begly voting   _____.
Councilor Cogle voting   _____.
Councilor Crabb voting   _____.
Councilor Davis voting   _____.
Councilor Garrett voting   _____.
Councilor Huff voting   _____.
Councilor Thomas voting   _____.
Councilor Tucker voting   _____.

_____   _____
Sandra T. Davis, Clerk of Council   B.H. "Skip" Henderson III, Mayor

ATTACHED MAP OF CONNECTION