

Racial Equity Pocket Questions – Jones Creek Greenway Capital Project Ordinance Amendment

What are the racial impacts?

Bicycle and pedestrian transportation projects provide residents with improved infrastructure. For those without regular access to a car, even small improvements to a sidewalk or paved bicycle facility can significantly improve everyday life. Less confident and/or less abled users may prefer off-road facilities such as greenways or multi-use paths. BIPOC populations are more likely to face barriers to accessing reliable transportation and live in communities with limited access to bike/ped facilities for recreation. While the Jones Green Greenway will provide a direct connection for residents in the Lake Hogan Farms community to access Morris Grove Elementary School and the future Twin Creeks Park, the parking lots at Morris Grove could also serve as a trailhead, after hours and on weekends, allowing residents in the Morris Grove neighborhood and Historic Rogers Road neighborhood to enjoy the greenway and residential roads in Lake Hogan Farms. Over time, other infrastructure improvements such as Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB) near the entrance to Lake Hogan Farms and Stratford Road and at Claremont North & Claremont South may facilitate bike/ped connections to the downtown area in Carrboro and Chapel Hill.

Who is or will experience burden?

The greenway is designed to connect Lake Hogan Farms Road with the Orange County greenway and on up to Morris Grove Elementary School. Residents in close proximity to the end of Lake Hogan Farms Road may experience noise and dust during the construction process. Depending on the construction timeline, an alternative plan may be needed to for students to get to school while work is underway. Additional construction fencing and signage may be needed for safety. Construction vehicles, equipment and materials should be brought in to the project by way the existing farm road from Old NC 86, limiting direct access from the residential neighborhoods.

Who is or will experience benefit?

Residents living in close proximity to the new greenway (The Legends at Lake Hogan Farms, Glen Ridge and other sections of Lake Hogan Farms) will be best positioned to take advantage of the new infrastructure. Residents with children attending Morris Grove Elementary School will have improved access to school, particularly those who may have mobility issues preventing them from making the existing off-road trek from Lake Hogan Farms Road to the Orange County portion of the Jones Creek Greenway due to topography. Over time, when the future Twin Creeks Park is developed other local residents may prefer to use the new greenway connection to access the park with its anticipated active recreation facilities.

What are the root causes of inequity?

Working individuals and families may find it difficult to attend public meetings when transportation projects are discussed. Structural racism in government decisions, particularly those relating to transportation, as well as residents' personal experiences with government, can further contribute to a reticence by historically marginalized people to speak in a public setting.

What might be the unintended consequences of this action or strategy?

Greenways can benefit or harm land values and quality of life experiences for surrounding property owners and occupants. While greenways provide safe travel from vehicles, there may be other hazards associated with their use such as encounters with wildlife and interactions with other users. Overtime, local residents without access to off-road facilities may use the Morris Grove Elementary School parking lot as a trailhead to access the greenway, the residential streets in Lake Hogan Farms and the potential future connections to Homestead Road and the downtown area.