

Policy Briefing Summary

City Council



Regarding:	Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to sign an Agreement to Purchase an Easement from Albemarle County for the Schenks Branch Sewer Line Project
Staff Contact(s):	John Maddux, City Attorney, Jason McIlwee, Director
Presenter:	James Freas, Deputy City Manager
Date of Proposed Action:	October 5, 2026

Issue

The optimal configuration for constructibility and efficiency for upgrading the Schenks Branch sewer line requires the City to purchase an easement from Albemarle County for an area running along the McIntire Road frontage of the County administrative building. The easement will also allow for the construction of a shared use path continuing the greenway from its current termination to Preston Avenue. This resolution would authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement.

Background / Rule

The Schenks Branch project is the 2nd phase of a long-term system enhancement and capacity expansion project that will ensure future sewer system capacity for a major portion of the City encompassing an area north of W. Main Street. This phase of the project includes the transition from the City-owned and operated system to the Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority (RWSA)-owned portion and the cost of this project is split between the City and RWSA.

In addition, the purchased easement gives the City the opportunity to complete the shared use path along McIntire Road all the way to the intersection with Preston Avenue.

Analysis

City staff worked closely with Albemarle County staff over the course of a number of months to negotiate the terms of this agreement, working through the agreement terms addressing the size and location of the easement, the level of site protection and restoration for during and after the construction period, as well as addressing issues of long-term development potential and traffic management. Overall, staff in both the City and County believe that the terms of this agreement fairly address the value of the easement and help to ensure a mutually beneficial completion of the project.

Financial Impact

The direct cost to the City sanitary sewer utility is \$509,305.97.

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of the proposed resolution.

Recommended Motion (if Applicable)

Attachments

1. Schenks Branch Agreementfinal
2. Schenks Branch Resolution