



## **Bidding begins soon on Catawba construction project**

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Friday, 05 March 2010

With architectural plans complete for Catawba's town hall and fire department construction projects, bidding on the project will begin in the coming weeks.

Town Manager Jonathan Kanipe reported the project's progress in his monthly report to Catawba Town Council Monday. Kanipe said he hopes to have a bid for the project at the council's April meeting.

The next step in the process is to advertise the project in the media to attract interested construction firms, Kanipe said.

Once a bid is agreed on, the United States Department of Agriculture must approve the bid, because the project is funded through a grant from the USDA.

"They must give us the authority to proceed," Kanipe said.

This process could take several weeks and postpone the announcement of the final bid until the May council meeting, he said.

After the USDA approves the bid, construction can begin.

In other business:

Feedback from the Carolina Thread Trail survey shows that a high percentage of Catawba County residents want the Bunker Hill Covered Bridge and Murray's Mill to be part of the trail.

Both locations are close to Catawba, increasing the likelihood that the trail would come through the town.

"Among municipalities, we were significantly rated as one of the highest spots people wanted connected," Kanipe said.

The town center of Catawba was also ranked fourth on the list as a potential Carolina Thread Trail location, Kanipe said. Other high-ranking sites included downtown Newton.

The trail is still in its design phase. After a tentative trail plan is created, citizens will have the opportunity to revise and comment about proposed trail.

Construction on sidewalks in Catawba is expected to be completed in the spring.

To complete the project, officials must survey easements and right-of-ways for the sidewalks. The sidewalks on South Main Street border Catawba Rosenwald Education Center. This process determines legal right-of-way on property.

After right-of-way is established, lines will be drawn to record the easement.

Completion of easement surveys isn't expected to last more than several weeks.

"The process really shouldn't take that long," Kanipe said.

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