



## News Release

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Headline: **Matthews Seeks Additional Bond Monies for Sportsplex**

MATTHEWS, NC – The Matthews Town Board of Commissioners is asking the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners to increase the amount of bond monies slated for the proposed Sportsplex. In a letter sent from Matthews to Mecklenburg County the Town asks for the County to fund the entire project.

The proposed Sportsplex would be built near I-485 and Independence Boulevard on 160 acres of land that the County already owns. The \$32M facility would have 12 athletic fields that could be used for soccer, lacrosse, field hockey and football. One of the fields would have a 2,700 seat stadium and half of the 12 fields would be turf. Additionally, the complex would serve as a district park and have walking trails, a playground, and concession stands.

Currently, the County has set aside \$5M for the initial phase and the Town has committed to \$2M to the project. This leaves a deficit of \$25M. In the proposed \$200M bond the County is proposing an additional \$5.1M which would pay for the second phase of the project.

“We want the County to fund the entire project and not build this Sportsplex in phases or to continue to delay the project. This project is needed today. We have children in Mecklenburg County traveling all over the state and the U.S. when they should be playing here,” Matthews Mayor Lee Myers stated.

In addition to the use by local residents the complex would host state and national tournaments which bring revenue to the hosting county. Tournament participants bring monies to the area by spending on hotel rooms, food and shopping. For example, a regional soccer tournament underway in the Cities of Raleigh and Wilson is expected to have a \$4.2M impact on the region.

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