

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER  
DES MOINES, IOWA

CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION 96-411  
SEPTEMBER 23, 1996 AGENDA

SUBJECT:	TYPE:	SUBMITTED BY:
BEAVERDALE RECREATION TRAIL AMENDED CONTRACT	◆ RESOLUTION ORDINANCE RECEIVE/FILE	DON TRIPP PARK & RECREATION DIRECTOR

**SYNOPSIS —**

Authorization is requested of an amendment to a contract with the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) for development of the Beaverdale Recreational Trail Project. The current funded level for the project is not adequate to construct the entire length of trail according to the contract obligations. Once approved, a modification to the Beaverdale Trail contract will enable a significant portion of the trail to be completed within the scheduled time identified in the contract.

**FISCAL IMPACT —**

In August 1995, the City of Des Moines was awarded a \$208,000 Intermodal Surface Transportation Enhancement Act (ISTEA) Grant from the IDOT. The City will match \$52,000 of Capital Improvement funds for a \$260,000 total project budget. However, the most recent cost estimate for the Beaverdale Bike Trail project is \$625,000. The more than \$365,000 shortfall is currently being addressed by staff and volunteers who are seeking alternative funding and grant sources. However, additional grants which the City may receive will require additional matching funds. Maintenance of the trail will impact current operations minimally.

**RECOMMENDATION —**

Approval of contract amendment from the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), the agency responsible to administer the Beaverdale Recreational Trail contract. An amended contract will allow for this project to become Phase I of the completed section.

**BACKGROUND —**

On September 25, 1995, by Roll Call No. 95-3688, the City Council approved a contract with the IDOT for the Beaverdale Recreation Trail. This revision, due to recent cost estimates, must be under contract by September 30, 1997.

The grant application and contract with IDOT identified a trail project which is 3.1 miles in length beginning at the Saylorville Bike Trail on the east side of the Des Moines River, westerly on the railroad bridge over the Des Moines River, continuing west on the abandoned Inter Urban Rail Line to Urbandale Avenue, and continuing to Merle Hay Road. The new cost estimate projects the improvements to the railroad bridge over the Des Moines River at \$260,000 alone. Total project costs are now estimated to be \$625,000.

The amended agreement requires the City to build 2.8 miles of the Phase I project, which is the portion from the western City limits at Merle Hay Road east to Urbandale Avenue through Beaverdale Park to ML King, Jr. Parkway.

The cost to construct approximately 2.8 miles of trail starting at the western City limits at Merle Hay Road and continuing east at Urbandale Avenue and ML King, Jr. Parkway is estimated at \$275,000. It is possible to further reduce this cost by another \$25,000-\$30,000 by requesting volunteer services from the Army National Guard for a portion of trail work through the Beaverdale Park area.

Therefore, staff is recommending an amendment to the Beaverdale Trail contract to proceed with design and construction of the Beaverdale Trail between Merle Hay Road and ML King, Jr. Parkway. The City of Des Moines would remain committed to complete the full length of trail development, including the railroad bridge crossing the Des Moines River as funding is available. In the interim, trail users could cross the Des Moines River by crossing the Euclid Avenue Bridge.

This project was initiated and has been led by the Beaverdale Neighborhood Bike Trails Committee. Prioritizing this section for Phase I completion has been endorsed by this committee and the Des Moines Park and Recreation Board.