

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

99-424

SYNOPSIS -

AGENDA:

SEPTEMBER 27, 1999

The roll call directs staff to submit an application to the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) for a Federal Recreation Trails Grant. The grant requires a guarantee from each applicant that the agency that is awarded funding will maintain the project for a minimum of 20 years. The Des Moines trail which best matches the grant criteria is a section of the American Discovery Trail (ADT) along Walnut Creek between 63rd Street and Grand Avenue.

SUBJECT:

APPLICATION TO
THE IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION
FOR A FEDERAL
RECREATION
TRAILS GRANT

FISCAL IMPACT -

The proposed ADT section, which is one-third mile in length, is estimated at \$500,000. The project includes two underpasses, a pedestrian bridge, and railroad right-of-way. The City is requesting \$300,000 from the Federal Recreation Trail Program and will be required to match funds of \$200,000 in the Capital Improvement Program.

TYPE:

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

RECOMMENDATION -

Authorize the Mayor to sign the Federal Recreation Trail grant application with IDOT, and adopt the roll call that guarantees a 20-year maintenance commitment to the project area.

SUBMITTED BY:

DONALD TRIPP
PARK AND
RECREATION
DIRECTOR

BACKGROUND -

The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) informed its members that the federal government provided funding through the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) from a Federal Recreation Trail Program. The program is administered through IDOT. Funding for this program is allocated for both motorized and non-motorized trails. Since

Des Moines does not develop motorized trails, a limited amount of funding is available from this funding source for the proposed project.

On March 23, 1998, by Roll Call No. 98-913, City Council approved a 28E Agreement between West Des Moines, Windsor Heights, and Des Moines to develop a master plan for a trail along Walnut Creek and the Raccoon River. The agreement allowed for consulting services for planning, engineering, and designing the trail system. On October 26, 1998, by Roll Call No. 98-3367, City Council approved the Walnut Creek Trail master plan.

Walnut Creek Trail is identified as one of the top three trail projects in the City of Des Moines. This trail project requires special attention because it has been designated as part of the ADT, a national trail system which connects the east and west coasts through the heart of Des Moines. Therefore, this project has local, statewide, and national significance. This project is the beginning connection with the Clive Greenbelt/Windsor Heights Trail and will provide a direct connection to Des Moines Water Works Park, Gray's Lake Park, downtown Des Moines, and a link between the eastern and western neighborhoods of our city.

In 2000, West Des Moines is planning to construct a one-half mile section of trail between 63rd Street and Windsor Heights along Walnut Creek. The proposed project, scheduled in 2001, will extend the trail another 1,600 feet from 63rd Street to Grand Avenue. The extension will provide immediate impact to the neighborhoods in the western portion of the City because it will provide a safe and accessible connection into the Clive Greenbelt trail system. Costs for this section of trail are high because it includes a pedestrian bridge over Walnut Creek; acquisition of right-of-way from the railroad; and two pedestrian underpasses, one at 63rd Street and the other at Grand Avenue.

Staff is currently working on the eastern portion of the ADT with funding from two grants from IDOT. The 1.5-mile Riverpoint Trail, which connects the John Pat Dorrian Trail to Gray's Lake, along the Raccoon River levy, should be under construction in 2000. If the City is successful with the proposed application, another section of the ADT will be completed by 2001. The remaining portion of the ADT between Grand Avenue and Gray's Lake is planned in years

2002 - 2004 and other funding sources, such as TEA-21 Enhancement Funds, Resource Enhancement and Protection Funds, Recreation Infrastructure Funds, and Federal Recreation Trails Funds will be pursued with City Council's approval.

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