CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:

02-495

AGENDA:

SEPTEMBER 23, 2002

SUBJECT:

WAVELAND TRAIL PROPOSAL

TYPE:

RESOLUTION ORDINANCE RECEIVE/FILE

SUBMITTED BY:

DONALD M. TRIPP PARK AND RECREATION DIRECTOR ITEM

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA

SYNOPSIS —

Approve two trail segments to be recommended as part of the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities Plan: 1) a three-pronged, off-road, multiuse recreational trail that totals approximately 4.2 miles in length in the vicinity of the Waveland Park Neighborhood Association (WPNA) and I-235 between 56th Street and Cottage Grove and 2) an on-street bicycle route approximately 1.7 miles in length that runs east from the Franklin Library on Franklin Avenue to 47th Street, south on 47th Street to University, and south from University on Polk Boulevard to I-235.

FISCAL IMPACT —

None.

RECOMMENDATION —

Approval.

BACKGROUND —

The WPNA has proposed a trail that would circumnavigate the WPNA and provide the opportunity to connect the area with other neighborhoods (Waveland Woods, Waterbury, Drake, Drake Park, Ingersoll Park, North of Grand, and Woodland Heights) and other communities (Urbandale, Johnston, Clive, Windsor Heights, and West Des Moines). The trail would be composed of two segments, an off-road, multi-use recreational trail and an on-street bicycle route.

City Engineering and Park and Recreation staff have worked closely with members of the WPNA and the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) in evaluating the feasibility and alignment of the proposed trail. While the IDOT cannot commit resources to the trail's design or construction, it has agreed to provide a portion of the soon to be reconstructed I-235 right-of-way between 56th Street and Polk Boulevard for the trail's location. This keeps the trail mostly outside of the Waveland Golf Course. IDOT has also agreed to widen the pedestrian/bicycle lane designed for the 56th Street bridge where

it crosses I-235 from 8' to 10'. This assistance from IDOT, however, is contingent upon the Des Moines City Council approving the proposed trail as a part of the Des Moines Area MPO Bicycle/Pedestrian

Facilities Plan.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on June 27, 2000, the Park and Recreation Board approved this proposal after receiving a recommendation from the Board's Trails Advisory Committee. Following much review by City staff and IDOT, it is now ready for presentation. If approved by the City Council, this proposal would be recommended to the MPO for inclusion in the Des Moines Area MPO Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities Plan.