

**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

**02-497**

**AGENDA:**

SEPTEMBER 23, 2002

**SUBJECT:**

DES MOINES TO  
JOHNSTON TRAIL  
PROJECT

**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 —**

Approval of the Des Moines City Council to participate with Polk County and the City of Johnston in the construction of a multi-use Recreational Trail approximately 3.7 miles in length from the Beaver Creek trestle bridge in Johnston to the Interurban Trail trestle bridge in Des Moines. Polk County would be the lead agency in the project and provide the majority of the cost of design and construction.

**FISCAL IMPACT —**

Des Moines' share would be approximately \$71,000 based on a total project cost estimated by the City of Des Moines' Engineering Department of \$1,095,000. Funding for Des Moines' share in the project is budgeted in the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP), Bike Trails, CP040 PKS990000PJKS045. This amount includes approximately \$120,000 already paid by Polk County for removal of debris and the renovation of the trestle Bridge at Polk County's border with Johnston. The City of Johnston has committed contributions of equipment and staff to lay the asphalt trail surface as well as other incidentals for a contribution of approximately \$200,000. This reduces the project cost to \$775,000.

The 3.7-mile trail has 1.0 miles in Des Moines (27.3 percent); 2.4 miles in unincorporated Polk County (65.7 percent); and 0.26 miles in Johnston (7 percent). Des Moines has agreed with Polk County to split Johnston's cost share between them because of Johnston's \$200,000 contribution to the project.

Participation by Des Moines in the construction of the trail is contingent upon Polk County as the lead agency successfully obtaining either a statewide enhancement grant (70/30 match) from the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) or an MPO enhancement grant (80/20 match) from IDOT. If a statewide enhancement grant is obtained, the project cost of \$775,000 would include \$543,000 in grant dollars, with Polk county's match at \$161,000 and Des Moines' match at \$71,000. If An MPO enhancement grant is obtained in a lesser amount, it would be necessary that Des Moines' match be no more than \$71,000 (although it could be a lesser amount) for the project to continue with Des Moines' participation.

**RECOMMENDATION —**

**Approval.**

**BACKGROUND —**

When completed, the proposed trestle-to-trestle multi-use trail segment from Des Moines to Johnston will connect the Neal Smith Trail with trail systems to the west: Johnston, Urbandale, Clive Greenbelt, and the Raccoon River Trail. The result will be an 85-mile hard-surface trail connecting Big Creek State Park with Jefferson, Iowa. This will be the longest trail in Iowa.

The Polk County Conservation Board has agreed to take the role of lead agency in the project and pursue trail grants to obtain as much help as possible with funding. In order for the Conservation Board to be the lead agency, a resolution is needed from the Des Moines City Council approving Des Moines' participation and commitment to funding as demonstrated above.