

**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

**03-461**

**AGENDA:**

SEPTEMBER 22,  
2003

**SUBJECT:**

RIVERWALK  
RAILROAD BRIDGE  
RENOVATIONS  
STATEWIDE  
TRANSPORTATION  
ENHANCEMENT  
PROGRAM GRANT

**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 a Statewide Transportation Enhancement Program grant application to the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) for the renovation of an existing railroad bridge that spans the Des Moines River near Court Avenue for use as a multi-use recreational trail connecting the Pat Dorrian Trail and proposed Riverpoint Trail while being a component of the proposed Principal Riverwalk.

**FISCAL IMPACT —**

\$2,500,000. A Statewide Transportation Enhancement Program grant provides up to 70 percent of the total project cost. Agencies are required to match that amount with 30 percent or more of the total project cost. The total cost of the renovation of this railroad bridge for use as a multi-use recreational trail is estimated at \$2,502,544. The amount requested from the State of Iowa is \$468,420 (19 percent). The City will be required to match the grant with \$2,034,124 (81 percent). The City's match will come from the Principal Corporation's \$10,000,000 donation to the Principal Riverwalk project.

**RECOMMENDATION —**

**Approval.**

**BACKGROUND —**

Annually, the State of Iowa appropriates funds to IDOT to assist cities, counties, and other qualified organizations in the construction of multi-use recreational trails among other public park and recreation facilities and sites. Staff has evaluated potential projects that qualify for funding in the Statewide Transportation Enhancement Grant Program and have selected the renovation of the railroad bridge spanning the Des Moines River near Court Avenue as the proposed grant project for the following reasons:

1. The Statewide Transportation Enhancement Program guidelines rank multi-use recreational trail construction projects high in its evaluation process;

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2. It allows the proposed Riverpoint Trail to connect to the Pat Dorrian Trail, while completing a portion of the Principal Riverwalk project; and
3. The renovation of this railroad bridge for use as a multi-use recreational Riverpoint Trail would be a part of the American Discovery Trail (ADT), a national trail project running from coast-to-coast across America.

If funded, renovation of the railroad bridge will include removal of existing paint, repainting the bridge, repairing the structural steel, placing of a trail deck, rails, observation decks, power for emergency phones and lights, and rebuilding approaches at each end of the bridge. Rebuilding of the approaches would allow for the connection to the Pat Dorrian Trail on the east side of the Des Moines River, the planned Riverpoint Trail on the west side of the river and would form the southern end of the Principal Riverwalk loop.

The action in the attached roll call is to approve application. Should a grant be awarded, acceptance approval of the City Council will be required

