



Agenda Item:

Extra Item 2

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION City Manager's Office

GENERAL INFORMATION

Agenda Date: 12/20/04
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Communication

Roll Call

Submitted by: Eric Anderson, City Manager

SUBJECT—

Resolution authorizing the closure of the Water Street (formerly SW 1st Street) Bridge over the Raccoon River to vehicular traffic and directing the City Manager to implement the closure when the design of the improvements to the bridge and approaches has been approved by the City Council, and construction is ready to commence.

SYNOPSIS—

Water Street (formerly SW 1st Street) Bridge is proposed to be closed to regular vehicular traffic, and devoted to recreational and trail purposes. The bridge and roadway would still be available for use by emergency vehicles.

FISCAL IMPACT—

It is anticipated that any associated costs with changing this bridge to strictly recreational trail use would be funded by private sources.

RECOMMENDATION—

Approval

BACKGROUND—

The Riverpoint Trail, which will connect Gray's Lake to the Principal Riverwalk, is near completion. A concept has been discussed to provide a secondary trail connection that would run on the south side of the Raccoon River from the SW 5th Street bridge east to SW 1st Street. If the City accepts this project, the connection to the Principal Riverwalk would be across the SW 1st Street Bridge. Both the Park and Recreation Board and the Planning Commission have reviewed the dedication of the Water Street Bridge to pedestrian use, and their recommendations are attached. It is important to set the public record of the Council's intent to close the bridge to vehicular traffic with the development of this trail segment. This action also authorizes the City Manager to affect the physical closure of the bridge at a reasonable time, after the agreement with Meredith Corporation has been finalized, and prior to construction of the pedestrian bridge enhancements.