



# Council Communication

Office of the City Manager

Date

October 9, 2006

Agenda Item No. 39

Roll Call No. 06-

Communication No. 06-630

Submitted by: Jeb E. Brewer, P.E., City Engineer, and Donald M. Tripp, Park & Recreation Director

## AGENDA HEADING:

Approval of trail alignment, authorization to proceed, and authorization to acquire right-of-way for the Waveland Trail from 40<sup>th</sup> Street to 42<sup>nd</sup> Street.

## SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of trail alignment, authorization to proceed, and authorization to acquire right-of-way for the Waveland Trail from 40<sup>th</sup> Street to 42<sup>nd</sup> Street. This project will provide recreational opportunities and improved pedestrian access to the new 40<sup>th</sup> Street Pedestrian Bridge over I-235.

## FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$70,000

Funding Source: Fiscal Year 2006-07 CIP, Page Park Improvements-21, PKS045, Recreation Trails, G.O. Bonds.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) recently completed the replacement of the pedestrian bridge over I-235 near 40<sup>th</sup> Street and was encouraged by the neighborhoods on the north side of I-235 to provide a connection to the existing sidewalk system. After several meetings with neighborhood residents, the IDOT opted to connect the pedestrian bridge only to the sidewalk along 40<sup>th</sup> Street. The previous pedestrian bridge had a sidewalk connection to both 40<sup>th</sup> Street and 42<sup>nd</sup> Street via a 4-foot wide sidewalk that ran parallel to I-235 along the right-of-way. The IDOT did not plan to replace this sidewalk connection to 42<sup>nd</sup> Street because there would be a noise wall constructed along this area.

A request was made by a neighborhood resident that the sidewalk from the pedestrian bridge to 42<sup>nd</sup> Street be replaced when the noise wall is constructed. City staff met with neighborhood leaders, surrounding residents, the Hubbell Elementary School Principal, and the IDOT to talk about options for replacing the 4-foot sidewalk. City staff recommended that the sidewalk not be replaced unless it is widened to trail standards and becomes part of the proposed Waveland Trail, which would continue east toward Cottage Grove Avenue.

City staff has considered options for this segment of the Waveland Trail; however, funding is not being programmed for several years and meetings had not yet been held with the neighborhoods. The two options staff have considered for this proposed trail route include:

1. Generally follow the route of the old sidewalk between 42<sup>nd</sup> Street and the 40<sup>th</sup> Street Pedestrian Bridge behind neighboring properties bordering I-235. Placing the trail in this location could potentially be difficult because of the limited available right-of-way, which would require the acquisition of property from several property owners along the route, or potential redesign of the noise wall in one or more locations in an attempt to provide space for the desired 10-foot wide trail.
2. Follow the old sidewalk route to 41<sup>st</sup> Street, then construct the trail on 41<sup>st</sup> Street north to Rollins Street and east on the south side of Rollins Street to 40<sup>th</sup> Street.

Initially, staff preferred Option No. 2 because of the right-of-way challenges of Option No. 1. After further examination of Option No. 1, and meeting with the neighborhoods, staff decided to recommend Option No. 1 to the IDOT with a redesign of the noise wall to allow width for the trail in an effort to minimize any private property acquisition needed. The IDOT has now redesigned the noise wall to allow for construction of the trail with minimal right-of-way impacts, as shown on the map attached to the Roll Call.

On August 22, 2006, a neighborhood meeting was held with the Drake, North of Grand, and Waveland Park Neighborhoods. City staff presented the recommended alignment for the Waveland Trail from the 40<sup>th</sup> Street pedestrian bridge to 42<sup>nd</sup> Street that would follow the route along the noise wall. Some in attendance had safety concerns about this route. Staff agreed to conduct another meeting to review the completed design, including measures to address safety concerns of the neighborhood.

The estimated City cost for constructing this segment of the Waveland Trail from 40<sup>th</sup> Street to 42<sup>nd</sup> Street is \$70,000. Staff recommends utilizing funds from the existing CIP for Phase 1 of the Waveland Trail proposed to start at the Walnut Creek Trail at the south end of Cummins Parkway, north to the 56<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge across I-235, then east across the south end of Waveland Golf Course. Partial funding for this first phase of the Waveland Trail is presently budgeted in the 2006-2007 CIP in the amount of \$500,000, which is not adequate to fully fund the design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction. Additional funding from grants and/or future CIP budgets will be necessary to fund this trail segment. In the meantime, the design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction of the trail segment between the 40<sup>th</sup> Street Pedestrian Bridge and 42<sup>nd</sup> Street can be fully funded with the existing Waveland Trail Phase 1 CIP funds. Grant funding and future CIP dollars will be sought to replace these funds for Phase 1 of the Waveland Trail.

## **PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: September 23, 2002

Roll Call Number: 02-2316

Action: Trail proposal recommended by Park and Recreation Board and supported by Waveland Park Neighborhood Association to be submitted to the Metropolitan Planning Organization for two trail segments which will provide recreational opportunities. [\(Council Communication No. 02-495\)](#). Moved by Cownie to adopt, with three-pronged piece to be more closely identified as shown in Exhibit "A" to the roll call. Motion Carried 6-1. Absent: McPherson.

**BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE**

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:**

Complete design of trail segment, and meet with neighbors and neighborhood representatives for approval of trail segment design. Normal Council actions on construction contracts. Acceptance of grant funding and/or allocation of future CIP dollars to replace funds for Phase 1 of the Waveland Trail.