

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date	April 6, 2009
	Agenda Item No. 39 Roll Call No. <u>09-</u> Communication No. <u>09-189</u> Submitted by: Donald M. Tripp Park and Recreation Director	

AGENDA HEADING:

Accepting proposal of Alta Planning + Design for the provision of professional consulting services for the development of a bicycle and trails master plan and authorizing an agreement for the provision of the same.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of the proposal from Alta Planning + Design (Jeff Olson, Principal, 1638 NE Davis Street, Portland Oregon, 97232) and authorizing an agreement for the provision of the same to conduct a Trails and Bicycle Master Plan for the City of Des Moines. The plan will help to fulfill the City’s goal to become a designated Bicycle Friendly Community, and look at ways to increase the use of bicycles as a legitimate form of transportation that reduces the reliance on the automobile.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$99,950

Funding Source: 2008-2009 Capital Improvement Budget, Park Improvements, Page 22, Recreation Trail, PKS045

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

In March 2006 and again in August 2008, the Park and Recreation Department submitted an application to the League of American Bicyclists (LAB) for consideration of the City of Des Moines as a Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) in their BFC Program. A BFC provides safe accommodation for cycling and encourages its residents to bike for transportation and recreation. The City of Des Moines and Polk County Conservation Board Trails and Greenways Advisory Committee (TAG), which is a committee of the Des Moines Park and Recreation Board, worked with City staff to complete the City’s applications to this program.

Des Moines was not selected as a BFC in 2006, but in 2008 was awarded an honorable mention status from the LAB. After both applications, the reviewers encouraged Des Moines to work on implementing more on-street facilities to connect the network of trails and on-street facilities. The BFC reviewers encouraged Des Moines to expand its education, enforcement, encouragement and evaluation efforts in order to be considered a BFC in the future.

Based on the feedback received from the BFC program after the City's first application, the TAG Committee created "Goals to Make Des Moines a Bicycle Friendly Community," which was adopted by the City Council in December 2007. The ultimate goal was that the City of Des Moines be recognized as a "Bronze Level" BFC in 2009 and "Silver Level" BFC in 2012. Achieving these goals has been challenging and required significant commitment from the City of Des Moines and the bicycle community, but based on the 2008 application to the LAB, the City is moving in the right direction to make the City friendlier for bicyclists.

One of the key goals approved by the Council was that the City should complete a Trails and Bicycle Master Plan. To accomplish the goal, the Parks and Recreation Department budgeted funding for this master plan in the FY09 (2008-2009) Capital Budget. The completion of a master plan for the City goes beyond recognition as a BFC. It seeks to plan and develop a transportation system that can be used for more than just automobiles and to reduce the barriers that prevent people from biking on a regular basis for transportation, recreation or fitness. Completing a Trail and Bicycle Master Plan for the City will help accomplish the following:

- Prioritize trail and bicycle projects to assist in budgeting and leveraging grants to get the maximum impact from limited funding.
- Identify barriers that limit people from using bicycles for recreation, transportation and fitness in order to help create a more active transportation system that allows people the flexibility and freedom to move about without an automobile.
- Create a plan for a comprehensive trail and bicycle network that connects the community together and to neighboring communities.
- Provide innovative and economically feasible projects, programs and recommendations matched to specific funding opportunities.
- Develop a plan addressing the needs of citizens of all ages, abilities, skills and confidence levels.

In addition to the above benefits of conducting a trails and bicycle master plan, on October 23, 2006, the City Council adopted 12 goal statements for the City. The completion of a trails and bicycle master plan directly relates to one of these goals: *Sustainable Green Community - Des Moines will be a leader in setting policies and practicing service delivery innovations that promote environmental sustainability. Des Moines will offer safe, reliable and convenient transportation alternatives that reduce reliance on automobiles and parking facilities.*

To accomplish the goal of completing a Trails and Bicycle Master Plan, the Park and Recreation Department solicited proposals in October 2008 and received two strong applications. Each proposal partnered a local planning firm with a national bicycle planning firm to conduct the master plan. The major difference between the two proposals was cost of the public input process and the amount of hours spent on preparing the bicycle and trail network. The two proposals received include:

- Proposal #1: TY Lin International and Confluence (\$225,000)
- Proposal #2: Alta Planning + Design, RDG Planning and Design and the Iowa Bicycle Coalition (\$99,950)

A selection committee made up of three members of the Trails and Greenways Advisory Committee and four City staff members from the Parks, Engineering, Community Development and Traffic Departments scored the applications and have recommended that the proposal submitted by Alta Planning + Design be awarded the contract to complete the Trails and Bicycle Master Plan.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: December 17, 2007

Roll Call Number: 07-2344

Action: Adoption of “Goals To Make Des Moines A Bicycle Friendly Community.”
(Council Communication No. 07-735) Moved by Hensley to approve. Motion Carried 6-1.

Date: October 8, 2007

Roll Call Number: 07-1993

Action: Receipt of “Goals to Make Des Moines Bicycle Friendly Community” from Des Moines Park and Recreation Board’s Trails and Greenways Advisory Committee. (Council Communication No. 07-614) Moved by Kiernan to receive and file the “Goals to Make Des Moines Bicycle Friendly Community” and refer to the City Manager for review and recommendation. Upon receipt of review and recommendation, the goals will be submitted to the City Council for adoption. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Date: November 25, 2008

Roll Call Number: 08-104

Action: Park and Recreation Board, receive and file recommendation to City Council that the City should move forward by hiring a consultant to conduct a Bicycle and Trails Master Plan for the City.

Date: June 26, 2007

Roll Call Number: 07-076

Action: Park and Recreation Board approved Bicycle Friendly Community Goals.

Date: April 24, 2007

Roll Call Number: 07-052

Action: Park and Recreation Board received and filed Bicycle Friendly Community Goals.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Council adoption of master plan upon completion.

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