 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Council Communication</b> Office of the City Manager</p>	<b>Date:</b> March 14, 2011
	<b>Agenda Item No.</b> 24-I <b>Roll Call No.</b> [ _____ ] <b>Communication No.</b> <u>11-160</u> <b>Submitted by:</b> Donald M. Tripp <b>Director of Park and Recreation</b>

**AGENDA HEADING:**

Approving an agreement with the City of West Des Moines to share costs in development of a trail connection along 63rd Street.

**SYNOPSIS:**

Approving an agreement with the City of West Des Moines to share costs in development of a trail connection along the east side of 63rd Street, within the City of Des Moines. Des Moines will pay engineering design and construction administration expenses; West Des Moines will pay property acquisition and construction costs.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Amount: Engineering design and construction administration - \$40,000; property acquisition and construction - \$170,000.

Funding Source: \$40,000 -2010-11 CIP, G.O. Bonds from Recreational Trails, CP040PKS990000, PKS 045, page 20. \$170,000 - City of West Des Moines.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The proposed agreement with the City of West Des Moines provides for the funding of property acquisition, engineering design and construction of a trail connection along the east side of 63rd Street from Railroad Avenue south to Tyler Avenue. On the Des Moines side, this trail connection links to the Walnut Creek Trail at 63rd Street and Railroad Avenue, which links to additional trails ultimately extending approximately 6 miles to downtown Des Moines. On the West Des Moines side, the connection links to their Levee Trail and on to Raccoon River Park and the Jordan Creek Trail, extending approximately 8 miles to Valley View Park west of Jordan Creek Parkway and the extent of West Des Moines’ trail system. A regional map and the trail layout are attached. The 10-foot-wide concrete segment of trail will be approximately 750 feet long.

This is a critical link between Des Moines and West Des Moines and a very high priority for trail advocates. It was identified as a future connection in the Walnut Creek Trail Connection Master Plan, which was a joint project of the cities of Des Moines, West Des Moines, and Windsor Heights finalized in 1998.

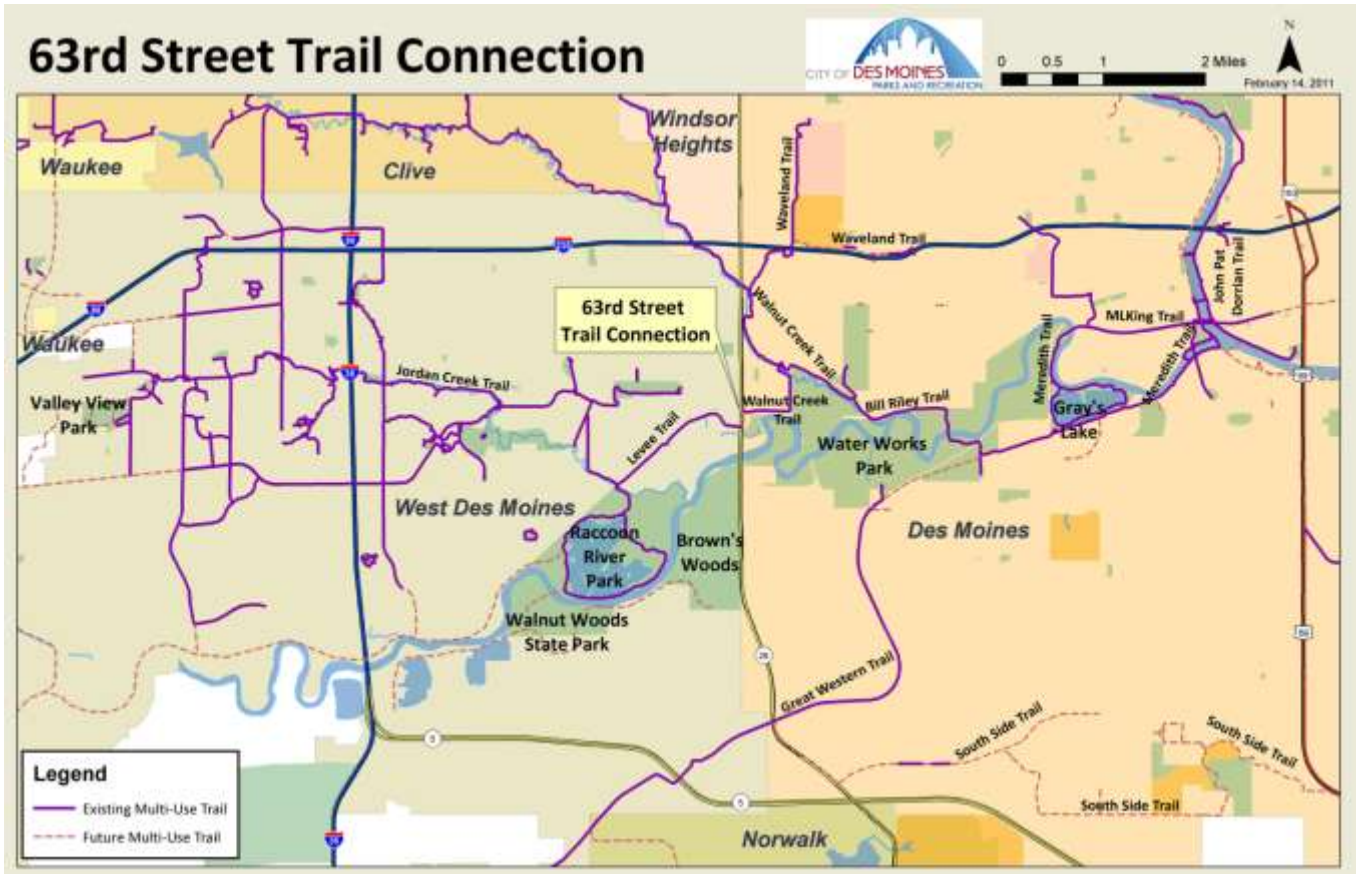
Originally, plans for a trail in this area showed the trail on the west side of 63rd/1st Street with the crossing of 63rd/1st occurring at Railroad Avenue. With this plan, the trail would have been entirely

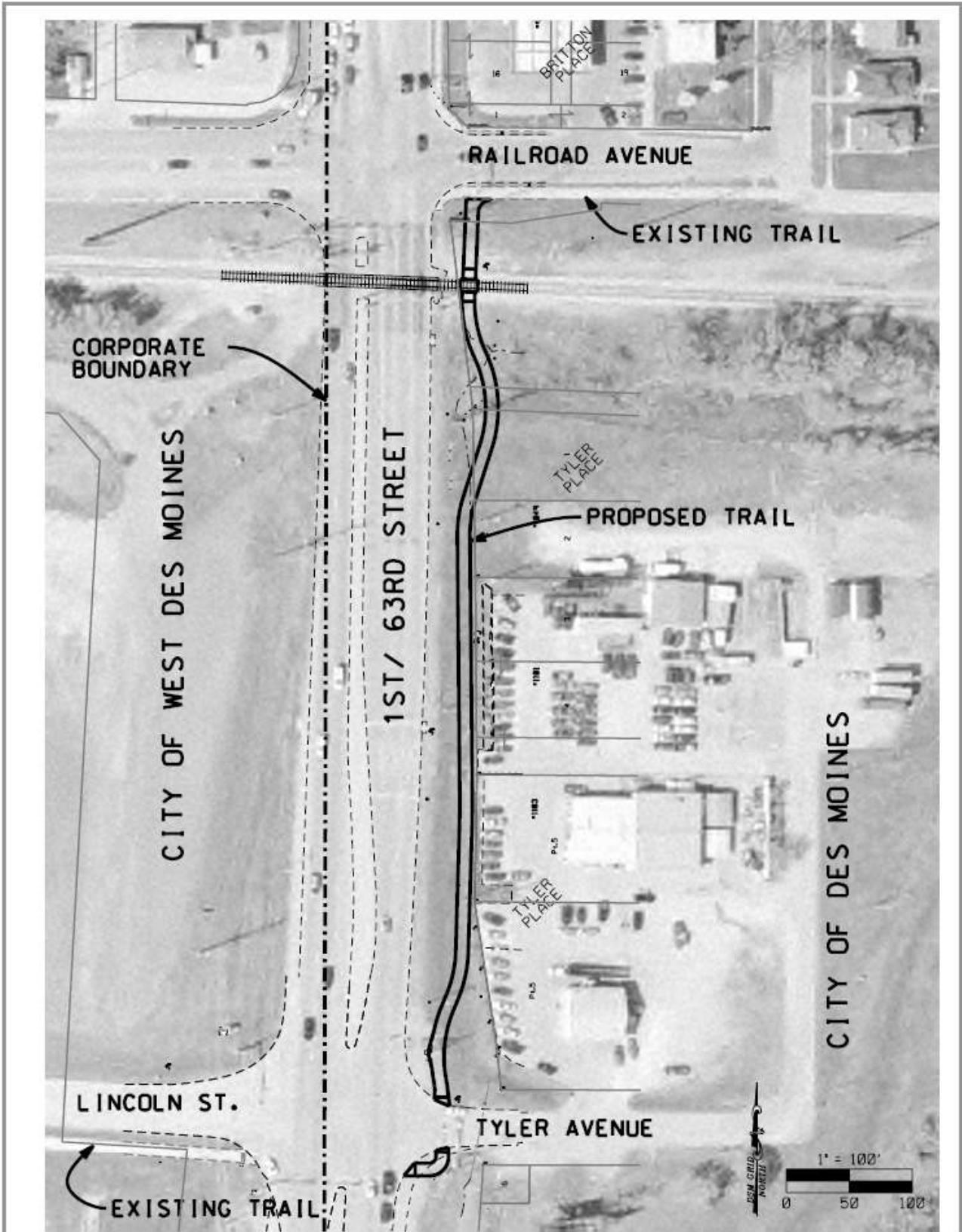
within the City of West Des Moines. After further analysis by City of Des Moines Engineering staff, it was determined that it would be better to locate the trail crossing of 63rd/1st Street further south, at the intersection with Tyler Avenue, in order to avoid heavy vehicular turning movements at the intersection of Railroad Avenue and 63rd/1st Street. This required the trail to be relocated to the east (Des Moines) side of the street.

Although the trail is now being located entirely within the City of Des Moines, the City of West Des Moines has agreed to fund the property acquisition and construction costs of the trail, estimated at \$170,000. The agreement calls for West Des Moines to reimburse the City of Des Moines for the final costs upon completion of the trail.

The City of Des Moines is providing right-of-way acquisition services, including agreements with the railroad for a trail crossing, engineering design, and construction administration of the project, estimated at \$40,000. Des Moines will also be responsible for all future maintenance and repairs of the trail.

The West Des Moines City Council approved this agreement on February 7, 2011. If agreed upon by the Des Moines City Council, construction is anticipated to occur in the summer of 2011.





63RD STREET RECREATION TRAIL  
RAILROAD AVE. TO TYLER AVE.

ATTACHMENT "A"  
LOCATION MAP

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: December 16, 2002

Roll Call Number: 02-2976

Action: Revised Trails Plan for the City to include both on-street and off-street trails, and to replace existing Trails Plan maintained by the local Metropolitan Planning Organization, (MPO). ([Council Communication No. 02-640](#)). Moved by Hensley to approve. Motion Carried 6-1. Absent: Vlassis.

Date: October 26, 1998

Roll Call Number: 98-3367

Action: Approving the Master Plan for the Walnut Creek Trail System which connects downtown Des Moines, Gray's Lake and Water Works Park with western areas of Des Moines metropolitan area following along Raccoon River and Walnut Creek corridors. ([Council Communication No. 98-483](#)) Moved by Hensley to adopt. Motion Carried 4-3. Absent: Flagg, McPherson, and Phillips.

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

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:**

Normal Council actions for acquisition of property necessary to implement the trail connection and awarding a construction contract.

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