

 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Council Communication</b> Office of the City Manager</p>	<b>Date:</b> May 23, 2011
	<p><b>Agenda Item No.</b> 60</p> <p><b>Roll Call No.</b> <u>11-938</u></p> <p><b>Communication No.</b> <u>11-314</u></p> <p><b>Submitted by:</b> Donald M. Tripp, Director of Park and Recreation</p>

**AGENDA HEADING:**

Receive and file the City of Des Moines Bicycle and Trail Master Plan, which is being recommended for adoption as an element of the 2020 Community Character Plan.

**SYNOPSIS:**

Receive and file the Bicycle and Trail Master Plan, which is being recommended for adoption as an element of the 2020 Community Character Plan. This master plan will guide future trail and on-street bicycle facility implementation for the next 20 years. The Existing and Proposed Facility Network Map in this master plan replaces the current City of Des Moines Multi-Use Trails Master Plan Map.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Amount: Bicycle and Trail improvements have historically been funded through the capital improvement program with state and federal grants and local funding (private and public). That will likely be the funding sources for the infrastructure improvements in the future. The promotion, coordination, and implementation of the master plan will require the identification of non-city funding yet to be identified.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

On December 17, 2007, by Roll Call No. 07-2388, City Council adopted the “Goals to Make Des Moines a Bicycle Friendly Community;” creation of a Bicycle and Trail Master Plan fulfills one of those goals. A Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) is a designation awarded by the League of American Bicyclists to communities that provide safe accommodation for bicycling and encourage residents to bike for transportation and recreation. The City’s applications in 2006 and 2008 for the BFC designation resulted in feedback indicating that Des Moines needed to develop on-street bicycle facilities to connect the well-established off-street trail network to places where people live, work, and recreate; this creates a functional system which supports bicycling as a viable mode of transportation. The BFC reviewers also suggested that Des Moines expand bicycle education, enforcement, encouragement and evaluation efforts. The Bicycle and Trail Master Plan provides guidance to meet these needs and ultimately establish the City as a gold-or platinum-level BFC.

On April 6, 2009, by Roll Call No. 09-556, City Council authorized hiring Alta Planning + Design, a bicycle and pedestrian planning firm from Portland, Oregon, to create the Bicycle and Trail Master Plan. Alta worked with an advisory team of citizen representatives from the Trails and Greenways Advisory Committee (a committee of the Park and Recreation Board) and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

along with staff representing Park and Recreation, Engineering, Public Works, Economic Development, Police, Fire, and Community Development Departments as well as the City Manager's Office.

In July 2009, two public input sessions were held to assess interest and concerns regarding incorporation of bicycling into the on-street network, including the public's perceived obstacles to bicycling and opportunities for development of new facilities. With this input, the advisory team and Alta Planning + Design developed a series of goals and proposed an on-street bicycle facility network in addition to development of bicycle education programs suitable for the City. In January 2011, two additional public input sessions were held to present the draft plan and the proposed on-street bicycle facility network. The advisory team worked with Alta Planning + Design to evaluate the public input resulting from these meetings and modify the Master Plan accordingly.

The Master Plan accomplishes the following:

- Provides innovative and economically-feasible projects, programs and recommendations matched to specific funding opportunities
- Prioritizes trail and bicycle projects to get the maximum impact with limited funding; the following three projects are the highest priorities for implementation:
  - Northeast Des Moines Bicycle Corridor - signage and shared-lane markings on East Walnut Street and bike lanes on Hubbell Avenue between East 18<sup>th</sup> and East 33<sup>rd</sup> Streets;
  - Downtown Bicycle Facilities - a combination of bike lanes and shared-lane markings within downtown and connections to existing bicycle and trail facilities to the surrounding network and neighborhoods; and
  - SW 14<sup>th</sup> Street Quiet Street - signage and traffic calming to connect the Blank Park Zoo and Fort Des Moines to Gray's Lake Park and the Central Iowa Trail System
- Overcomes barriers that limit people from using bicycles for recreation, transportation and fitness
- Addresses the needs of citizens of all ages, abilities, skills and confidence levels
- Creates an active transportation system that allows people the flexibility and freedom to move about without an automobile
- Establishes bicycling as a viable mode of transportation
- Provides the guidance and tools to become a gold- or platinum-level Bicycle Friendly Community.

The Master Plan will provide guidance on trail and bicycle facility development and programming efforts in the City of Des Moines for the next 20 years and be jointly implemented by not only the Park and Recreation Department, but also the Community Development Department, Engineering Department and its Traffic and Transportation division. The Existing and Proposed Facility Network Map in this master plan replaces the current City of Des Moines Multi-Use Trails Master Plan Map that has previously guided trail development in the City.

On May 9, 2011, the Trails and Greenways Advisory Committee of the Park and Recreation Board, and on May 10, 2011, the Traffic Safety Committee each unanimously recommended to approve and adopt the Bicycle and Trail Master Plan as an element of the 2020 Community Character Plan. Staff also recommends that the Bicycle and Trail Master Plan be received and filed and that the plan be referred to the Park and Recreation Board and Plan and Zoning Commission for approval and recommendation to the City Council for adoption as an element of the 2020 Community Character Plan.

A recommendation to adopt the master plan is planned for the June 13, 2011, City Council meeting.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: April 6, 2009

Roll Call Number: [09-556](#)

Action: Proposal and agreement with Alta Planning + Design, Inc. for the provision of professional consulting services for the development of a Bicycle and Trails Master Plan, not to exceed \$99,950. ([Council Communication No. 09-189](#)) Moved by Hensley to approve. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: September 22, 2008

Roll Call Number: [08-1701](#)

Action: Adoption of “Complete Streets” policy regarding review, consideration and addition of bicycle and pedestrian facilities on street projects. ([Council Communication No. 08-561](#)) Moved by Kiernan to approve. Motion Carried 6-1. Absent: Coleman.

Date: March 10, 2008

Roll Call Number: [08-433](#)

Action: Receipt of proposed “Complete Streets” policy regarding the consideration and addition of bicycle and pedestrian facilities on street projects within the City of Des Moines. ([Council Communication No. 08-111](#)) Moved by Coleman to Receive and File. Motion Carried 7-0.

**BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):**

Board: Park and Recreation Board

Date: April 26, 2011

Resolution Number: 11-050

Action: Receive and file the City of Des Moines Bicycle and Trail Master Plan.

Board: Park and Recreation Board

Date: November 25, 2008

Resolution Number: 08-104

Action: Receive and file recommendation to City Council to move forward to hire a consultant to conduct a Bicycle and Trails Master Plan for the City

Board: Park and Recreation Board

Date: June 26, 2007

Resolution Number: 07-076

Action: Park and Recreation Board approved “Goals to Make Des Moines a Bicycle Friendly Community

Board: Traffic Safety Committee

Date: May 10, 2011

Action: Recommend adoption of the City of Des Moines Bicycle and Trail Master Plan as an element of the 2020 Community Character Plan.

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:**

Adoption of the City of Des Moines Bicycle and Trail Master Plan as an element of the City’s 2020 Community Character Plan.

For more information on this and other agenda items, please call the City Clerk’s Office at 515-283-4209 or visit the Clerk’s Office on the second floor of City Hall, 400 Robert D. Ray Drive. Council agendas are available to the public at the City Clerk’s Office on Thursday afternoon preceding Monday’s Council meeting. Citizens can also request to receive meeting notices and agendas by email by calling the Clerk’s Office or sending their request via email to [cityclerk@dmgov.org](mailto:cityclerk@dmgov.org).