 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date: August 25, 2014
	<p>Agenda Item No. 7</p> <p>Roll Call No. <u>14-1282</u></p> <p>Communication No. <u>14-410</u></p> <p>Submitted by: Pamela S. Cooksey, P.E., Interim City Engineer, and Ben Page, Park and Recreation Director</p>

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) Project Memorandum of Agreement, for the Neal Smith Trail Resurfacing and Widening – Riverview Park to Euclid Avenue.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of FLAP Project Memorandum of Agreement, for the Neal Smith Trail Resurfacing and Widening – Riverview Park to Euclid Avenue with anticipated federal funding of \$303,000, and authorize and direct the Mayor to sign the Memorandum of Agreement.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$500,000 total estimated project cost

Funding Source: \$303,000 Federal Lands Access Program Funds, with the remaining estimated \$197,000 from 2014-2015 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), Page – Park Improvements – 9, Multi-Use Trails

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

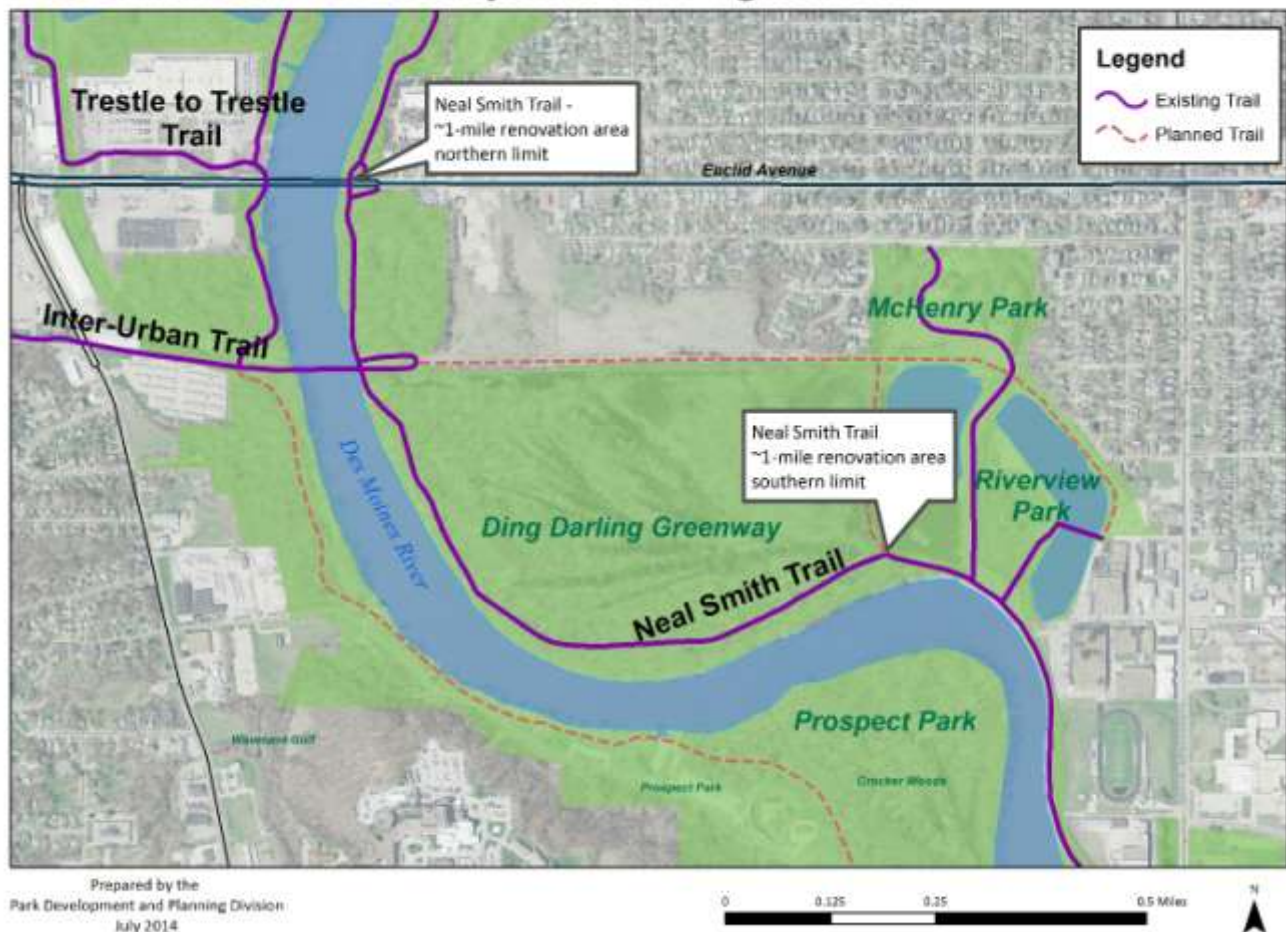
The Parks and Recreation Department submitted an application for FLAP funding of the Neal Smith Trail Renovation between Riverview Park and Euclid Avenue. The FLAP program was created by the “Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act” (MAP-21) to improve access to and through federal lands for visitors, recreationists and resource users.

The overall 24.7-mile Neal Smith Trail reaches from Big Creek State Park and Saylorville Lake on the north to the John Pat Dorrian Trail and downtown Des Moines on the south, establishing the north-south spine of the 550-mile Central Iowa Trail Network. It is classified as a National Recreation Trail and is a part of the American Discovery Trail that extends across the country.

Originally constructed in 1982, the Neal Smith Trail is one of the oldest trails in the Central Iowa Trail Network. The section of the trail between Riverview Park and Euclid Avenue is currently 9-foot wide. The trail surface is cracking from growth of tree roots and years of use, creating unsatisfactory conditions for trail users. The popularity of the trail requires it to be widened and resurfaced to allow for a safer, smooth surface. The City has conducted trail use counts which resulted in an estimated 155,000 to 175,000 trips per year on this trail.

The Neal Smith Trail renovation is an eligible project for FLAP because it provides non-motorized access to Saylorville Lake, which is a federally-owned reservoir and recreation area managed by the Army Corps of Engineers. Further, the portion of the trail needing renovation is located on federal land within the City of Des Moines. The City maintains leases on over 240-acres of federal land along the Des Moines River as part of the Saylorville Lake Project. This land is located along the Des Moines River between 6th Avenue and Euclid Avenue. The Neal Smith Trail follows the east side of the Des Moines River through this area and north of Euclid Avenue to Saylorville Lake. The City's responsibilities for maintenance of the trail extend to the City limits near a small bridge over Saylor Creek. The City also leases an additional 20.3-acres of federal land surrounding the Neal Smith Trail from Euclid Avenue to the small bridge at Saylor Creek.

Neal Smith Trail - Area Subject to FLAP Agreement



The Memorandum of Agreement is between the City of Des Moines, the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)-Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division. This agreement does not obligate the expenditure of federal funds nor does it commit the parties to complete the project. Rather, this Agreement documents the intent of the parties and sets forth the anticipated responsibilities of each party in the development, construction, and future maintenance of the subject project. The parties understand that any final decision as to design or construction will not be made until after the environmental analysis required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is completed. Any decision to proceed with the design and construction of the project will depend on the availability of appropriations at the time of obligation

and other factors such as issues raised during the NEPA process, a natural disaster that changes the need for the project, a change in Congressional direction, or other relevant factors.

FLAP project funds are not to exceed \$303,000. The estimated cost of the project is \$500,000. The FLAP requires a minimum 20% match; the City will exceed that requirement with an estimated commitment of \$197,000. The City and/or the Department of Transportation are required to provide any shortfall between the FLAP funds and the total project cost.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: February 23, 2004

Roll Call Number: 04-395

Action: Authorizing Park and Recreation Director or his designee to sign and submit applications for grants or other giving programs for planning, development, maintenance, and operation of facilities, structures and programs undertaken by Des Moines Park and Recreation Department. ([Council Communication No. 04-080](#)) Moved by Coleman to approve. City Manager will provide the Council with a periodic list of the grant applications that have been sent. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Normal actions for award of the construction contract for the work.

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