


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	25-294	Meeting:	August 4, 2025
	Agenda Item:	57	Roll Call:	25-1081
	Submitted by:	Benjamin R. Page, Park and Recreation Director and Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer		

AGENDA HEADING:

Authorization to proceed with acquisition of the necessary property interests for the Central Place Trail Phase 2 Project by gift, negotiation, or eminent domain.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of authorization to proceed with acquisition of the necessary property interests for the Central Place Trail Phase 2 Project by gift, negotiation, or eminent domain. This action is required by Iowa law when property acquisition is needed for recreational trail purposes before the City can initiate the property acquisition process for this project under eminent domain. Relocation assistance will not be required.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: To be determined after final design is completed and right-of-way needs have been identified.

Funding Source: Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2026 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), Page 92, Central Place Trail, PK193, Being: Various City, Federal, State and private secured funding.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- This project includes constructing approximately 2.1-miles of new multi-use trail section along the west bank of the Des Moines River and City right-of-way between the intersection of 2nd Avenue and Franklin Avenue and the intersection of the Inter-Urban and Trestle to Trestle multi-use trails. The new trail spine will be a 10-foot-wide concrete section, approximately 1.8-miles in length. An approximate 0.3-miles long neighborhood service trail spur within the Chautauqua Park Open Space will be an 8-foot-wide granular section. The project is estimated to cost \$4,000,000 with anticipated design occurring in 2025 and anticipated construction to occur in 2027-2028.
- The City has secured and committed partial funding for the Central Place Trail Phase 2 project. The Parks and Recreation Department operating budget supports the on-going maintenance and operation of this proposed trail section by trail staff dedicated to these important tasks.

- On December 6, 2021, by Roll Call No. 21-1792, Council authorized the submittal of Federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) and Transportation Alternative Program (TAP), also known as STBG Set-Aside Program, FY2026 applications to the Des Moines Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), which included requesting \$500,000 in FY2026 TAP funds for the Central Place Trail Phase 2.
- On October 3, 2022, by Roll Call No. 22-1494, Council ratified the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) Federal Recreational Trails (FRT) funding grant application to request \$300,000 for the Central Place Trail Phase 2 project.
- On April 24, 2023, by Roll Call No. 23-0596, Council approved a Donation Agreement with Broadlawns Medical Center for Central Place Trail Phase 2 in the amount of \$150,000 towards the project's construction for the health benefits of the residents of Des Moines.
- IDOT has awarded \$1,300,000 in TAP funding and \$300,000 in Federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP) funding for the Central Place Trail Phase 2 project, so an agreement with IDOT is required for administration and receipt of the TAP and RTP funding.
- The estimated project costs for the Central Place Trail Phase 2 project are \$4,000,000, with TAP and RTP combined funds in the amount of \$1,600,000.
- On July 18, 2025, under the provisions of Iowa Code 6B.2D, notices of the proposed resolution authorizing acquisition of the necessary property interests for recreational trail purposes were mailed to each affected property owner, contract purchaser of record and tenants known to be occupying the properties required for the Project.
- The affected property owners have the right to attend the City Council Meeting on August 4, 2025, to voice support for or any objections to the proposed property interests to be acquired.
- On March 26, 2025, City staff and consultant project team went door-to-door along the corridor meeting with property owners and residents. A project map and a technical drawing of the anticipated impacts on their property or place of residence was provided and questions and concerns were discussed. All residents along the corridor also received a mailed follow-up letter and information package detailing the next steps and who to contact with any additional questions, comments or concerns.
- At this time, approximately 23 temporary construction easements and four (4) partial fee acquisitions from 23 property owners are needed to complete construction of this project. Relocation assistance will not be required.
- The City of Des Moines multi-use trail counters logged 3,343,089 annual uses across the system in 2024. We anticipate this number to continue to grow year-by-year as the system continues to grow and gaps such as the one filled by this project are completed.

Central Place Trail Route

Regional Context Map



PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: May 5, 2025

Roll Call Number: [25-0636](#)

Action: [Approving](#) and authorizing the execution of IDOT Agreement for the Central Place Trail Phase II project. ([Council Communication No. 25-169](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Voss. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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