

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	26-250	Meeting:	July 13, 2026
	Agenda Item:	29	Roll Call:	
	Submitted by:	Benjamin R. Page, Parks and Recreation Director		

AGENDA HEADING:

Ratification of Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) State Recreational Trails (SRT) Grant Application for \$470,000 for the Central Place Trail Phase 2 project.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend ratification of the official endorsement confirming required match funding and maintenance commitment for Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) State Recreational Trails (SRT) grant funding application by the Parks and Recreation Department seeking \$470,000 towards the Central Place Trail Phase 2 project.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$470,000 in anticipated SRT grant revenue toward the Central Place Trail Phase 2 project with an estimated total construction cost of \$4,130,000.

Funding Source: FY2027 CIP, Page 89, Central Place Trail, PK193

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- SRT Funding is managed through the Iowa Department of Transportation and supports cities with any population in seeking funding with a minimum 25% funding match for the development and/or acquisition of land for multiuse trails in the state of Iowa.
- The Parks and Recreation Department is applying for \$470,000 in SRT grant funding towards the construction of Phase 2 of the Central Place Trail to expand trail network access to multiple neighborhoods south and west of the Des Moines River. This application requires that the City Council provide certain authorizations and certifications when making the application including a maintenance and operation plan for a minimum of 20 years, guaranteed match funds of at least 25% for the entire project cost, and acknowledging the City's intent to provide all funds necessary to complete the project beyond any SRT funding award. The City can commit to these requirements.
- The Parks and Recreation Department's operating budget supports the on-going maintenance and operation of this trail section within City of Des Moines by trail staff dedicated to these important tasks.

- Construction of the approximate 1.5-mile first phase of the Central Place Trail was completed fall 2025 and is currently open for public use.
- Construction documentation for the Phase 2 project is approaching 90% complete with utility coordination and real estate processes ongoing. The Phase 2 corridor starts at the Phase 1 northern terminus at the intersection of Franklin Avenue and 2nd Avenue and extends approximately 1.8 miles northwesterly via the right of way and Prospect Park until it ties into an intersection of the Trestle to Trestle Trail and the Inter-Urban Trail. A 0.3 mile granular access spur is also being planned in the Chautauqua Park Open Space to expand neighborhood access.
- The Phase 2 construction project is tentatively slated for an early 2027 letting by the IDOT with major construction throughout calendar year 2027. Anticipated completion milestones include spring 2028 substantial completion, summer 2028 final completion, and fall 2028 project close.
- The project budget currently includes \$1,600,000 in secured grant funding and \$770,000 in additional grant funding is anticipated via Iowa DOT SRT and Iowa DNR REAP grant applications. The project budget also includes \$155,000 in secured private funding via Broadlawns Medical Center and the Friends of Des Moines Parks.
- In 2025, bicycle and pedestrian infrared counters installed throughout the City of Des Moines multi-use trail system captured over 3,367,000 total uses. Following the completion of Phase 2 of the Central Place Trail, annual trail usage is expected to increase.

Central Place Trail Route

Regional Context Map



PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: January 26, 2026

Roll Call Number: [26-0095](#)

Action: [Approving](#) and authorizing the execution of IDOT Addendum for the Central Place Trail Phase 2 Project. Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Voss. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: August 4, 2025

Roll Call Number: [25-1081](#)

Action: [On](#) authorization to proceed with acquisition of the necessary property interests for the Central Place Trail Phase 2 Project. ([Council Communication No. 25-294](#)) Moved by Coleman to adopt. Second by Gatto. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

- Anticipated future actions related to this project include approval of grant agreements, ordering construction, public hearing, receive and file bids, designate lowest bidder, and approve contract and bond; also partial payments to the contractor and final acceptance of work.

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