

**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

**02-496**

**AGENDA:**

SEPTEMBER 23, 2002

**SUBJECT:**

RIVERPOINT TRAIL AND  
FLEUR DRIVE  
LANDSCAPING STATEWIDE  
TRANSPORTATION  
ENHANCEMENT  
PROGRAM GRANTS

**TYPE:**

**RESOLUTION**  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE

**SUBMITTED BY:**

DONALD M. TRIPP  
PARK AND RECREATION  
DIRECTOR

**REVISED  
ITEM48**

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER  
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

**SYNOPSIS —**

Approve Statewide Transportation Enhancement Program grant applications to the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) for: 1) the construction of the 1.5 mile Riverpoint multi-use recreational trail connecting Gray's Lake Kruidenier Trail to the proposed downtown Principal Riverwalk; and 2) the Fleur Drive Landscaping and Beautification project.

**FISCAL IMPACT —**

A Statewide Transportation Enhancement Program grant provides up to 70 percent of a total project cost. Agencies are required to match that amount with 30 percent or more of the total project cost.

The total cost of the Riverpoint Trail project is estimated at \$870,000. The amount requested from the State is \$345,000. The City will be required to match the grant with \$525,000. Of that amount, \$375,000 has been previously budgeted in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for the Riverpoint Trail with TIF funds, CP040PKS990000PJKS045. An MPO grant of \$150,000 was awarded to Des Moines in the Spring of 2002 for FY05 to renovate the historic 5<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge across the Raccoon River. This bridge is integral to construction of the Riverpoint Trail, and the renovation cost of \$150,000 is included in the total cost of the project (\$870,000). If construction of the Riverpoint Trail precedes the availability of the bridge funds in FY05, it may be possible to leverage those funds for earlier use.

The total cost of the Fleur Drive project is estimated at over \$2 million. The amount requested from the State is up to \$500,000. The grant application may be less based on project cost and phasing. The matching funds will be provided primarily by private contributions.

**RECOMMENDATION —**

**Two roll calls are on the agenda; one roll call approves the application for the Riverpoint Trail, and one roll call approves the application for the Fleur Drive project.**

**BACKGROUND —**

Annually the State of Iowa appropriates funds to the Department of Transportation to assist cities, counties, and other qualified organizations in the construction of multi-use recreational trails, enhancement of scenic and natural resources, and preservation of historical and archaeological sites. Staff has evaluated potential projects that qualify for funding in the Statewide Transportation Enhancement Grant Program. It has selected two projects worthy of submittal, one for trails and one for scenic enhancement: 1) the approximately 1.5 mile Riverpoint Trail because: a) The Statewide Transportation Enhancement Program guidelines rank multi-use recreational trail construction projects high in its evaluation process; b) It allows the Riverpoint Trail to connect to the recently completed Gray's Lake Kruidenier Trail to the proposed downtown Principal Riverwalk; and c) The proposed Riverpoint Trail would be a part of the American Discovery Trail (ADT), a national trail project running from coast to coast across America.

If funded, the Riverpoint Trail would run east from Gray's Lake Park to the 5<sup>th</sup> Street bridge along the south side of the Raccoon River. It would cross to the north side of the river on the 5<sup>th</sup> Street bridge and follow the top of the levee to Sec Taylor Baseball Stadium. It would then cross under the bridge at First Street and proceed north along the Des Moines Riverfront to the abandoned railroad bridge just south of Court Avenue. Crossing the bridge, it would connect directly to the Pat Dorrian Trail on the east side of the Des Moines River.

2) The Fleur Drive Landscaping project that runs from the Airport north to the bridge across the Raccoon River. Because of the location of the Des Moines International Airport, Fleur Drive creates a first and lasting impression for visitors driving into the Downtown. It is the "gateway" to the City. Thus, the quality of the streetscape is of great importance to the perception of visitors and daily commuters alike. The proposed landscape plantings will enhance the street by providing a degree of uniformity that is currently absent, and, at the same time, elevate the organic component scenically softening the cityscape. A byproduct of the new streetscape will be the anticipated traffic calming effect, making Fleur Drive safer. The plans and cost estimates for the Fleur Drive project are not finalized and will be undergoing further review.