

Agenda Item:

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION
City Manager's Office

GENERAL INFORMATION—

Agenda Date: 1/12/04
04-013

Communication No.:

Agenda Item Type: Resolution

Roll Call No:

Submitted by: Donald M. Tripp, Park and Recreation Director

-

SUBJECT—

Iowa Department of Transportation Statewide Transportation Enhancement Grant Award to construct the Riverpoint Segment of the American Discovery Trail.

SYNOPSIS—

Approve the receipt of a Federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) Transportation Enhancement (TE) Grant from the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) in the amount of \$345,000 for construction in Des Moines, Iowa, of the Riverpoint Segment of the American Discovery Trail (ADT).

FISCAL IMPACT—

\$345,000 received in grant funds. Total estimated cost of the trail construction project is \$1,170,000 with \$345,000 from an IDOT grant, \$150,000 from a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) grant, \$300,000 from the IDNR REAP Program and \$375,000 from the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP), CP040PKS990000PKS045.

RECOMMENDATION—

Approval.

BACKGROUND—

The 1.9-mile alignment of the Riverpoint segment of the American Discovery Trail (ADT) will be a 12 foot wide asphalt recreational trail that will connect the Kruidenier Trail at Gray's Lake

with the Principal Riverwalk in downtown Des Moines. Amenities on this trail will include emergency phones, trail signage, furniture, and river overlooks. The ADT, a national trail project, runs from coast to coast across America (please see a map of the trail alignment attached to the Roll Call). Other Riverpoint Trail Master Plan elements include enhancements such as lighting, emergency phones, river overlooks, trail furniture and additional signage. This project will include the design for lighting and emergency phones and will include installation of these items as funding allows. Design and construction of the other elements listed, will be postponed until additional funding is made available.

The alignment of the Riverpoint Trail will begin near the east end of the pedestrian bridge on Gray's Lake and veer southward to follow the south property line of Gray's Lake Park for a distance of 1,200 feet before entering the abandoned Union Pacific Railroad corridor. It will follow that corridor in a northeasterly direction for about 2,800 feet until it passes beneath the SW 7th Street Bridge on the south bank of the Raccoon River. It will continue along the south bank of the river for 1,400 feet on City property containing flood control structures until reaching the SW 5th Street/Jackson Avenue Bridge. The trail will cross this 400-foot bridge and then continue northeasterly along the north bank of the Raccoon River and along the south side of Sec Taylor Stadium for 2,000 feet to the confluence with the Des Moines River. The trail will utilize an at-grade street crossing Water Street immediately east of Sec Taylor Stadium. At this point, the trail turns northward along the west bank of the Des Moines River for a distance of about 2,100 feet where it will intersect the Principal Riverwalk. This final segment includes utilization of a significant portion of the Des Moines River Outfall Sewer as the riding surface of the trail.

The City of Des Moines Engineering Department and the consultants RDG Crose, Gardner, Shukert, Inc and Stanley Consultants, Inc recommended the trail alignment. This alignment was also reviewed and was accepted by the Gray's Lake Donors. Also, the Riverpoint Segment of the American Discovery Trail is part of the Des Moines Recreational Trail Master Plan, which is approved by the Des Moines Bike and Trail Advisory Committee of the Des Moines Park and Recreation Board.

It is anticipated that trail construction will begin in July of 2004 with the trail open by November of 2004.

On September 23, 2002, by Roll Call No. 02-2318, the City Council approved a grant application to the Iowa Department of Transportation for development of the Riverpoint segment of the ADT. On January 14, 2003, the Iowa Transportation Commission approved the City's application for Statewide Transportation Enhancement funds in the amount of \$345,000.