



Council Communication

Office of the City Manager

Date:	June 13, 2011
Agenda Item No.	61
Roll Call No.	<u>11-1046</u>
Communication No.	<u>11-360</u>
Submitted by:	Donald M. Tripp, Director of Park and Recreation

AGENDA HEADING:

Adopt the City of Des Moines Bicycle and Trail Master Plan as an element of the 2020 Community Character Plan and refer it to the City Manager for creation of implementation and fundraising strategy.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend adoption of the Bicycle and Trail Master Plan as an element of the 2020 Community Character Plan and refer it to the City Manager for formation of a public/private committee to oversee creation of an implementation and fundraising strategy. This master plan will guide future trail and on-street bicycle facility implementation for the next 20 years. The Existing and Proposed Facility Network Map in this master plan replaces the current City of Des Moines Multi-Use Trails Master Plan Map.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

Amount: N/A

Funding Source: Bicycle and trail improvements have historically been funded through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), with funding through state and federal grants and local funding (private and public). These will likely continue to be the funding sources for the infrastructure improvements in the future. The promotion, coordination and implementation of the master plan will require the identification of non-city funding.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

On December 17, 2007, by Roll Call No. 07-2388, City Council adopted the “Goals to Make Des Moines a Bicycle Friendly Community;” and creation of a Bicycle and Trail Master Plan fulfills one of these goals. A Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) is a designation awarded by the League of American Bicyclists to communities that provide safe accommodation for bicycling and encourage residents to bike for transportation and recreation. The City’s applications in 2006 and 2008 for the BFC designation resulted in feedback indicating that Des Moines needed to develop on-street bicycle facilities to connect the well-established off-street trail network to places where people live, work and recreate; this creates a functional system which supports bicycling as a viable mode of transportation. The BFC reviewers also suggested that Des Moines expand bicycle education, enforcement, encouragement and evaluation efforts. The City is clearly making progress in these endeavors and this year was awarded the bronze-level BFC designation. The Bicycle and Trail Master Plan provides guidance to meet these needs and ultimately establish the City as a gold- or platinum-level BFC.

On April 6, 2009, by Roll Call No. 09-556, City Council authorized hiring Alta Planning + Design, a bicycle and pedestrian planning firm from Portland, Oregon, to create the Bicycle and Trail Master Plan. Alta worked with an advisory team of citizen representatives from the Trails and Greenways Advisory Committee (a committee of the Park and Recreation Board) and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, along with staff representing Park and Recreation, Engineering, Public Works, Economic Development, Police, Fire and Community Development Departments, as well as the City Manager's Office.

In July 2009, two public input sessions were held to assess interest and concerns regarding incorporation of bicycling into the on-street network, including the public's perceived obstacles to bicycling and opportunities for development of new facilities. With this input, the advisory team and Alta Planning + Design developed a series of goals and proposed an on-street bicycle facility network in addition to development of bicycle education programs suitable for the City. In January 2011, two additional public input sessions were held to present the draft plan and the proposed on-street bicycle facility network. The advisory team worked with Alta Planning + Design to evaluate the public input resulting from these meetings and modified the Master Plan accordingly.

The Master Plan accomplishes the following:

- Provides innovative and economically-feasible projects, programs and recommendations matched to specific funding opportunities
- Prioritizes trail and bicycle projects to get the maximum impact with limited funding; the following three projects are the highest priorities for implementation:
 - Northeast Des Moines Bicycle Corridor - signage and shared-lane markings on East Walnut Street and bike lanes on Hubbell Avenue between East 18th and East 33rd Streets;
 - Downtown Bicycle Facilities - a combination of bike lanes and shared-lane markings within downtown and connections to existing bicycle and trail facilities to the surrounding network and neighborhoods; and
 - SW 14th Street Quiet Street - signage and traffic calming to connect the Blank Park Zoo and Fort Des Moines to Gray's Lake Park and the Central Iowa Trail System
- Overcomes barriers that limit people from using bicycles for recreation, transportation and fitness
- Addresses the needs of citizens of all ages, abilities, skills and confidence levels
- Creates an active transportation system that allows people the flexibility and freedom to move about without an automobile
- Establishes bicycling as a viable mode of transportation
- Provides the guidance and tools to become a gold- or platinum-level Bicycle Friendly Community

The Master Plan will provide guidance on trail- and bicycle-facility development and programming efforts in the City of Des Moines for the next 20 years and will be jointly implemented by not only the Park and Recreation Department, but also the Community Development Department, Engineering Department and its Traffic and Transportation division. The Existing and Proposed Facility Network Map in this Master Plan replaces the current City of Des Moines Multi-Use Trails Master Plan Map that has previously guided trail development in the City.

Staff recommends that an appointed group comprised of a combination of residents, business owners, bicycling advocates and City staff work as a committee to seek funding opportunities and create an implementation strategy for the recommendations in the plan. The City Manager's office shall oversee appointments to this committee.

On May 9, 2011, the Trails and Greenways Advisory Committee of the Park and Recreation Board, and on May 10, 2011, the Traffic Safety Committee each unanimously recommended to approve and adopt the Bicycle and Trail Master Plan as an element of the 2020 Community Character Plan. On June 2, 2011, the Plan and Zoning Commission also unanimously recommended to approve the Bicycle and Trail Master Plan.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: May 23, 2011

Roll Call Number: 11-0938

Action: [Receive](#) and file Trails and Greenways Advisory Committee recommendation of the Bicycle and Trail Master Plan as an element of the 2020 Community Character Plan. ([Council Communication No. 11-314](#)) Moved by Hensley to receive and file. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: April 6, 2009

Roll Call Number: 09-556

Action: [Proposal](#) and agreement with Alta Planning + Design, Inc. for the provision of professional consulting services for the development of a Bicycle and Trails Master Plan, not to exceed \$99,950. ([Council Communication No. 09-189](#)) **Moved by Hensley to approve. Motion Carried 7-0.**

Date: September 22, 2008

Roll Call Number: 08-1701

Action: [Adoption](#) of “Complete Streets” policy regarding review, consideration and addition of bicycle and pedestrian facilities on street projects. ([Council Communication No. 08-561](#)) Moved by Kiernan to approve. Motion Carried 6-1. Absent: Coleman.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Board: Plan and Zoning Commission

Date: June 2, 2011

Action: Recommend approval of the Bicycle and Trail Master Plan as an element of the 2020 Community Character Plan.

Board: Park and Recreation Board

Date: May 24, 2011

Resolution Number: 11-060

Action: Recommend approval of the Bicycle and Trail Master Plan as an element of the 2020 Community Character Plan.

Board: Traffic and Transportation

Date: May 10, 2011

Action: Recommend adoption of the City of Des Moines Bicycle and Trail Master Plan as an element of the 2020 Community Character Plan.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Implementation of the recommended facilities and programs in the Bicycle and Trail Master Plan.

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