


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

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|  | Number: | 21-214 | Meeting: | May 10, 2021 |
| | Agenda Item: | 38 | Roll Call: | 21-0705 |
| | Submitted by: | Benjamin R. Page, Park and Recreation Director | | |

AGENDA HEADING:

Approval of the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) COVID-19 Relief Recreation Trails Program funding application by the Parks and Recreation Department seeking \$800,000 towards the Neal Smith Trail Phase 2 project.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of the IDOT COVID-19 Relief Recreation Trails Program funding application by the Parks and Recreation Department seeking \$800,000 towards the Neal Smith Trail Phase 2 project.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$800,000 COVID-19 Relief Recreation Trails Program funding revenue if awarded toward an overall pre-engineering design estimate of \$1,627,625

Funding Source: Anticipated \$800,000 in COVID-19 Relief Recreation Trails Program funding and remaining from:

- \$363,775 GO Bonds Issued 2021-2022 CIP, Multi-Use Trails, Page 62, PK045
- \$335,000 GO Bonds to be Issued 2021-2022 CIP, Multi-Use Trails, Page 62, PK045
- \$128,850 GO Bonds to be Issued 2021-2022 CIP, Sidewalks-Schools and Priority Routes, Page 158, SW081

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The COVID-19 Relief Recreation Trails Program Funding is managed through the IDOT and supports cities of any population in seeking funding with no match needed from the development and/or acquisition of land for multi-use trails in the state of Iowa.
- At the March 8, 2021 City Council meeting, funding for the Neal Smith Trail Rehabilitation Phase 2 project was approved as part of the Parks and Recreation Department's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) budget. The scope of this original project is detailed further below and did not include an important neighborhood connection, because the cost was simply out of

reach within the Phase 2 work. This new action would allow the application for grant funding from a new source and, if successful, would allow us to combine the original Phase 2 work with the neighborhood connection in one (1) project that was anticipated to require a future Phase 3.

- The Parks and Recreation Department is applying for a \$800,000 award for the Neal Smith Phase 2 project. This application requires that the City Council provide certain authorizations and certifications when making the application. This includes a maintenance and operation plan for a minimum of 20 years for the entire requested sum from the COVID-19 Relief Recreation Trails Program funding program and the project must be completed by September 30, 2023 through an IDOT reimbursement plan program.
- The City is in a position to commit to these requirements. The Parks and Recreation Department operating budget supports the on-going maintenance and operation of this trail section by trail staff dedicated to these important tasks. The Parks and Recreation Department approved CIP budget specifically calls out this project and has funding dedicated in excess to add to the project's aid in funding an 87% match in CIP funds for the grant funding application.
- Located north of Euclid Avenue (Highway 6) and Des Moines City limits, the 1-mile stretch of the Neal Smith Trail is one (1) of the last trail sections to be updated in the City to multi-use standards. The entire 26-mile long Neal Smith Trail was originally built in 1982 and designated as the Neal Smith Trail in 1990.
- The proposed Phase 2 improvements match those of the Phase 1 improvements that were completed in 2017 and include a mill and overlay application, subbase improvements where needed, widening of the trail surface to the now standard 10-foot width, adding 6-foot mow breaks on both sides of the trail to improve safety, visibility and maintenance. A short section will be realigned to accommodate current trail standards.
- The project will also include a new quarter mile long trail spur that will connect the Neal Smith Trail to 16th street and the Oak Park/Highland Park Neighborhood. This trail spur will connect the neighborhood to the Neal Smith Trail and into the larger Central Iowa Trails Network.

Neal Smith Trail Project Phase II



- Legend**
- Neal Smith Trail Rehabilitation
 - Trail, Existing
 - Realignment Section
 - Non-City of Des Moines Jurisdiction
 - Proposed Trail Spur Alignment

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: August 3, 2020

Roll Call Number: [20-1225](#)

Action: [Ratification](#) of Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) State Recreational Trails Funding Grant Application (SRT) for Neal Smith Trail Phase II Rehabilitation Project. ([Council Communication No. 20-324](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Ordering construction, public hearing, receive and file bids, designate lowest bidder, approve contract and bond, partial payments to the contractor, and final acceptance of work.

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