


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	23-449	Meeting:	October 2, 2023
	Agenda Item:	8	Roll Call:	23-1292
	Submitted by:	Benjamin R. Page, Park and Recreation Director		

AGENDA HEADING:

Ratification of Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) Federal Recreational Trails (FRT) Grant Application Requesting \$500,000 for the Central Place Levee Phase I Multi-Use Recreational Trail Project.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend ratification of official endorsement confirming required match funding and operations commitment for IDOT FRT grant funding application by the Parks and Recreation Department seeking \$500,000 to help fund construction of the Central Place Levee Phase I multi-use trail project. This project extends trail network service to multiple neighborhoods which currently have no direct access to the Central Iowa Trail Network.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$500,000 in IDOT FRT Grant funding for an estimated \$1,500,000 project.

Funding Source: Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-2023 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), PK193, Central Place Levee Trail, Page 90. Various funding being:

- \$500,000 – Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Funds
- \$250,000 – G.O. Bonds transferred from PK045
- \$250,000 – General Funds made possible by American Rescue Plan Act Funding
- \$500,000 – Yet-To-Be-Secured IDOT Grant Funding from FRT Programs

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- FRT funding is managed through IDOT and supports cities with any population in seeking funding with a minimum 20% funding match for the development and/or acquisition of land for multi-use trails in the state of Iowa.

- The Parks and Recreation Department is applying for a \$500,000 in FRT grant funding for the Central Place Levee Phase I multi-use trail project. This application requires that the City Council provide certain authorizations and certifications, referred to as an official endorsement, when making the application. This includes a maintenance and operation plan for a minimum of 20 years and guaranteed match funds of at least 20% for the entire project cost.
- 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 within the City of Des Moines 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 of the required 20% match.
- The City applied for \$500,000 in IDOT State Recreation Trails (SRT) funding on July 1, 2023. IDOT received 44 applications requesting in excess of a combined \$21.5 million in grant funding with just \$2.7 million being available. No SRT funding was recommended for this project.
- The Central Place Levee Trail Phase I is an equity-focused project that will serve an area experiencing amongst the highest degrees of disadvantage per the MPO's 2021 Environmental Justice Area mapping and analysis. Adopted plans, including both LiveDSM and MoveDSM, support the project.
- Improvements are anticipated to include 1.6 miles of a 10-foot-wide paved trail mostly situated on top of a levee offering views of the Des Moines River Greenway. Phase 1 will stretch between Lauridsen Skatepark and the intersection of Franklin Avenue and 2nd Avenue in north-central Des Moines. Trail spurs at University Avenue and College Avenue will provide additional neighborhood access. An emergency access to the Lauridsen Skatepark will be retained and the remaining segment of West River Drive will be demolished with this project.
- Engineering design for this project is currently underway. Project construction is anticipated in calendar year 2024 pending Council approval.
- The City of Des Moines multi-use trail counters logged an estimated 1,755,415 trail trips in 2022 across the system. It is anticipated that this number will increase year-by-year as the system continues to grow and gaps such as the one filled by this project are completed.

Central Place Levee Trail Route & Neighborhood Spur

Phase 1 Northern Termini: 1901 2nd Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50314
Phase 1 Southern Termini: 821 W River Dr, Des Moines, IA 50309



PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: July 17, 2023

Roll Call Number: [23-0968](#)

ACTION: [Approving](#) ratification of IDOT SRT Grant Application for \$500,000 for the Central Place Levee Phase I Multiuse Recreational Trail Project. ([Council Communication No. 23-337](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Boesen. Motion Carried 6-1. Absent: Sheumaker.

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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