

★ **Roll Call Number**

Agenda Item Number

*Cel A*

Date June 13, 2011

WHEREAS, on August 7, 2000, by Roll Call No. 00-3381 the City Council adopted the Des Moines 2020 Community Character Land Use Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City Plan and Zoning Commission has advised in the attached letter that at a public hearing held June 2, 2011, the members voted 11-0 to recommend **APPROVAL** of the proposed Bike and Trail Master Plan as a Comprehensive Plan amendment to the Des Moines' 2020 Community Character Plan.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Des Moines, Iowa, that the proposed amendment to the Des Moines 2020 Community Character Land Use Plan described above, is hereby approved and adopted.

MOVED by \_\_\_\_\_ to adopt, and approve the proposed amendment.

FORM APPROVED:

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Michael F. Kelley  
 Assistant City Attorney

(21-2011-4.05)

COUNCIL ACTION	YEAS	NAYS	PASS	ABSENT
COWNIE				
COLEMAN				
GRIESS				
HENSLEY				
MAHAFFEY				
MEYER				
MOORE				
TOTAL				
MOTION CARRIED			APPROVED	
_____ Mayor				

**CERTIFICATE**

I, DIANE RAUH, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

\_\_\_\_\_ City Clerk

June 9, 2011

Item 61A

Roll Call # \_\_\_\_\_

Honorable Mayor and City Council  
City of Des Moines, Iowa

Members:

Communication from the City Plan and Zoning Commission advising that at their meeting held June 2, 2011, the following action was taken:

**COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:**

After public hearing, the members voted 11-0 as follows:

Commission Action:	Yes	Nays	Pass	Absent
JoAnne Corigliano				X
Shirley Daniels	X			
Jacqueline Easley				X
Tim Fitzgerald	X			
Dann Flaherty	X			
John "Jack" Hilmes	X			
Joel Huston	X			
Ted Irvine	X			
Greg Jones	X			
Brian Millard	X			
William Page	X			
Mike Simonson				X
Kent Sovern	X			
CJ Stephens	X			

**APPROVAL** of the proposed Bike and Trail Master Plan as a Comprehensive Plan amendment to the Des Moines' 2020 Community Character Plan:  
(21-2011-4.05)

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION TO THE P&Z COMMISSION**

Staff recommends that the Des Moines' 2020 Community Character Plan be amended to incorporate the Des Moines Bicycle and Trail Master Plan as an element.

**STAFF REPORT**

**I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

On December 17, 2007, by Roll Call No. 07-2388, City Council adopted the "Goals to Make Des Moines a Bicycle Friendly Community;" creation of a Bicycle and Trail Master Plan fulfills one of those 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



CITY PLAN AND ZONING COMMISSION  
ARMORY BUILDING  
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DES MOINES, IOWA 50309 -1881  
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ALL-AMERICA CITY  
1949, 1976, 1981  
2003

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 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 modify 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 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.

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 May 23, 2011, the City Council received and filed the Des Moines Bicycle and Trail Master Plan and referred to the Plan and Zoning Commission for consideration of amending the Des Moines' 2020 Community Character Plan to include it as an element.

## **II. DES MOINES' 2020 COMMUNITY CHARACTER PLAN**

To clarify the applicability of this Plan as an element of the Des Moines' 2020 Community Character Plan, the following language has been included within the Executive Summary of the draft Plan:

"The Bicycle and Trail Master Plan is an element of the Des Moines 2020 Community Character Plan. As such, the recommendations herein serve as a policy guide for consideration of future land use and development proposals as well as Capital Improvement Plan expenditures. Implementation of individual projects or facilities in this plan may be subject to City Council and any board or commission that they may refer it to, and/or appropriate department level approval. This determination will be made based on each project's standard approval process. Minor modifications are acceptable, without a formal amendment to the 2020 Community Character Plan, due to circumstances such as, but not limited to, engineering practicality, resident concerns, land use changes, or other unforeseen circumstances. For example, if the map included herein calls for a bicycle lane, and upon engineering design or review it becomes apparent that shared lane marking are more appropriate, then such modification may be made upon City staff review and recommendation, without Plan and Zoning Commission review. Any major modifications to the Plan, however, shall be reviewed in accordance with procedures in place for amendments to the 2020 Community Character Plan. In all cases, modifications to this plan must continue to promote the overall goal to integrate bicycling as an integral mode of the transportation system."

### **SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

*There was no discussion*

### **CHAIRPERSON OPENED THE PUBLIC HEARING**

*There was no one to speak in support or in opposition of applicant's request*

61A

**COMMISSION ACTION**

Greg Jones moved staff recommendation that the Des Moines' 2020 Community Character Plan be amended to incorporate the Des Moines Bicycle and Trail Master Plan as an element.

Motion passed 11-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Ludwig, AICP  
Planning Administrator

MGL:clw

Attachment