

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: STATE RECREATION TRAIL GRANT APPLICATION FOR 6TH STREET

BACKGROUND:

This action seeks approval of a grant application to improve the shared use path and bicycle facilities on 6th Street from Hazel Avenue to the Brookside Park entrance. This work will be done in conjunction with the 2015/16 Bridge Rehabilitation Program (6th Street Bridge over Squaw Creek).

The 2015/16 Bridge Rehabilitation Program (6th Street Bridge over Squaw Creek) is the result of a multi-year process for the replacement of the bridge due to its condition. This year, the 6th Street Bridge over Squaw Creek ranked high enough on the State's city bridge candidate list to be offered funding for replacement, which must be used within three years of award. This grant will provide up to 80% of all eligible costs up to a limit of \$1,000,000. The most current estimate of the total costs of the bridge is \$2,094,400. The total budget for this project is currently programmed in the CIP for \$2,870,000. That amount, however, includes engineering fees and \$340,000 for the reconstruction of 6th Street west of the bridge. Final design for this project will begin after July 2014, and construction cost estimates will be refined for the 2015/16 CIP to reflect all anticipated costs of the bridge replacement and 6th Street reconstruction.

As part of the reconstruction of the bridge and 6th Street to the west, several bike lane improvements will also be made. Bike lanes will be extended to the entrance of Brookside Park, and enhancements will be made to the crossing area to allow for better pedestrian crossings and a transition area for the bike lanes (see attachment).

As part of this project, it was recognized that improvements could also be made at the intersection of Hazel Avenue and 6th Street to provide a safer intersection for all modes of traffic. This would include the installation of radar detection units, bike signals, and painting of bike boxes. A bike box is a colored area at a signalized intersection that allows bicyclists to pull in front of waiting traffic. Designed to be used only at red lights, the box is intended to reduce car-bike conflicts, increase cyclist visibility, and provide bicyclists with a head start when the light turns green. These improvements would be packaged with the bike lanes and shared use path improvements, and bring the total estimated cost of all these improvements to \$141,255. Staff has identified potential grant funding to assist in financing these bicycle detection enhancements.

The Iowa DOT administers grants through the State's Recreational Trail Program that provide \$2 million annually statewide to fund only the construction portion of public trail projects. The application deadline is July 1st of each funding cycle with a minimum requirement of 25% in local matching funds. This would amount to \$35,300 in local funding for this grant, which could be covered with G.O. Bonds from the bridge project.

There are other requirements for this grant. First, these grant monies must be used for a trail that is part of a local or area-wide trail plan. This project would meet this criterion as part of the Ames Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's long range plan. Second, trails resulting from successful applications must be maintained as a public facility for a minimum of 20 years. A certification to this effect must be included as part of the application packet.

If awarded, this grant could act as a vital funding source to supplement the City for the cost of this project, while providing highly innovative improvements to enhance the City's multi-modal transportation network. If the grant is not funded, the bike lanes, shared use path improvements and pedestrian crossing improvements will still proceed, since these are core components of the plan. However, the enhanced bicycle detection improvements at the intersection of Hazel Avenue and 6th Street would be removed from the project for future consideration.

ALTERNATIVES:

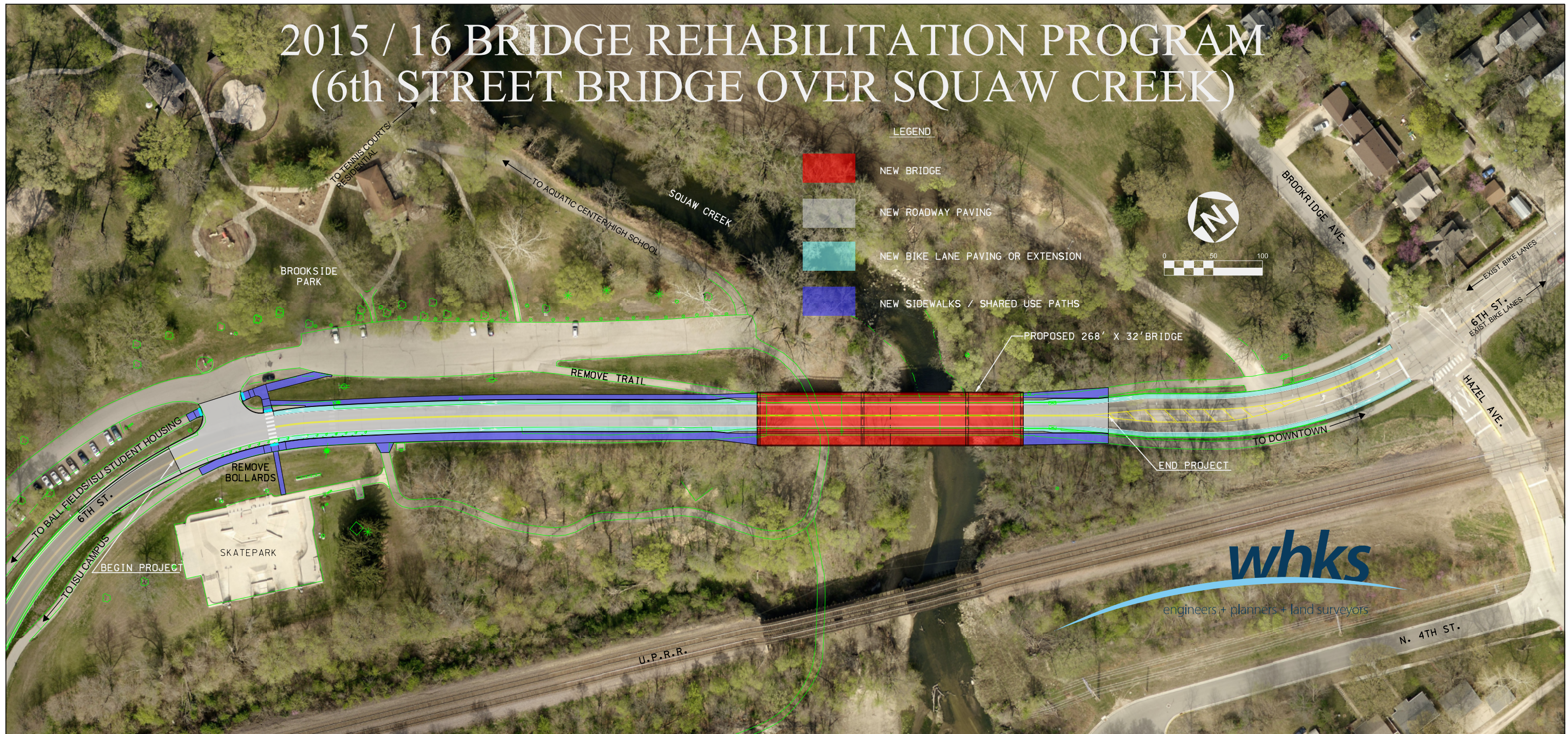
1. Approve the Recreational Trail Program application associated with the 2015/16 Bridge Rehabilitation Program (6th Street Bridge over Squaw Creek) up to the maximum amount of \$104,942 (equaling 75% of the total estimated eligible project costs), and concurrently provide assurance that the trail will be adequately maintained as a public facility for a minimum of 20 years.
2. Reject the grant application.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

If awarded, this grant will provide a significant benefit to the City by improving multi-modal transportation and increasing the safety of all users along this corridor.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving the Recreational Trail Program application associated with the 2015/16 Bridge Rehabilitation Program (6th Street Bridge over Squaw Creek) up to the maximum amount of \$104,942, and providing assurance that the trail will be adequately maintained as a public facility for a minimum of 20 years.

2015 / 16 BRIDGE REHABILITATION PROGRAM (6th STREET BRIDGE OVER SQUAW CREEK)



PROJECT FEATURES

1. REPLACE EXISTING 3-SPAN, 250' X 26' FRACTURE CRITICAL STEEL GIRDER BRIDGE WITH 268' X 32' PPCB BRIDGE.
2. REPLACE ROADWAY APPROACHES AND DETERIORATED PAVEMENT UP TO AND INCLUDING THE BROOKSIDE PARK ENTRANCE.
3. CREATE CONTINUOUS BIKE LANES FROM BROOKSIDE PARK ENTRANCE TO HAZEL/BROOKRIDGE AVE.
-ALLOW FOR A CONTINUOUS BIKE LANE CONNECTION FROM BROOKSIDE PARK TO GRAND AVE.
-INSTALL BIKE SIGNALS AND BIKE BOXES WITH RADAR DETECTION SYSTEM AT HAZEL/BROOKRIDGE AVE. INTERSECTION.
4. IMPROVE CONNECTIONS OF SHARED USE PATHS AND SIDEWALKS.
-RELOCATE CROSSWALK AT BROOKSIDE PARK ENTRANCE AND INSTALL ACTIVATED PEDESTRIAN SIGNAL TO IMPROVE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY.
-COMPLY WITH THE AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT(ADA) FOR SIDEWALKS AND SHARED USE PATHS INCLUDING SLOPE COMPLIANCE, DETECTABLE WARNINGS, AND ACCESSIBLE ROUTES.
5. ENHANCE PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY AND PERCEPTION OF THE BROOKSIDE PARK AREA.

BRIDGE CROSS SECTION

