

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: SKUNK RIVER TRAIL EXPANSION (SOUTH RIVER VALLEY PARK TO SOUTHEAST 16<sup>TH</sup> STREET) – ENGINEERING SERVICES CHANGE ORDER**

**BACKGROUND:**

The approved Capital Improvements Plan includes the Skunk River Trail Extension from South River Valley Park south to Southeast 16<sup>th</sup> Street. **The change order under consideration of the City Council is for the engineering services for the portion of the shared use path along the west side of the South Skunk River between South River Valley Park and East Lincoln Way.** A future shared use path is anticipated along the west of the South Skunk River for the section south from East Lincoln Way to Southeast 16<sup>th</sup> Street. However, land negotiations are still ongoing with the affected property owner(s), and must follow the Federal Land Acquisition process due to the use of federal MPO/STP funds for this project.

In February 2009, the City Council approved an engineering services contract with Foth Infrastructure and Environment, LLC of Johnston, Iowa, in an amount not to exceed \$130,500, for the path from the Hunziker Youth Sports Complex to East Lincoln Way. The original contract with Foth included base topographic survey, evaluation of construction techniques, preparation of plans and specifications to meet Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) letting requirements due to MPO/STP funding, identification and request for additional funding from supporting sources, right-of-way acquisition, hydraulic analysis, bridge design, permitting, and attendance at pre-construction meetings.

In February 2010, the City Council approved a change order to the Foth contract, in an amount not to exceed \$129,820, for the addition of the segment from East Lincoln Way to South River Valley Park. This amendment combined all segments of the Skunk River Trail as one project. That consolidation was done due to an opportunity presented through Federal Stimulus II funds. This northern segment of the project involved design complexities that included the trail structure under the East Lincoln Way Bridge, the trail structure through the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) embankment, a drainage way structure north of the UPRR tracks, and hydraulic modeling in these areas. It also included cultural resource reviews, wetland review and mitigation, in addition to permitting and coordinating with several agencies including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and UPRR. There are also several property owners to negotiate with to acquire needed easements for the trail.

Since February 2010, there have been unsuccessful attempts to acquire federal funding sources for the trail expansion. With Foth's assistance, the City has gone through several rounds of applying for federal funds, and lengthy amounts of time passed between application submission and notifications. There has also been a prolonged

negotiation and review process with the UPRR. As a consequence, several of the needed permits, environmental clearances, design documents, and real estate appraisals need to be updated. In addition, critical points along the Skunk River have been re-surveyed to confirm any changes to the river bank. From this survey work, it was determined the river banks have moved in locations critical to the trail. This will impact the proposed trail alignment and require preliminary design work to be redone.

The proposed change order is in an amount not to exceed \$74,590. This change order will bring all work completed to date up to current design standards and existing conditions of the Skunk River, thus allowing the continuation of the necessary steps needed for the proposed construction of the Skunk River Trail Expansion. This additional work covered by the change order includes project coordination with state agencies (Iowa DOT and Iowa Department of Natural Resources), environmental clearances, real estate services and easement negotiations with property owners and the UPRR, topographical surveys, preliminary design plans, final design plans, and bid period services.

Funding for this change order will come from the 2011/12 Shared Use Path System Expansion program, which includes \$430,000 in Local Option Sales Tax and \$360,000 in MPO/STP funds.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

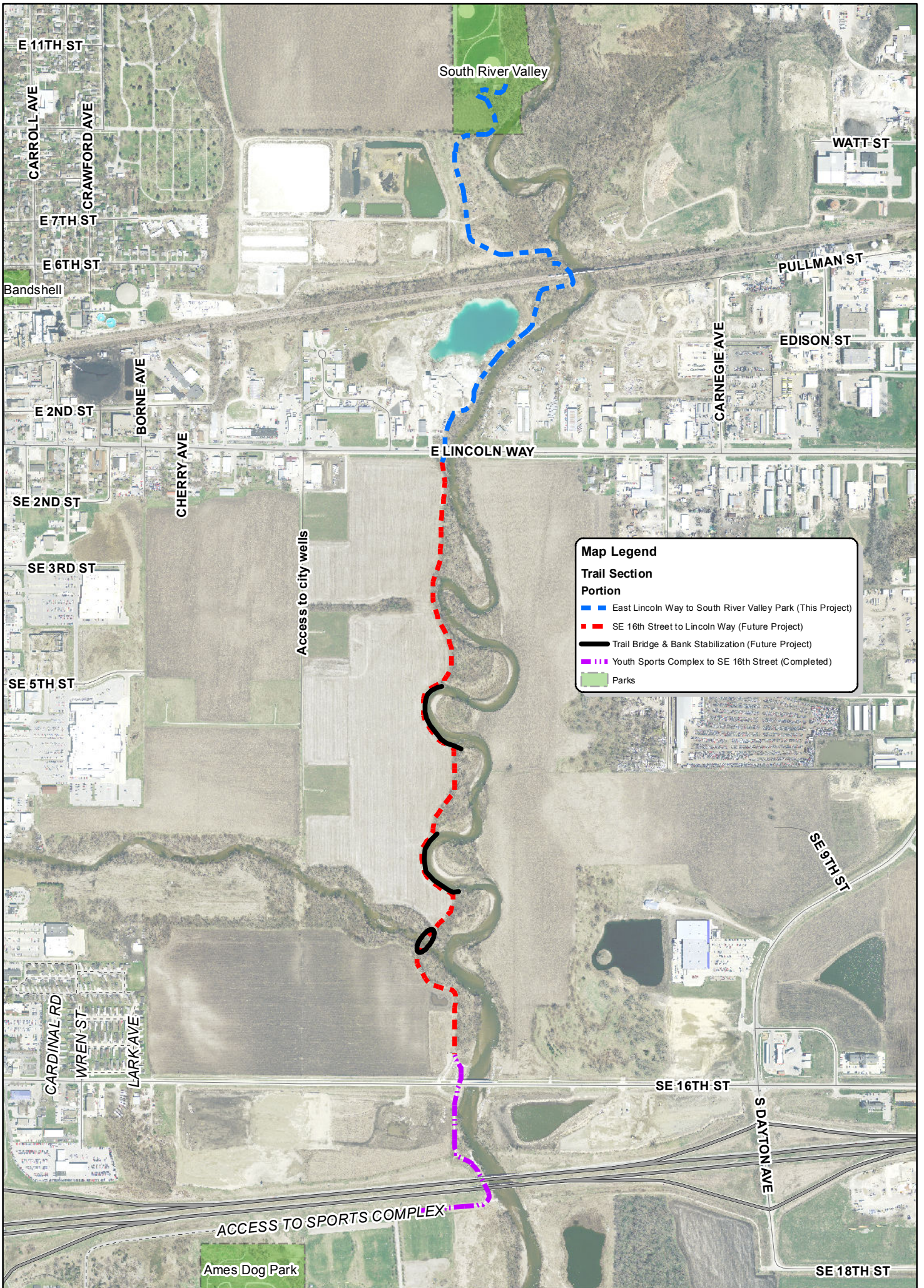
1. Approve the change order to the engineering services agreement with Foth Infrastructure and Environment, LLC of Johnston, Iowa, in an amount not to exceed \$74,590.
2. Direct staff to pursue modifications to the project design.

**MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

The City did not receive Federal Stimulus II funding for the trail project construction in 2010. Due to the complexity and high cost of constructing these trail segments, the City has spent considerable time applying for competitive grant funding to finance these trail segments. Because of the competitive nature of these grants, outside construction funding was not obtained. In order to proceed with this trail segment using local and MPO/STP funds, additional engineering services are now needed.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council accept Alternative No. 1, thereby approving the change order to the engineering services agreement with Foth Infrastructure and Environment, LLC of Johnston, Iowa, in an amount not to exceed \$74,590.





**Map Legend**

**Trail Section**

**Portion**

- East Lincoln Way to South River Valley Park (This Project)
- SE 16th Street to Lincoln Way (Future Project)
- Trail Bridge & Bank Stabilization (Future Project)
- Youth Sports Complex to SE 16th Street (Completed)
- Parks



# Skunk River Trail Expansion



1 inch = 1,000 feet  
Date: 4/10/2015