

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: SHARED USE PATH SYSTEM EXPANSION – SKUNK RIVER TRAIL EXTENSION, PHASE 2 (EAST LINCOLN WAY TO SOUTH RIVER VALLEY PARK) – IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AID FUNDING AGREEMENT

BACKGROUND:

This program provides for construction of shared use paths on street right-of-way, adjacent to streets and through greenbelts. The Long Range Transportation Plan identifies those paths that separate bicycle traffic from higher-speed automobile traffic. This project is an important alternative transportation connection for our community.

The 2013/14 program location is the Skunk River Trail Extension (East Lincoln Way to South River Valley Park). Funding for this program has been identified in the 2013/14 Capital Improvements Plan in the amount of \$430,000 from Local Option Sales Tax funding LOST and \$360,000 from MPO/TAP funds through the Ames Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO). It is anticipated that the project will have a November 2015 letting, which will be through the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), with construction in 2016.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the Iowa DOT Agreement for MPO/TAP funding for the Skunk River Trail Extension, Phase 2 (South River Valley Park to East Lincoln Way)
2. Reject the Agreement.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approval of this agreement with the Iowa DOT is needed to move the TAP funding from the AAMPO to the City of Ames. This must happen before moving forward with the trail expansion project before the 2016 construction season. Delay or rejection of this agreement could delay this trail expansion project by at least one year.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving the Iowa DOT Agreement for MPO/TAP funding for the Skunk River Trail Extension, Phase 2 (South River Valley Park to East Lincoln Way).