

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

**SUBJECT: 2008/09 AND 2009/10 SHARED USE PATH SYSTEM EXPANSION
(SKUNK RIVER TRAIL: HUNZIKER YOUTH SPORTS COMPLEX TO
EAST LINCOLN WAY)**

BACKGROUND:

This program provides for construction of shared use paths on street right-of-ways, adjacent to streets, and through greenbelts. The Transportation Plan identifies those paths that separate bicycle traffic from higher-speed automobile traffic. This project supports one of the City Council's priorities, connecting our community.

Together the 2008/09 and 2009/10 locations include the Skunk River Trail Extension from the Hunziker Youth Sports Complex to East Lincoln Way. This project includes design of an eight-foot shared use path along the west side of the South Skunk River. As part of this project, a bridge crossing will need to be made at Squaw Creek. Easements are already in place for the portion of the path south of Squaw Creek (Bradshaw Farms property). The City retained a portion of the old bridge from SE 16th Street as a possibility for crossing Squaw Creek with this project. The old bridge is currently located on the west side of the South Skunk River north of SE 16th Street. Hydraulic analysis and Department of Natural Resources approvals of the creek crossing will be included with the engineering services. The path will connect to existing shared use paths along SE 16th Street and East Lincoln Way. Additionally, a crossing permit under US Highway 30 will need to be obtained from the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT).

Staff requested engineering proposals for thirteen shared use path, drainage, and street improvement projects. Through this process the City received 120 proposals from thirteen engineering firms. Foth Infrastructure and Environment, LLC is being recommended to complete the design for this project due to their strong project understanding and approach, which was reflective of their experience in the corridor having designed the SE 16th Street Bridge and Paving project. They performed the hydraulic analysis and permitting for the SE 16th Street bridge.

In general, services to be performed by the consultant include base topographic survey, evaluation of construction techniques, preparation of plans and specifications to meet IDOT 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.

Funding for this project equals \$550,000: \$198,825 from Local Option Sales Tax, \$151,175 from MPO/STP funds, and \$200,000 from grant funds.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the engineering services contract with Foth Infrastructure and Environment, LLC of Johnston, IA, for the 2008/09 and 2009/10 Shared Use Path System Expansion (Skunk River Trail: Hunziker Youth Sports Complex to East Lincoln Way) in an amount not to exceed \$130,500.
2. Direct staff to pursue other design options.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Right-of-way acquisition, hydraulic design, and permitting, as well as obtaining grant funds, can be lengthy processes. By approving the engineering services contract at this time, all of these processes will commence to work toward construction in 2010.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, approving the engineering services contract with Foth Infrastructure and Environment, LLC of Johnston, IA, for the 2008/09 and 2009/10 Shared Use Path System Expansion (Skunk River Trail: Hunziker Youth Sports Complex to East Lincoln Way) in an amount not to exceed \$130,500.