

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: FEDERAL STIMULUS II SHARED USE PATH EXPANSION (SKUNK RIVER TRAIL: SOUTH RIVER VALLEY PARK TO HUNZIKER YOUTH SPORTS COMPLEX) – ENGINEERING SERVICES CHANGE ORDER

BACKGROUND:

This program provides for construction of shared use paths on street rights-of-way, adjacent to streets, and through greenbelts. The City's adopted 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, 2009/10, and 2010/11 project locations include the Skunk River Trail Extension from South River Valley Park to the Hunziker Youth Sports Complex. This project will be a shared use path along the west side of the South Skunk River.

On February 24, 2009, 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 2008/09 and 2009/10 locations, which extend the path from Hunziker Youth Sports Complex north to East Lincoln Way. The contract included base topographic survey, evaluation of construction techniques, preparation of plans and specifications to meet 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.

The proposed change order of \$129,820 will add the design for the segment from East Lincoln Way to South River Valley Park, allowing all three years' segments of Skunk River Trail to be combined as one project. This is due to the opportunity presented through Federal Stimulus II funds. Complexities in designing this additional segment include the trail structure under the East Lincoln Way bridge, the trail structure through the Union Pacific Railroad embankment, a drainage way structure north of the UP tracks, and hydraulic modeling in these areas. It will also include cultural resource reviews, wetland review, and wetland mitigation, in addition to permitting and coordinating with several agencies including the US Army Corps of Engineers, Iowa DNR, and Union Pacific Railroad. There are also several property owners to negotiate with to acquire easements.

Since actual construction of these project segments may be financed with 100% Federal Stimulus II funds, the funding currently designated for the Skunk River Trail in the amount of \$448,825 from Local Option Sales Tax may be used to cover the additional engineering and administration expenses of combining these projects.

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 \$129,820.
2. Direct staff to pursue modifications to the project design.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Should the proposed Federal Stimulus II legislation be passed, the Ames Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO) will receive approximately \$2,100,000 for trail and transportation project construction. Due to the complexity and high cost of constructing these trail segments, the City has been hoping to receive competitive grant funding to finance these trail segments. However, because of the competitive nature of those grants, construction funding has been uncertain. Using Stimulus II funding would allow completion of the three remaining southern segments of this trail under one contract with 100% federal funding for construction.

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 \$129,820.

If Stimulus II funding is not awarded to the City, the design work for these three trail segments will still have been completed in anticipation of securing other funding to carry out the construction.