



CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Edward L. Roberge, PE, City Engineer

DATE: June 22, 2016

SUBJECT: Report from the City Engineer on the status of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail Project (CIP543)

Recommendation

Accept this report.

Background

At the December 14, 2015 City Council meeting, the City Council appropriated the sum of \$200,000, including \$100,000 in grant funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and \$100,000 in private donations from the Friends of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail to be used for the design and construction of a portion of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail Project (CIP 543). LWCF projects in New Hampshire are administered by NH Department of Recreation and Economic Development (NHDRED).

Discussion

Since the appropriation, the project has been proceeding through the design and permitting process. The project consists of 100 feet of 11'-3" wide boardwalk with an observation bump-out and 160 feet of 10' wide paved path. On June 1st, the City received preliminary plans and estimate from the project design consultant, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin (VHB). Permitting is expected to be completed shortly. Engineering staff coordinated plan review with the General Services Department, Parks and Recreation Department, and the Planning Division. This portion of the project will stand alone as a recreational resource within Terrill Park as an accessible viewing platform of the Merrimack River, an inlet tributary, and downtown Concord. The platform will allow for nature and wildlife observation/education.

The project is anticipated to be advertised for construction in August with construction occurring in late summer / fall of this year and taking about six to eight weeks to complete. The project appears to fall within the planned budget but a request has been submitted to NHDRED to inquire if additional funds are available if necessary. Due to potential LWCF limitations on the use of Terrill Park, NHDRED has also been asked if the access to the parking lot just south of the project location can be closed partially or entirely during

construction to allow the contractor to stage their operations in the area. This will reduce concerns of conflict between the public and construction activities. The Rotary parking area to the north and the southern access/parking area near the dog park will remain open for public access.

jaw/ELR
attachment

**MERRIMACK RIVER GREENWAY TRAIL
PRELIMINARY PLAN SUBMISSION**

