



CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Edward L. Roberge, P.E., City Engineer

DATE: July 25, 2016

SUBJECT: Authorizing the City Manager to submit an application for Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) funding from the NH Department of Transportation for the purpose of designing and constructing a portion of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail (CIP #543).

Recommendation

Authorizing the City Manager to submit an application for Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) funding from the NH Department of Transportation for the purpose of designing and constructing a portion of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail (CIP 543).

Background

In June 2016, the NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT) released a call for new projects in conjunction with the federally funded Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). The TAP program combines a number of individual federal programs that the City has participated in such as Transportation Enhancement, Safe Routes to School, and Scenic Byways to provide applicants more flexibility. The focus on the 2016/2017 program is for the design and construction of non-motorized facilities and infrastructure including on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized forms of transportation. TAP program applications are due on September 2, 2016.

Discussion

Based on the eligible activities of the program, staff recommends that the City participate in the application process for the design and construction of a portion of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail. The program funding is comprised of 80% TAP funds with a required 20% local match. This phase of the project contemplates an approximately one quarter mile long boardwalk linking the boardwalk at the northern end of Terrill Park, which is currently under design, to City land south of the Concord Post Office on Loudon Road (near the southern edge of the cornfields). The current boardwalk project was funded in March 2015 by a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant in the total amount of \$200,000, which includes a matching share by the Friends of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail (FMRGT) in the amount of \$100,000. Construction of that boardwalk is anticipated as soon as later this year.

This phase of the project, for which grant funds are now being sought, is estimated at \$1,000,000, of which 80% (\$800,000) would be funded by TAP grant funds, and 20% (\$200,000) local funds. At this time, it is anticipated that the FMRGT will raise all of the required local match funds for the project. Should the project be selected, further Council action including the appropriation of grant and local match funds will be required as well as authorizing the City Manager to enter into a municipal agreement to manage the project.

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attachment