



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Council Session

Item G15

#2006-277 - Approving Grant Application from the Transportation Enhancement Program for Construction of the Mormon Island Hike/Bike Trail

Staff Contact: Steve Paustian

Council Agenda Memo

From: Steve Paustian, Park and Recreation Director

Meeting: September 26, 2006

Subject: Resolution Authorizing Staff to Apply for Trail Grant

Item #'s: G-15

Presenter(s): Steve Paustian, Park and Recreation Director

Background

One of the requirements for applying for grant funding for trail construction is to receive authorization to apply from the City Council. The Parks & Recreation Department continues to expand the Hike & Bike Trail according to the Parks & Recreation Master Plan. The most recent expansion was a 1.8 mile trail from Hall County Park to South Locust Street. Funding from the Department of Roads Transportation Enhancement Fund has enabled the City to fund the Beltline Trail, Shoemaker Trail and River Way Trail. An additional Hike & Bike Trail extension requires that a new grant be submitted to the Department of Roads Transportation Enhancement Fund.

Discussion

It is the intention of the Park and Recreation Department to construct a trail addition from the south Wood River Diversion Dike where it intersects South Locust to a point 1/2 mile north of Interstate 80 (see map). The proposed Mormon Trail will link to the new River Way Trail and extend into Mormon Island State Park. The total project cost is \$628,250, to be comprised of \$500,000 TEA-21 federal funds and \$128,250 local match. Federal funding will pay for 80% of the costs associated with the project if the grant request is approved. The grant application is due August 29, 2006. If the grant is not awarded, the project will be postponed until other funding can be secured. However, the City's annual appropriation will be used for other trail improvements.

Alternatives

It appears that the Council has the following alternatives concerning the issue at hand. The Council may:

1. Move to approve the grant application and authorize the Mayor to sign all related documents

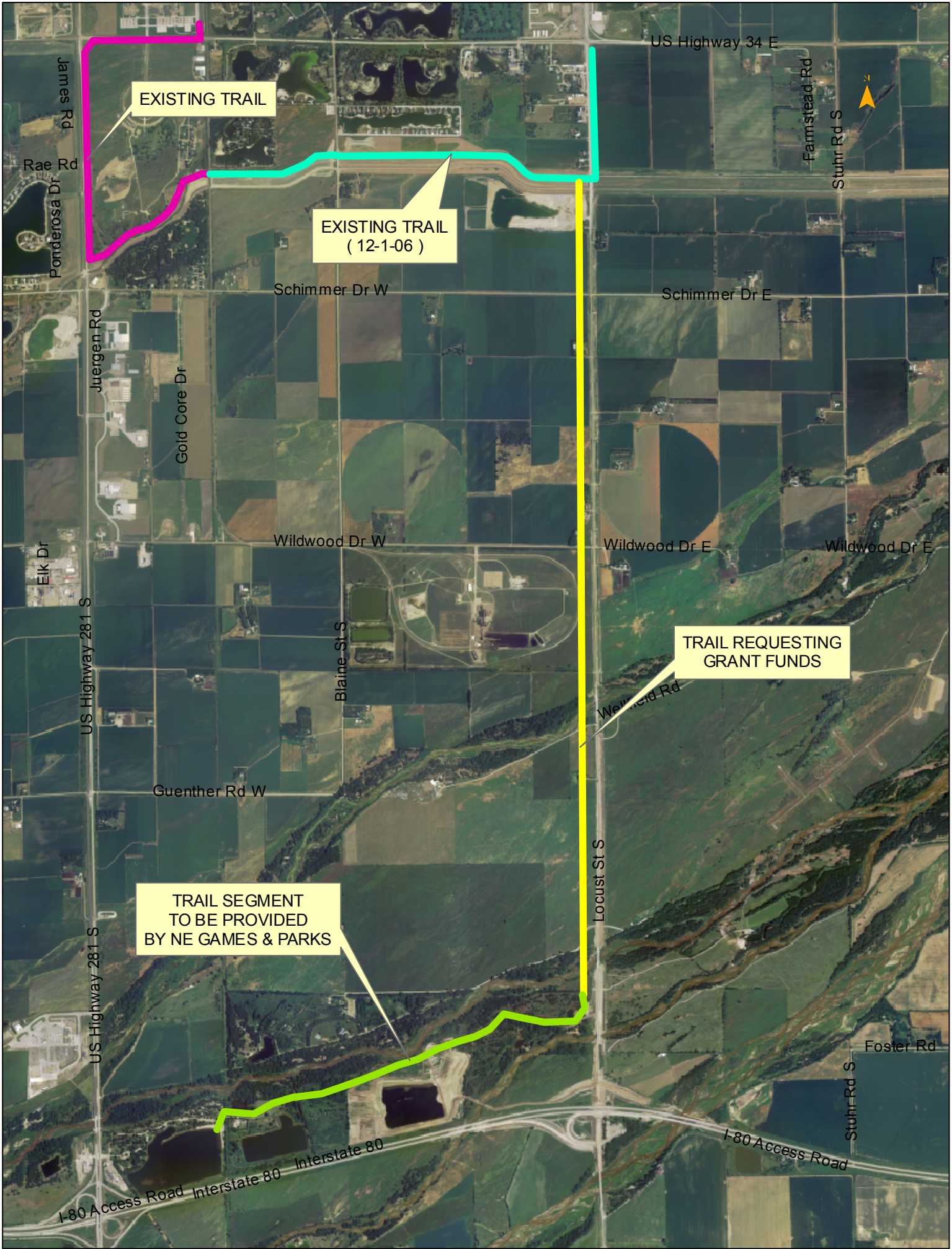
2. Refer the issue to a Committee
3. Postpone the issue to future date
4. Take no action on the issue

Recommendation

City Administration recommends that the Council approve the grant application, pass the resolution and authorize the Mayor to sign all related documents.

Sample Motion

Motion to approve the grant application, pass the resolution and authorize the Mayor to sign all related documents.



EXISTING TRAIL

EXISTING TRAIL
(12-1-06)

TRAIL REQUESTING
GRANT FUNDS

TRAIL SEGMENT
TO BE PROVIDED
BY NE GAMES & PARKS

Transportation Enhancement Program Application Form Instructions

The following pages provide instructions for filling out the final Transportation Enhancement Application Form. The final application form is attached to these instructions and is intended to be completed after the Project Coordinator assigned to your project has conducted a site visit. It includes additional sections 10-12 not found on the draft application.

Please answer all questions directly on the form within the space provided. Attach any additional information you believe will more fully explain and support your proposed project or activity. However, attachments are limited to a total of 10 pages, including the required attachments (*maps, budgets, resolution and DR Form 275*) listed on page 5. Letters of support (*described in Item #13*) will not be included in the ten page limit.

1. Governmental Agency

Provide information regarding the governmental agency or political subdivision who will own and maintain the project. Attach a resolution from the governmental agency showing support of the proposed project. A resolution must be submitted as a requirement for funding.

2. Contact Person

Provide the name, address, daytime telephone number, fax number and e-mail address (*if applicable*) of the person who is submitting and directing this project.

3. Signature

Contact Person – This is the person identified in Item #2 who will be responsible for the management and implementation of your proposed project.

4. Signature

Governmental Agency – This is the mayor or chairperson of the governmental agency listed in Item #1.

5. Project Name:

Provide a name for the project.

6. Project Description/Location

Provide a description of the proposed scope of work for this project. Include information on the specific items of work to be performed with the funds requested and the location of the project. For trail projects, describe the length, width, surface type, and beginning and ending points. For building projects, describe construction (*existing vs. new*), dimensions, purpose, etc. Explain how your project relates to transportation. Attach an 8½" x 11" map showing the project location.

7. Project Cost

Identify the cost of this project. Provide the total cost of the project and the amount of federal funding you are requesting (*up to 80% of total cost*). Attach an itemized budget showing construction items, estimated unit costs, and estimated quantities. Preliminary engineering and construction inspection/testing are also eligible expenses (*see enclosed sample*).

Please note the maximum amount of federal funding per project is \$500,000.00. [i.e., Total project cost of \$625,000 = 80% federal (\$500,000 max.) + 20% local (\$125,000).] If the total project cost exceeds \$625,000, the percentage of federal and local match must be adjusted. For example, \$750,000 total project cost = 67% federal (\$500,000 max.) + 33% local (\$250,000).

8. Matching Funds

Identify the percentage and source of matching funds (*minimum 20% cash match required*).

Exceptions to the minimum 20% cash match requirement would include 1) the use of railbanked land value in lieu of a cash match, and 2) meeting pre-defined criteria which would allow an applicant to be eligible to provide a 10% non-federal cash match. (*This pre-defined criteria is available from the Program Consultant and will be used when reviewing your proposed project.*)

9. Project Type

Check the box indicating your project category as shown below.

Trails

- Facilities for pedestrians and bicycles
- Safety and educational activities for pedestrians and bicyclists
- Preservation of abandoned railway corridors (*including conversion and use as pedestrian/bicycle trails*)

Historic Preservation

- Rehabilitation of historic transportation buildings, structures, or facilities (*including historic railroad facilities*)
- Archeological planning and research

Scenic or Historic Byways

- Acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites
- Scenic or historic highway programs (*including tourist and welcome center facilities*)
- Landscaping and other scenic beautification
- Environmental mitigation to address water pollution due to highway runoff or reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality while maintaining habitat connectivity
- Establishment of transportation museums

10. Previous Transportation Enhancement Projects

Check the box indicating whether you have received transportation enhancement funding in the past. If the answer is yes, please list the names and federal funding amounts received for each project.

11. Transportation/Community Plans

Please identify if this project is part of a planning document.

12. Public Benefits

Describe how this project serves a public use and any potential economic and social benefits for the community or region. These may be benefits to health, economic development, or tourism. Also, please describe aesthetic, functional and safety impacts, as well as potential improvements to the quality of life.

13. Project Support

Provide the names of governmental agencies who are in support of this project, as well as a resolution or meeting minutes from the governmental agency listed in Item #1. Also, please state the current level of support from the general public, other groups and organizations. Attach documentation from them affirming this support.

14. Environmental Impacts (DR Form 275)

Impacts of projects can be both beneficial and adverse. Please complete the review area, estimated involvement and remarks portions of the form to the best of your ability. If your project is selected, you will be responsible to obtain necessary environmental clearances and permits.

Send one completed application to: R. James Pearson
Transportation Enhancement Administrator
Nebraska Department of Roads
PO Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

Additional forms may be downloaded from <http://www.dor.state.ne.us/trans-enhance/>

State of Nebraska
Department of Roads

Transportation Enhancement Improvement Request (Final)

1.	AGENCY NAME: City of Grand Island	GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY (Check One): <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> NRD <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Other		
2.	CONTACT PERSON: Steve Paustian	FAX NUMBER: (308) 385-5488		
	MAILING ADDRESS: (Street) P.O. Box 1968	CITY: Grand Island,	STATE: NE	ZIP: 68802
	DAYTIME PHONE: (308) 385-5444	E-MAIL: spaustian@grand-island.com		
3.	CONTACT PERSON: (Print Name & Title) Steve Paustian, Parks & Recreation Director	SIGNATURE 	DATE: 9-26-06	
4.	GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY: (Print Name & Title) Jay Vavricek, Mayor	SIGNATURE 	DATE: 9-26-06	

5.	PROJECT NAME: (Example: Beatrice Big Blue Trail; Neligh Mill Bridge Renovation) Mormon Island Trail		
6.	PROJECT DESCRIPTION/LOCATION: (Include location, work to be performed, and attach map) <p>The proposed trail will link to the new River Way Trail and extend from the Wood River Diversion Channel south paralleling South Locust St. to a point 1/2 mile north of Interstate 80. The trail will then extend west approximately two miles to tie into Mormon Island State Park (these 2 miles are not a part of this grant application). The new 3.5 mile trail will be a 10' wide x 6" Portland cement concrete trail. All of the right-of-way was acquired as a part of a multi-year South Locust Street expansion project in anticipation of hike and bike trail construction needs. To date, the City has expended over \$200,000 on substructure of both bridges, plus \$14,500 has been spent on superstructure design in anticipation of the Mormon Island Trail. Until the bridges are completed, the trail will route back from the right-of-way onto the bridge shoulder to cross existing rivers.</p> <p>DESCRIBE HOW YOUR PROJECT RELATES TO TRANSPORTATION:</p> <p>The Hike & Bike Trail transportation system in Grand Island is growing into a widely used and well-traveled recreation and transportation route. A Hall County population of 52,290+ persons, plus tourists, visitors and area residents, represent a wide population base that will benefit from this project. The location of the Mormon Island Trail is unique in its potential for use by national and international travelers, pedestrians, cyclists, and others.</p> <p>The Mormon Island Trail is an extension of the River Way Trail that created a new transportation route from South Locust to Hall County Park, the Platte Valley Industrial Park, Stuhr Museum and College Park. Mormon Island captures traffic from U.S. Highways 281, 34 and 2, and Interstate 80. Travelers fill this busy tourist attraction and camping spot. The proposed trail creates an additional access route into and out of the community.</p>		
7.	PROJECT COST TOTAL: \$628,250.00	FEDERAL FUNDS REQUESTED: \$500,000.00	
8.	MATCHING FUNDS PROVIDED BY: \$128,250.00	PERCENTAGE OF MATCH: (Minimum 20% of total) 21%	
9.	PROJECT TYPE: (Select One Category) <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trails <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Preservation <input type="checkbox"/> Scenic or Historic Byways </div>		

10.	<p>HAVE YOU RECEIVED TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT FUNDS IN THE PAST? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p> <p>IF YES, PLEASE LIST ALL PROJECTS FUNDED AND TOTAL DOLLARS RECEIVED:</p> <p>Beltline Trail - \$310,969.74</p> <p>Shoemaker Trail - \$273,250.86</p> <p>River Way Trail - \$345,552.00</p>
11.	<p>IDENTIFY IF THIS PROJECT IS PART OF A PLANNING DOCUMENT:</p> <p>This project is part of two different plans: 1) the City of Grand Island Comprehensive Plan (completed 2004) and 2) the Parks and Recreation Master Plan (map attached.)</p>
12.	<p>PUBLIC BENEFITS OF THIS PROJECT:</p> <p>The Mormon Island Trail expands the Grand Island - Hall County Hike & Bike Trail transportation route to extend into a nationally known and promoted 35-acre tourist attraction and camping area, Mormon Island State Recreation Area. In the opposite direction, the proposed trail creates a direct route from Interstate 80 into Grand Island. The option of hiking/biking decreases vehicular traffic on major roadways, promotes energy conservation, provides opportunity for cost savings on gas that has been as high as \$3.60 in the past 30-days at locations near the Interstate 80 exit, and reduces opportunity for vehicle conflicts. A decrease in vehicular traffic equates to less noise, energy conservation and an improved environment. The extended Hike & Bike Trail is a safe, protected transportation network for all ages, providing safe crossing areas and ample width for multiple riders.</p> <p>The Mormon Island Trail will provide an extraordinary view to the public of the migrating sandhill cranes. Between February and April, the cranes feed and roost within 10-miles of the Platte River. The new trail will be adjacent to a protected environmental wetland that hosts the cranes, plus a variety of ducks, geese and other migratory birds.</p> <p>The new 3.5 mile Hike & Bike Trail transportation network is a recreational benefit in itself. According to "Calorie Counter.net", a person can burn 150-300 calories per 30-minute bike ride. The benefit of biking is "an excellent aerobic workout which is highly beneficial for heart and lung efficiency. Biking offers good lower-half body shaping benefits as it works the muscles in buttocks, front and back thighs and lower legs." A 30-minute walk at a brisk speed can burn up to 100 calories. The public benefit of increased weight loss and better health is immeasurable!</p>
13.	<p>THIS PROJECT IS SUPPORTED BY:</p> <p>The City of Grand Island and the Hall County Board of Supervisors</p> <p>Nebraska Department of Roads</p> <p>Nebraska Game & Parks Commission</p> <p>Central Platte Natural Resources District</p>

Attach the following required items:

- Budget
- Map (8½" x 11" *only*.) Maps of some communities may be obtained from the Department of Roads' Map Sales at (402) 479-4503.
- Resolution
- Environmental Impact Forms (DR Form 275)

R E S O L U T I O N 2006-277

WHEREAS, on June 10, 1996, by Resolution 96-188, the City of Grand Island approved and adopted the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Development Plan; and

WHEREAS, such plan included the development of a hiker/biker trail system for the community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Grand Island is requesting grant funding for such project; and

WHEREAS, if granted, assistance would be provided for 80% of the project costs; and

WHEREAS, the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, has available a minimum of 20% of the project cost and has the financial ability to operate and maintain the completed facility in a safe and attractive manner for public use.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA, that the City of Grand Island supports the construction of the Morman Island hiker/biker trail, and further approves and authorizes an application for assistance from the Transportation Enhancement Program for the purpose of constructing such trail.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to execute such application and other documentation on behalf of the City of Grand Island for such grant process.

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Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska on September 26, 2006.

Jay Vavricek, Mayor

Attest:

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

Approved as to Form ? _____ September 22, 2006 ? City Attorney
