



Legislation Text

File #: 14-1139, **Version:** 22

Update; Pond Branch Linear Park

Project Update

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The 2009 Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space Master Plan included a spine trail phasing and prioritization plan with the Pond Branch corridor shown on the map, however, it is not delineated as an improved linear trail. The on-street connection with Town Park is shown as segment 12 in the spine trail phasing and prioritization plan, and received funding through TxDOT's Transportation Alternatives Program. With development in the downtown area increasing, staff was directed by the downtown TIRZ committee to explore a feasibility analysis and provide opinion of costs to develop a connection from Rose Park to the east side of the Historic Downtown area along the Pond Branch corridor. This connection would utilize an existing drainage culvert under the Union Pacific Railroad as pedestrian access only. The trail will then follow the west upper bank of the creek and terminate at Dallas Street.

As future development occurs along the creek, the trail will provide additional benefit for outside patio dining areas and connections to other venues in the downtown area with improved pedestrian access. Graham and Associates was retained in July 2014 to formulate a feasibility analysis and opinions of cost. The report was funded through the drainage program and the draft report was completed in November 2014.

**** For earlier history, please see the report of August 2016**

June - Property acquisition negotiations are ongoing. Plan revisions are underway to some retaining walls to address the Railroad's and the "Back Yard's" Engineering comments. Resubmittal to the Railroad is pending structural design comments from the sub-consultant. The consultant has received the full hydrologic-and-hydraulic-modeling-report and it should be submitted to the City soon.

July - Property acquisition negotiations are ongoing. Construction plans are 100% complete and under review. Staff is preparing to advertise the project for construction.

August - Final in-house review of the construction plans are underway. Acquisition of all rights-of-way has been negotiated. The closings for the properties will be scheduled following approval from City Council. Construction is anticipated to last nine months and will be complete in the summer of 2017.

September -The project has been advertised and bids will be opened in the first week of October. Staff anticipates that a construction contract will be ready for MPFDC Board and City Council award in October.

October - The bid opening was held on October 5, 2016, with three firms submitting bids. However, we are working with the consultant on final issues with the trail access under the Union Pacific Railroad before proceeding with the construction bid award.

November - Staff and the consultant have had numerous conversations with Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) representatives regarding the pedestrian crossing under the railroad for the trail. Conversations and

discussions are ongoing. Staff visited with the construction contractor, who agreed to hold pricing based upon the outcome of the UPRR discussions. All parties are working diligently to resolve the design issues as quickly as possible.

The downtown TIRZ committee directed staff to procure a feasibility analysis and opinion of cost for the Pond Branch Creek Corridor. Staff has been working with the consultant to explore the feasibility to help with future development and trail development. The report indicated it would be feasible to build a linear trail utilizing the railroad culvert as a pedestrian access passage into the Historic Downtown.

MPFDC ½ cent sales tax

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