


TO: Michael C. Van Milligen, City Manager
FROM: Gus Psihoyos, City Engineer 
DATE: December 8, 2014
SUBJECT: Lower Bee Branch Overlook at the 16th Street Detention Basin Project
DMATS TAP Funding Application & Assurances (CIP# 7201654)

INTRODUCTION

The enclosed resolution establishes the City's support for the Lower Bee Branch Overlook at the 16th Street Detention Basin Project and provides assurance that the City will maintain the improvements for twenty (20) years following completion of the project. Adoption of the attached resolution is required in order to secure \$640,000.00 in Transportation Alternatives Program Funds for the Branch Overlook Project as appropriated in the DMATS Fiscal Year 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program.

BACKGROUND

On October 4, 2010 the City Council passed Resolution 390-10 authorizing an application for Vision Iowa River Enhancement Community Attraction and Tourism (RECAT) grant funding for amenities associated with the Bee Branch Creek Restoration Project. The RECAT grant application requested funding for a scenic overlook along the Lower Bee Branch Creek Project near the 16th Street Detention Basin (Basin Overlook Project).

The City's RECAT grant application was approved by the Vision Iowa Board and on April 4, 2011 the City Council passed Resolution 114-11 approving and authorizing the execution of the RECAT Grant Agreement. Per the Agreement, the City of Dubuque will construct the Basin Overlook Project with the RECAT funding to cover up to 23% of the project cost.

At the request of the City of Dubuque, the Dubuque Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (DMATS) included Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding for the Basin Overlook Project with the adoption of its Fiscal Year 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program. The DMATS TAP funds will provide up to 80% of the cost to construct the Basin Overlook Project.

DISCUSSION

The improvements associated with the proposed Lower Bee Branch Overlook at the 16th Street Detention Basin Project (Basin Overlook) include a plaza, an open air pavilion, drinking fountain, bike racks, trash receptacles, benches, lighting, trees, shrubs, interpretive signs, and a blue light 911 call box. Figure 1 shows a rendering of

the proposed improvements presented to the City Council at the September 9, 2011 City Council Work Session.

Figure 1. Rendering of the Lower Bee Branch Basin Overlook.



The Basin Overlook is to be located along the hike/bike trail system along the Bee Branch Creek Restoration Project, a trail system that will link the City's Mississippi River Trail system with the Heritage Trail that extends to Dyersville, Iowa. Figure 2 shows the location of the proposed Basin Overlook.

Figure 2. Location of proposed Lower Bee Branch Basin Overlook Improvements.



The Basin Overlook Project will in effect replace the Audubon Overlook that was constructed and placed by the Dubuque Audubon Society back in the late 1990s. Since then, over 45 different bird species have been spotted. Figure 3 is a photo taken in the spring of 2013 where the overlook is to be constructed. It shows one example of the scenes from the location of the proposed overlook.

Figure 3. Photo of the migratory 16th Street Detention Basin taken from the location of the proposed Basin Overlook.



In order to secure the use of the DMATS funding for the project, a Request for Transportation Improvement Program Funds must be completed and submitted to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. In addition, the City must provide an official endorsement of the project and written assurance that the improvements will be maintained for at least twenty (20) years.

RECOMMENDATION

I recommend that the City Council adopt the attached resolution establishing the City's support for the Lower Bee Branch Overlook at the 16th Street Detention Basin Project by authorizing the City Manager to sign and submit a Request for Transportation Improvement Program Funds to the IDOT for the use of DMATS funding for the project and providing written assurance that the improvements will be adequately maintained for a minimum of twenty (20) years following completion of the project.

BUDGET IMPACT

The current estimate for the Lower Bee Branch Overlook at the 16th Street Detention Basin Project is \$800,000.00. Funding for the improvements was established for the project with the adoption of the FY2015 CIP Budget as part of the Bee Branch Creek Restoration Project (CIP#7201654). The specific revenue source for the improvements will come from a combination of RECAT funding (approximately 20%) and DMATS TAP funding (approximately 80%).

ACTION TO BE TAKEN

I respectfully request that the City Council adopt the attached resolution establishing the City's support for the Lower Bee Branch Overlook at the 16th Street Detention Basin Project by authorizing the City Manager to sign and submit a Request for Transportation Improvement Program Funds to the IDOT for the use of DMATS funding for the project and providing written assurance that the improvements will be adequately maintained for a minimum of twenty (20) years following completion of the project.

Attach.

Prepared by Deron Muehring, Civil Engineer II

cc: Barry Lindahl, City Attorney
Jenny Larson, Budget Director
Ken TeKippe, Finance Director
Deron Muehring, Civil Engineer II