

**CITY OF LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN
CITY PLAN COMMISSION
REPORT
January 4, 2021**

Ø **AGENDA ITEM – 20-1630 (Jack Zabrowski)**

Resolution authorizing acquisition of an easement through Rivercrest Village on property owned by Juniper Partners LLC to establish a new route for the Mississippi River Trail and Regional Bicycle Route One.

Ø **ROUTING:** F&P 1/7/2021

Ø **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

In August of 2018 the Wisconsin Mississippi River Parkway Commission (WIMRPC) requested that the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT) mark and sign the Mississippi River Trail (MRT) on all state and US highways under its jurisdiction. The WIMRPC further requested that the DOT coordinate with the affected cities, villages, counties, townships and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regarding the designation of the MRT on affected local highways, roads, streets, trails, and paths. The WIMRPC specifically requested that the DOT coordinate with the City of La Crosse to develop and enhanced riverside route through the city.

The La Crosse Area Planning Committee designated a riverside route through private property at Rivercrest Village to accommodate their Regional Bicycle Route One and suggested that the MRT collocate on this facility. In order to complete the connection of the existing bicycle trail on highway 35 to Scarlett Drive an easement would need to be acquired.

The proposed easement (see attached survey for details) will abut another existing easement owned by the City of La Crosse and continue to the North to connect to City of La Crosse right of way, across a bridge and then onto Scarlett Dr. Acquisition of the proposed easement will be funded by a DNR 1993 Urban Rivers grant.

Ø **GENERAL LOCATION:**

Approximately 422 feet west of the intersection of highway 14/61/35 and 33rd Street in Rivercrest Village trailer home park. The easement will be on existing pavement within Rivercrest Village, see attached survey Legal Description for more details.

Ø **RECOMMENDATION OF OTHER BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:**

Common Council Resolution 19-0754 approved pursuit of an easement by City Staff. City of La Crosse Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Resolution 20-0037 approved survey of an easement.

Ø **CONSISTENCY WITH ADOPTED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:**

Promotion of bicycling and walking as an alternative means of transportation is a central theme of Confluence, our comprehensive plan. Development of this crucial connection would facilitate bicycling for transportation and recreation and would be consistent with our comprehensive plan.

Ø **PLANNING RECOMMENDATION:**

Planning Department staff recommend approval of the acquisition of the proposed easement through Rivercrest Village on property owned by Juniper Partners LLC to establish a new route for the Mississippi River Trail and Regional Bicycle Route One.

