

Agenda Item 22-1523 (Tim Acklin)

Resolution approving a Wisconsin Department of Transportation - Transportation Alternatives Program State/Municipal Grant Agreement to construct the Wagon Wheel Trail.

General Location

Council District 6 & 9. Primarily located along the north side of Hwy 14/61 from the Cass Street and Cameron Ave bridges west to the West Channel Boat Landing in Minnesota as depicted in attached MAP 22-1523.

Background Information

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) applied for, and was awarded, a grant from the WisDOT Transportation Alternatives Program to construct the Wagon Wheel Trail will serve as a link between La Crosse, WI and La Crescent, MN along US Highway 14/61 west of the Cass St/Cameron Ave Bridges to the West Channel Boat Landing via a shared use trail and separate bridge adjacent to the West Channel Bridge.

The City was awarded just over \$4 million. The estimated construction cost of the project was just over \$5 million though it is anticipated that this will be higher when construction begins. The BPAC will be requesting funding in the 2024-2028 & 2025-2029 Capital Improvement Program Budgets for design and its share of construction costs. Construction of the project is intended to be started in 2026 with design taking place in 2024-2025.

Recommendation of Other Boards and Commissions

The Common Council passed Resolution #21-1468 on November 11, 2021 supporting this project, which included accepting any grant awards, enter into all necessary agreements with WisDOT and committing to securing funding.

Consistency with Adopted Comprehensive Plan

The trail has been identified as a high priority in La Crosse's Comprehensive Plan, La Crescent Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, and the 2035 Coulee Regional Bicycle Plan.

Staff Recommendation

This item is recommended for approval

Routing F&P 1.5.2023

PC22-1523

B-32-164

Construct connection between Wagon Wheel Trail terminus and US 14 north sidewalk

Pedestrian Structure

Short-term: Widen existing north sidewalk between West Channel Bridge and Underpass to 8-ft minimum--10 ft preferred. Use existing north sidewalk on West Channel Bridge. Consider curb ramps at bridge ends to connect roadway to sidewalk.

Mid-term: Install jersey barrier on north shoulder of West Channel Bridge for 6-ft separated path between US 14 traffic and eastbound bicyclists. Sidewalk will be for westbound users.

Long-term: Reconstruct West Channel Bridge with 8-ft minimum--10-ft preferred--shared-use paths on north and south sides of span.

La Crescent to conduct feasibility study for grade-separated crossing of US 14 between boat landing and south side of US 14.

Install marked crosswalk with RRFB and directional signage; exact location TBD.

Widen US 14 south sidewalk to 8-ft minimum, 10-ft preferred

Install directional signage on both ends of underpass

Long-term: Reconstruct westbound USH 14/61 Mississippi River bridge (Cass St) to accommodate westbound bicyclists.

Remove pavement marking directing bicyclists onto Cass St Bridge sidewalk. Add signage for narrow sidewalk and directing bikes to Cameron bridge.

Install directional signage for routing between Cameron Ave Bridge path and Regional Route 1.

City of La Crosse

Regional Route 1