

**Agenda Item 25-0030 (Tim Acklin)**

Resolution approving an amended 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 25-0030.

**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.

The Common Council approved a grant agreement for this project at their January 2023 meeting. The WisDOT is requesting to amend the agreement to change the language stating that this project was to be locally bid and constructed (let) to be state let. This was always the intent from the beginning as WisDOT policy requires state let when projects are of a specific dollar amount or higher. It appears that this language was missed by both parties.

**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, La Crosse's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan and the 2035 Coulee Regional Bicycle Plan.

**Staff Recommendation**

This item is recommended for approval.

**Routing F&P 2.6.2025**