

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** September 1, 2016

**TO:** Mayor and City Council

**FROM:** Howard S. Lazarus, City Administrator

**CC:** Craig Hupy, Public Services Area Administrator  
Nick Hutchinson, City Engineer

**RE:** Morehead-Delaware Pedestrian Bridge Focus Group

City staff has engaged with the community and worked closely with a Focus Group of neighborhood representatives regarding the Morehead-Delaware pedestrian bridge. The Focus Group has prepared a goal and recommendations to City Council (Attachment A).

**Community engagement overview.** Following direction from City Council to engage the public regarding the Morehead-Delaware pedestrian Bridge, a public meeting was held on June 7, 2016 to discuss options for the former bridge location across Mallets Creek, which provided a direct connection between Morehead Court and Delaware Drive. Staff requested that the neighborhood determine a focus group of representatives to engage in detailed discussions about opportunities and next steps for the project site. Interested prospective focus group participants were asked to contact the designated Lans Basin neighborhood representative. All persons who requested participation in the Focus Group were selected; comprising five neighborhood volunteers in total.

**Focus Group process.** Three Focus Group meetings were held; July 11, July 28 and August 31, 2016. Focus group meetings included discussion of funding and grant opportunities to construct a bridge on this site, permitting requirements from applicable State and County agencies, City best practices for bridge construction, safety of existing conditions on the project site, available budget, and limited discussion of preferred non-bridge alternatives (a preference was stated to table this discussion; to be resumed dependent on future City Council actions). Focus Group members also inquired about the design and construction processes and expressed interest in a design-build approach. Focus Group members gave suggestions and feedback to staff regarding preferred parameters to be included in a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a design-build scenario at the project site. A draft timeline of the design-build RFP process is provided as Attachment B.

Meeting agendas, discussion summaries and other supporting materials are available on the project website [www.a2gov.org/morehead-delaware](http://www.a2gov.org/morehead-delaware).

**Focus Group goal and recommendations.** The Focus Group, with assistance from City staff, prepared a draft goal and recommendations and solicited broad community feedback via the City's online discussion forum, A2 Open City Hall (Attachment C). Based on the positive community support for the Focus Group goal and recommendations, the Focus Group unanimously agreed to a final goal and recommendations, which are attached to this memorandum (Attachment A).

## **GOAL AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Morehead–Delaware Bridge Focus Group**

**The Morehead Delaware Pedestrian Bridge Focus Group has prepared the following goal and recommendations.**

**Goal:** As previously agreed, replace the pedestrian bridge to safely cross Mallets Creek between Morehead Court and Delaware Drive. Use financial resources responsibly to complete the pedestrian bridge project at the minimal feasible cost. The neighborhood association has replaced the weir at the location where the pedestrian bridge previously existed.

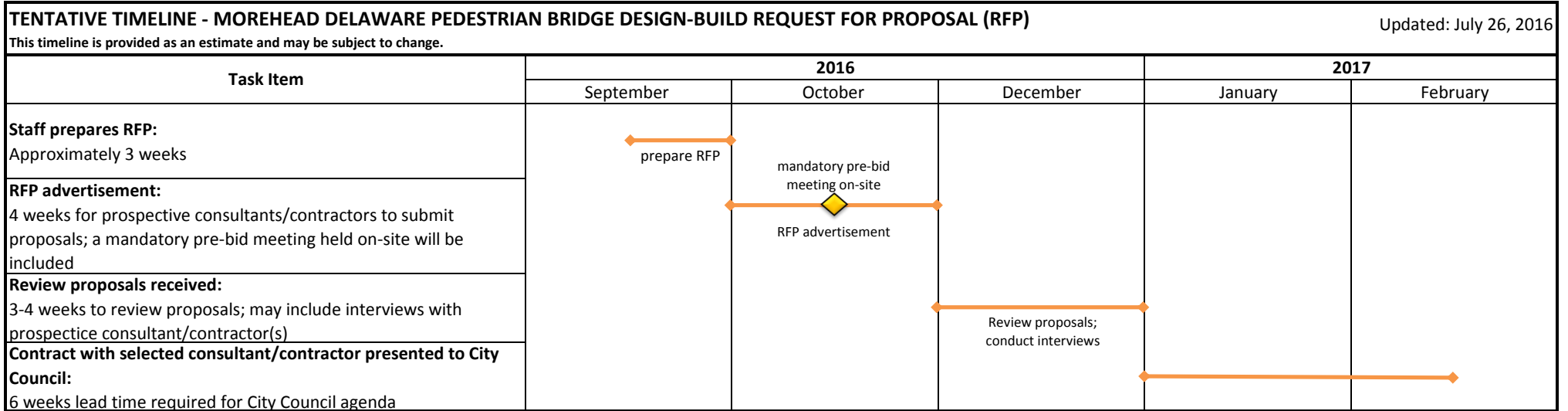
**Recommendations:**

1. Staff to prepare a design-build request for proposals (RFP) for the Morehead-Delaware Pedestrian Bridge in lieu of approving the Rowe contract for bridge design. A design-build contract will provide City Council with a combined financial figure for one-time consideration of both bridge design and construction.
2. Include representatives from the Morehead-Delaware Focus Group to participate in the proposal review, scoring and interview process.
3. As a near-term solution, install an additional barricade adjacent to the existing barricade at each side of the project site to address current safety concerns of the site conditions.<sup>1</sup>
4. If a design-build contract for pedestrian bridge construction is not approved following the RFP process, then reconvene the Morehead-Delaware Pedestrian Bridge Focus Group for further discussion and additional recommendations.
5. Do not make any motion to further reduce the budget allocated for the Morehead-Delaware Pedestrian Bridge project.

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<sup>1</sup> This recommendation has been completed; additional barricades were installed. Focus Group members have shared anecdotally that the barricades seem to help in deterring weir crossing though a long term solution is still needed.

ATTACHMENT B



**Replacement of Morehead-Delaware Pedestrian Bridge**

A2 Open City Hall Results

Topic open: August 12-29, 2016

Responses: 16

QUESTION	RESPONSE COUNT		
	YES	NO	NO OPINION
<p><b>Do you support the Focus Group's goal?</b> Goal: As previously agreed, replace the pedestrian bridge to safely cross Mallets Creek between Morehead Court and Delaware Drive. Use financial resources responsibly to complete the pedestrian bridge project at the minimal feasible cost. The neighborhood association has replaced the weir at the location where the pedestrian bridge previously existed.</p>	16 (100%)	0	0
<p><b>Do you support Recommendation 1?</b> Recommendation 1: Staff to prepare a design-build request for proposals (RFP) for the Morehead-Delaware Pedestrian Bridge in lieu of approving the Rowe contract for bridge design. A design-build contract will provide City Council with a combined financial figure for one-time consideration of both bridge design and construction.</p>	16 (100%)	0	0
<p><b>Do you support Recommendation 2?</b> Recommendation 2: Include representatives from the Morehead-Delaware Focus Group to participate in the proposal review, scoring and interview process.</p>	16 (100%)	0	0
<p><b>Do you support Recommendation 3?<sup>1</sup></b> Recommendation 3: As a near-term solution, install an additional barricade adjacent to the existing barricade at each side of the project site to address current safety concerns of the site conditions.</p>	12 (75%)	3 (19%)	1 (6%)
<p><b>Do you support Recommendation 4?</b> Recommendation 4: If a design-build contract for pedestrian bridge construction is not approved following the RFP process, then reconvene the Morehead-Delaware Pedestrian Bridge Focus Group for further discussion and additional recommendations.</p>	16 (100%)	0	0
<p><b>Do you support Recommendation 5?</b> Recommendation 5: Do not make any motion to further reduce the budget allocated for the Morehead-Delaware Pedestrian Bridge project.</p>	15 (94%)	0	1 (6%)

<sup>1</sup> This recommendation has been completed; additional barricades were installed. Focus Group members have shared anecdotally that the barricades seem to help in deterring weir crossing though a long term solution is still needed.

<p><b>Please use the space below to share any comments on the Focus Group recommendations</b> (9 responses)</p>
<p>Thank you focus group and City staff for your time and effort. The pedestrian bridge over Malletts Creek between Morehead and Delaware served the same function as a neighborhood park. For decades this bridge was a favorite gathering place in the Lawton neighborhood. People regularly visited the bridge, not just to walk from Delaware to Morehead Court, but to watch the creek and observe the wildlife the creek supports. There are other parks with playing fields and playground structures in the Lansdowne, Churchill Downs, and Meadowbrook subdivisions, but the bridge over Malletts Creek provided access to a unique natural resource that is not duplicated in any of the other nearby parks.</p>
<p>Thank you for all the hard work and focus on getting the bridge back!</p>
<p>The bridge was an important part of the neighborhood, encouraging walking and interaction among neighbors. We have invested substantial resources in the weirs with the expectation that the bridge would then be replaced. I hope very much this comes to pass.</p>
<p>Residents have already identified lower cost alternatives to the previously designed replacement bridge. Residents have already paid to replace the weir. It is time for the city to meet the residents' wish to return the bridge to a usable condition. Or refund our taxes.</p>
<p>I would like to commend the City for developing a fair process to address the bridge reconstruction process.</p>
<p>Thank you Focus Group for your time and energy.</p>
<p>Making the area safer should be a top priority.</p>
<p>Well done. Thanks for your work in preparing recommendations.</p>
<p>please make this a safe, enjoyable part of our neighborhood using realistic funding from the city. It currently is very unsafe and ugly.</p>
<p><b>Are there any additional recommendations, or other feedback, related to the Morehead-Delaware project site that you would like the Focus Group to consider?</b> (8 responses)</p>
<p>Public access at the Morehead-Delaware site to enjoy the natural beauty of Malletts Creek and its wildlife must remain available to the entire community.</p>
<p>The previous bridge allowed traffic for pedestrians and bicycles. It would be helpful if the new bridge was similar.</p>
<p>As the city continues its greenway focus to attract younger citizens to a more walkable city, this pedestrian bridge over a delightful Mallets Creek is certainly in line with the reputation we want to grow. The residents near the bridge have paid their share of the investment in a replacement, far more than is to expected for a public access walkway. Afro the mayor to siphon off already allocated funds to conduct a "study" in another ward of the city sounds suspect to me.</p>
<p>Please realize what a treasure this bridge could be to the neighborhood. I moved in after it was already torn down and it would be so nice to expand running routes, provide access to view the wetlands to those who aren't fortunate enough to own property bordering the creek, etc.</p>
<p>I'm glad this is finally getting addressed. I'm looking forward to the new bridge, whatever shape it turns out to be.</p>
<p>If the bridge cannot be replaced due to budgetary constraints, i would like the City consider building a nature observation area at the end of the sidewalk. Informal discussion with Lawton School office suggests children might benefit from field trips to observe the wildlife. Also, the bridge when it was functional, was a popular place for children to fish. Perhaps a platform at the end of the sidewalk could reinstate the fishing function.</p>
<p>This bridge is an essential element of the community and needs to be replaced to restore full access to the public land surrounding Mallets Creek.</p>