

MEMORANDUM

TO: Park Advisory Commission

FROM: Colin Smith, Parks & Recreation Services Manager

DATE: September 21, 2021

SUBJECT: Resolution to recommend entering into an agreement between the City of Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County, by the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission regarding responsibilities and cost allocation for design and engineering services for the Bandemer-Barton trail connection project

Attached for your review and recommendation is a resolution outlining an agreement between the City of Ann Arbor and the Washtenaw County Park and Recreation Commission to collaborate on the design phase of the Bandemer-Barton trail and tunnel connection project.

The proposed pedestrian tunnel would extend beneath the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) railroad tracks between Barton Nature Area and Bandemer Park and would provide a highly desired non-motorized connection that has been identified as a capital need for decades.

This tunnel is a critical gap on the Border-to-Border Trail (B2B), as well as the statewide Iron Belle trail, and is one of the final hurdles to overcome connecting the City with the parks and along the Huron River. It will also improve non-motorized traffic around the North Main Street & M-14 corridor by providing a safe pedestrian and bicycle gateway to the City.

Currently, there is no safe connection for pedestrians and bicyclists between the B2B trail in Bandemer Park and Barton Nature Area, and many pedestrians and bicyclists choose to illegally cross the railroad tracks at this location showing that it is a highly desired route.

This connection has been desired for more than two decades, but due to insufficient funding and the difficulty of obtaining approvals from the railroad, progress on the tunnel has been delayed.

Since the 2005 study, the railroad has changed from private ownership to being publicly owned by MDOT. Additionally, funding opportunities have become available through our partners at the County and private partners

In 2018, a Letter of Intent was signed between the City, County, and Huron Waterloo Pathway Initiative to collaborate on an update to the Bandemer-Barton

Pedestrian Tunnel 2005 Feasibility Study. The updated feasibility study was completed in 2020 (Bandemer-Barton Trail & Underpass Study dated November 13, 2020 prepared by Bergmann and OHM Advisors) and sets forth preferred design options for use in the Design Phase for the project.

Both parties are now ready to move ahead with design for the project and the Agreement outlines roles and responsibilities and the cost allocation for this phase. The County has solicited, received and evaluated proposals for the Design Phase, and having shared and discussed the proposals with the City, the parties agree County should award a contract to Bergmann to perform the services and work needed to complete the Design Phase. The agreement proposes that the County will enter into a contract with Bergmann and administer the completion of the Design Phase work in accordance with this Agreement and its exhibits and attachments. The agreement also identifies the funding responsibilities for each party for the design phase (City 45%, County 55%) with the total dollar estimate of City's share of the Design Phase at \$199,702.08 and County's estimated share at \$244,081.20.

This resolution asks PAC to recommend that the City enter into a Cost Sharing Agreement with the County for the design phase of the project. Funds are available in the approved FY2022 Parks millage budget.

RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND SIGNING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
CITY OF ANN ARBOR AND WASHTENAW COUNTY, BY THE WASHTENAW
COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGARDING
RESPONSIBILITIES AND COST ALLOCATION FOR DESIGN AND
ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE BANDEMER-BARTON TRAIL
CONNECTION PROJECT

Whereas, in 2005, the City of Ann Arbor commissioned and received a feasibility study for the Bandemer-Barton Pedestrian Tunnel;

Whereas, this non-motorized connection has been desired for more than two decades, but due to insufficient funding and the difficulty of obtaining approvals from the railroad, progress on the tunnel has been delayed;

Whereas, since the 2005 study, the railroad has changed from private ownership to being publicly owned by MDOT;

Whereas, the County, Huron Waterloo Pathway Initiative, and City previously signed a Letter of Intent dated May 2, 2018 to collaborate on an update to the Bandemer-Barton Pedestrian Tunnel 2005 Feasibility Study, which update was completed in 2020 (Bandemer-Barton Trail & Underpass Study dated November 13, 2020 prepared by Bergmann and OHM Advisors) and set forth preferred design options for use in the Design Phase for the project;

Whereas, the LOI also contemplated County and City would enter into further agreements as necessary to advance the project;

Whereas, County and City expressed interest in working cooperatively to complete the Design Phase of the Bandemer-Barton Trail Connection Project and share the costs thereof;

Whereas, County has solicited, received and evaluated proposals for the Design Phase, and having shared and discussed the proposals with the City, the parties agree County should award a contract to Bergmann, hereinafter referred to as "Consultant," to perform the services and work needed to complete the Design Phase;

Whereas, County will enter into a contract with Consultant and administer the completion of the Design Phase work in accordance with this Agreement and its exhibits and attachments;

Whereas, County and City will each be responsible for funding and paying for a portion of the Design Phase as established in Exhibit B (County 55% / City 45%);

Whereas, the City of Ann Arbor portion of funding needed for this design phase is estimated to be \$199,702.08 and funds are available in the approved FY2020 Parks Maintenance and Capital Improvements Millage budget; and

Whereas, County and City have reached an understanding regarding the performance of and payment for the Design Phase and desire to enter into this Agreement to memorialize that understanding;

RESOLVED, that the Parks Advisory Commission recommend City Council enter an agreement between the City of Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County, by the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission regarding responsibilities and cost allocation for design and engineering services for the Bandemer-Barton trail connection and tunnel project.