

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Parks Advisory Commission

DATE: November 16, 2021

RE: Resolution Recommending City Council Include the Gallup Park Vehicle Bridge Replacement and Park Road and Trail Renovation project for Consideration in the Award of ARP Funding

The Parks Advisory Commission (PAC) understands that the City of Ann Arbor is set to receive upwards of \$23 million dollars in funding as a result of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021. An initial list of potential projects to receive ARP funding was shared with City Council on October 1, 2021 for consideration on how the funds should be prioritized and allocated.

PAC requests that City Council include the Gallup Park vehicle bridge replacement and park road and trail renovation project on the list for consideration for funding and public input. This project appears to be eligible for ARP funding as it falls under the provision of general government services, including infrastructure. Funding this project would support the Council policy priority of providing well maintained and sustainable transportation infrastructure across the city. The Park and Recreation Open Space Plan, part of the City's Master Plan, identifies park bridges and infrastructure improvements as a goal, and residents have continually expressed that the maintenance and widening of existing segments of the Border-to-Border (B2B) trail is a high priority. This project is driven by the need for future bridge replacement and the desire to improve circulation, access and safety for motorists and non-motorized users within this highly used park.

In 2020, a schematic design for replacing the vehicle bridge was developed with significant community engagement. This design included a substantial expansion for non-motorized users, accessibility, and safety. In order to coordinate efforts and design holistically, a master plan for the surrounding area including the adjacent park road, parking, and B2B trail was also developed. The goal of this master plan was to engage

the community to help define the project goals and provide input on preliminary concept designs, as well as to estimate costs. Because community engagement is underway and schematic design is complete, this project is ready to move into design engineering and could be bid as early as late 2022 and constructed as early as 2023, well before the 2026 ARP spending deadline.

This project would also enhance a key corridor of the non-motorized transportation network of both Gallup Park and the city. This segment of the B2B trail has both heavy commuter cyclist traffic as well as recreational users, and the trail does not meet current standards for width given the high level of use. This project would expand non-motorized access into Gallup Park across the bridge, widen the B2B trail to meet current standards, relocate the B2B road crossing, and separate commuter cyclists from recreational users to improve the safety and experience for all users. This project also allows the City to pursue new initiatives in expanding the use of advisory bike lanes to Gallup Park.

This project is scalable and includes two parts that can be funded and constructed in phases (Phase 1 \$2.3m and Phase 2 \$4.5m), or concurrently as a single project (\$6.8m). It would also free up capital improvement funds for other important park investments and needs. The cost of Phase 1 which includes the bridge and approach is \$2.3m, which is a significant capital cost for the Parks budget. To place it in context, the total annual budget amount for capital improvements generated from the Parks Maintenance and Capital Improvements Millage is approximately \$2 million. The possibility of funding the bridge replacement with ARP funds would free up those capital funds to be utilized at numerous other park locations with capital infrastructure needs. Park staff continue to explore other funding sources for Phase 1 but replacing existing infrastructure is not usually eligible for most grants. Additionally, Phase 2 of the project, which consists of the park road and trail renovation, does not currently have a funding source identified for the estimated \$4.5m required. ARP funds could be used for either phases of the project or both, in order to leverage other potential funding sources.

The pandemic has reminded us that parks are an essential component of public infrastructure that plays a vital role in the health and wellbeing of our community.

Additionally, the quality of Ann Arbor's extensive park system is one of the aspects that make our city such a desirable place to live, work, and pursue higher education. As the City's busiest park, Gallup Park also faces unique challenges driven by its popularity and the evolution of recreation since it was first developed in the 1970s. Investing in this essential park infrastructure project will allow Gallup Park to evolve and meet the needs of the 21st century and continue to serve the Ann Arbor community for the next fifty years and beyond.

RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING CITY COUNCIL INCLUDE THE GALLUP PARK VEHICLE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT AND PARK ROAD AND TRAIL RENOVATION PROJECT FOR CONSIDERATION IN THE AWARD OF ARP FUNDING

WHEREAS, Parks are an essential component of public infrastructure that plays a vital role in the health and wellbeing of communities;

WHEREAS, The City of Ann Arbor will receive \$24,182,630 from the federal government related to the American Rescue Plan;

WHEREAS, City Council directed the City Administrator to carry out a public engagement strategy to aid in the prioritization of the ARP funds;

WHEREAS, An initial list of potential projects to receive funding was shared with City Council on October 1, 2021 for consideration on how the funds should be prioritized and allocated;

WHEREAS, The Gallup Park vehicle bridge replacement and park road and trail renovation project appears to be eligible for ARP funding;

WHEREAS, This project would support the Council policy priority of providing well maintained and sustainable transportation infrastructure across the city;

WHEREAS, This project would enhance a key corridor of the non-motorized transportation network of both the park and city;

WHEREAS, A schematic design for replacing the vehicle bridge was developed with significant community engagement in 2020 and is ready to move into design engineering;

WHEREAS, A schematic plan for the adjacent park road and trail was developed concurrently to improve circulation, access and safety within Gallup Park and is also ready to move into design engineering;

WHEREAS, Construction of the entire project could be completed as early as 2023, well before the 2026 spending deadline;

WHEREAS, This project is scalable and could be funded and constructed in phases, or concurrently as a single project;

WHEREAS, Using ARP funds for this project would free up capital improvement funds for other important park infrastructure needs;

RESOLVED, That PAC recommends that City Council include the Gallup Bridge Park Vehicle Bridge Replacement and Park Road and Trail Renovation project for consideration in the award of ARP funding.