



Department Source: Public Works

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: February 5, 2018

Re: Public Hearing - Proposed Construction of the Shepard to Rollins Trail Connection Project  
Trail Alignments #1 and #3

## Executive Summary

At the request of the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA), a second public hearing is being held for the proposed construction of the Shepard to Rollins Trail Connection project – Trail Alignments #1 and #3. The initial public hearing was held on March 16, 2015.

The attached 11/21/2017 e-mail from FHWA confirms that this project meets the requirements of the reasonable accessibility for persons with disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Also attached is a letter of support from the Chair of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission for the construction of Trail Alignments #1 and #3 as designed.

It should be noted that Alignment #1 was designed utilizing GetAbout grant funds and, if the project is not constructed, the City will be responsible for reimbursing FHWA \$144,913.49 for the engineering design services. Alignment #3 is being funded from the Park Sales Tax.

## Discussion

**The Shepard to Rollins Trail Project – Trail Alignment #1** is a Non-motorized Transportation Pilot Program (GetAbout) project approved by Council to be completed using Round 2 grant funding. This project will provide an important east to west connection between the University of Missouri and neighborhoods to the east.

TranSystems Corporation designed an east-west trail (Alignment #1) beginning at Rollins Street, taking a southerly route around the MU Veterinary facilities, then crossing the Hinkson Creek with a bridge, and ending at the south end of the Bluff Dale Drive cul-de-sac. The proposed trail is designed to meet Accessibility Guidelines for Pedestrian Facilities in the Public Right-of-Way (PROWAG) requirements for width, cross slope, running slope, etc. At each end of the trail a curb ramp will be constructed with a detectable warning to tie the trail to the street grade and remove the barrier curb. Each end of the trail will tie to street right of way. The layout is shown on the attached plans.

On April 14, 2016, staff from TranSystems Corporation, the City and the University walked the proposed alignment with a GPS unit in order to adjust the proposed alignment to avoid large trees and other natural habitat when possible. The location of the crossing of the trail, over the tributary to the Hinkson Creek on the University property, was adjusted to minimize impact to the ephemeral stream. Also, the location of the bridge was adjusted so it would not impact the tree with the rope swing and to better fit within the terrain on each side of the creek. The trail is located within the area previously cleared for the sanitary sewer easement where possible.



On July 19, 2017, the alignment was walked with a MoDOT biologist to discuss bat habitat with regards to any tree clearing. Where tree removal cannot be avoided, the contractor will be given very specific guidelines for removal, protection of adjacent trees, and planting.

As part of the trail design, permanent trail easements and temporary construction easements need to be acquired for construction and continued maintenance of the trail. Three (3) permanent trail easements and three (3) temporary construction easements are needed from three (3) separate property owners for the construction of the project.

**The Shepard to Rollins Trail Project – Trail Alignment #3** is a Parks and Recreation department project which includes the extension of the existing Hinkson Creek Trail from its current terminus just north of Stadium Boulevard to the GetAbout funded Trail Alignment #1 trail project. Easements required to construct Trail Alignment 3 include three (3) permanent trail easements and one (1) temporary access easement.

Trail Alignment #3 includes two bridges as shown on the attached plan. The University of Missouri is in the process of signing their easement documents and staff anticipates working with the two private landowners on their easement following Council approval. The proposed easement within one of the private landowner's tract follows the existing sewer easement. As documented in the City's FY-2018 CIP, \$800,000 of the Park Sales Tax has been budgeted for Trail Alignment #3.

Both projects (Trail Alignments #1 and #3) will be bid and constructed in conjunction with one another. Construction is planned to begin during the fall of 2018.

## Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: The estimated cost for construction of Trail Alignment #1 is \$1,555,590 and Trail Alignment #3 is estimated to cost \$800,000. Funding for construction of the trails will come from Non-motorized Transportation Pilot Program grant funds, Park Sales Tax funds, and such other funds as may be lawfully appropriated.

Long-Term Impact: Routine maintenance is estimated to cost \$3,000 per year.

## Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impacts

### [Strategic Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

### [Comprehensive Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Mobility, Connectivity, and Accessibility, Tertiary Impact: Inter-Governmental Cooperation



## Legislative History

Date	Action
01/16/2018	B27-18 Authorizing construction of the Shepard to Rollins Trail Project (Trail Alignments 1 and 3); calling for bids through Purchasing.
01/16/2018	B28-18 Authorizing the acquisition of certain interests in real property for construction of the Shepard to Rollins Trail Project (Trail Alignments 1 and 3).
12/18/2017	R172-17 Setting a public hearing: proposed construction of the Shepard to Rollins Trail Project (Trail Alignments 1 and 3).
03/07/2016	Ord. 22743 Authorizing an agreement with TranSystems Corp for the Shepard Boulevard to Rollins Street East-West Trail Connection GetAbout Columbia Project (Phase B)
04/06/2015	R61-15 Authorizing Amendment No. 1 to agreement with TranSystems Corp for an alignment/conceptual study of the Shepard Boulevard to Rollins Street East-West Trail Connection
02/16/2015	R27-15 Setting a public hearing for 3/16/15 for construction of the Shepard to Rollins East-West Connection trail project
01/26/2015	Interested Parties meeting held
09/03/2014	R164-14 Authorizing an agreement with TranSystems Corp for an alignment/conceptual study of four potential connections of the Shepard to Rollins East-West connection
04/21/2014	R70-14A Authorizing an agreement with TranSystems Corp for an alignment/conceptual study of three potential connections of the Shepard to Rollins East-West connection
09/03/2013	REP134-14 Non-motorized Transportation (GetAbout) project prioritization.
04/15/2013	REP53-13 Grindstone Creek Trail and GetAbout Projects

## Suggested Council Action

After the public hearing and Council discussion, Council Bills 27-18 and 28-18 authorizing a bid call through the Purchasing division and the acquisition of easements to construct the Shepard to Rollins Trail project - Trail Alignments #1 and #3 should be passed.