



MEMORANDUM

To: Park Board

From: Ken Griffin, P.E., Director of Engineering and Public Works

Date: June 5, 2017

Reference: Discussion concerning trails/sidepaths along Parkway Blvd

General Information:

- The City's Engineering and Parks Departments have hosted three meetings with citizens concerning trails/sidepaths along Parkway Blvd.
- The most recent meeting was 5/11/2017.
- This information is provided seeking input and consensus prior to the 6/13/2017 Council meeting.

Introduction/Analysis:

On July 14, 2015, City Council was briefed on the idea of providing additional non-motorized facilities along the Parkway Blvd corridor. Specifically, from MacArthur Blvd to Cowboy Drive. During the same time frame, the Engineering Department was finalizing a design contract to rebuild a portion of Parkway from Alex Drive to Heartz Road. That contract was awarded on July 28, 2015. However, at that meeting, Council requested that the City hire an expert in non-motorized facilities to assist with alternative designs along Parkway Blvd. Subsequently, the City retained the services of Kimley-Horn to explore alternative non-motorized facilities along Parkway Blvd. Since mid-2015, the design and repair of Parkway Blvd. has been placed on hold while designs were produced and meetings were held with citizens near and adjacent to Parkway Blvd.

Initially, the proposed concepts were presented to City Council in a Work Session. This was to solicit input from the Council prior to the first Public Meeting.

The first Public Meeting was a lively exchange and to say that the various concepts for non-motorized facilities were rejected would be an understatement. Coming out of that meeting, staff and the consultant regrouped and considered alternatives.

At the second Public Meeting, the alternative of off-street trails/sidepaths was the only option presented. It was our understanding from the first meeting that most the residents preferred that option. However, again the citizens expressed concern, especially along the section of Parkway Blvd. from MacArthur Blvd. to Samuel Blvd.

After the second Public Meeting, it was determined that the reconstruction of Parkway Blvd. needed to move forward. At the third Public Meeting, only the section of Parkway Blvd. between Moore Road and Hartz Road was discussed. The limits of the repair were extended to Moore Road to give us an opportunity to extend an off-street trail along the north side of Parkway Blvd. from Hartz Road to Moore Road. Once the trail reaches Moore Road, we have options at a future date to continue it north to Moore Road Park utilizing part of the existing Moore Road.

At the Park Board meeting, information will be provided explaining in greater detail the proposed improvements to Parkway Blvd. and how a trail could be incorporated along the north side from Hartz Road to Moore Road.