

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

FORT COLLINS CITY COUNCIL

ITEM NUMBER: 13 A-C

DATE: August 17, 2004

STAFF: Tom Frazier
Kathleen Reavis

SUBJECT

Items Relating to the Mason Transportation Corridor Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail Project.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Resolution and of the Ordinances on First Reading.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The State's Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) program has awarded an \$80,000 grant to the City of Fort Collins to help build the Mason Transportation Corridor (MTC) trail project. This new grant funding will be added to the existing BCC funds and the grant funds from the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) to fully fund the first phase of trail construction from the Spring Creek trail to the future Fossil Creek trail along the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad corridor.

In addition, staff is requesting that \$1,000,000 be temporarily transferred from the existing general fund reserve identified for transportation purposes to the MTC trail project budget. This temporary transfer of funds would be re-paid to the general fund reserves in 2005 by the MTC BCC funds available in 2005. This temporary fund transfer is necessary to bid the whole trail project for construction in 2004, which is likely to result in more favorable construction bids. Without this temporary transfer, the City would be required to bid a portion of the trail project for construction in 2004 and then have a separate bid process in 2005 for the remaining portion of the trail construction. Splitting the bid process into multiple years would likely result in higher construction costs and timeline delays for the project.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- A. Resolution 2004-095 Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into an Agreement with the State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund in Order for the City to Receive Grant Funding for the Mason Transportation Corridor Trail Project.
- B. First Reading of Ordinance No. 129, 2004, Appropriating Funds to the Building Community Choices (BCC) Capital Projects Fund, Mason Transportation Corridor (MTC) Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail Project, from The State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund.

- C. First Reading of Ordinance No. 130, 2004, Appropriating Funds to the Building Community Choices (BCC) Capital Projects Fund, Mason Street Transportation Corridor (MTC) Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail Project, from the General Fund Reserves on a Temporary Basis to Allow the City to Contract for all of the Construction Improvements to the Mason Transportation Corridor Trail Project in 2004.

This Council action will authorize the Mayor to enter into an agreement with The State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund for the City to receive \$80,000 for the MTC trail project as well as appropriate these new grant funds into the project's budget. In addition, this action will appropriate \$1 million into the MTC trail project's budget on a temporary basis until it can be repaid by the sales tax cash flow in 2005. The MTC project's budget will repay the \$1 million back to the City's General Fund reserve account in 2005. These funds will be used in 2004 to construct the bicycle/pedestrian trail in a more timely cost effective manner. Currently, the MTC project does not have sufficient funds appropriated in 2004 to bid the entire trail segment. A portion of the MTC funding is in the 2005 budget. In transferring these funds, the MTC project will be able to advertise for bid the entire trail segment insuring a more competitive bid and completion of trail construction earlier in 2005. This transfer will have no negative financial impact on the General Fund reserves account.

BACKGROUND

Transportation Services is nearing completion of the engineering phase of the Mason Transportation Corridor (MTC) bicycle/pedestrian trail. Staff anticipates advertising for construction bids in September 2004 and the construction process being completed by Spring 2005.

The MTC trail construction budget is approximately \$2.8 million based upon the most recent engineering estimate for the project. This includes construction of the trail from the Spring Creek trail to the Fossil Creek trail (approx. 3.5 miles). Of the construction budget, approximately \$1.8 has already been appropriated in the 2004 budget from Building Community Choices (BCC) and Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) grant funds. Pending approval of this agenda item by City Council, the new grant funding from GOCO would be added to the available funds for 2004. The remaining \$1 million needed for construction was to be appropriated in 2005 as part of the regular BCC funding appropriation schedule.

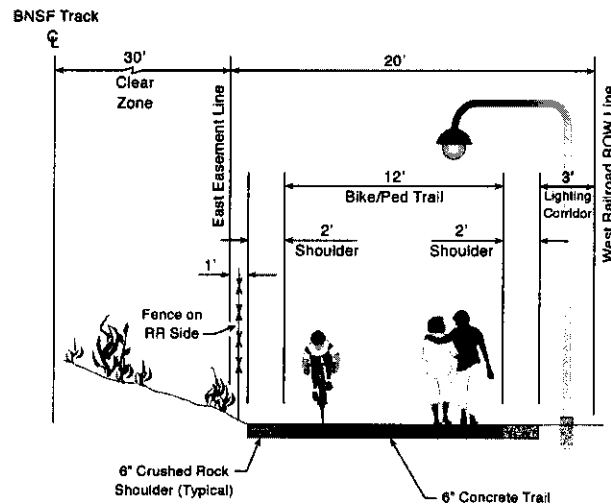
Without this advancement of funds from 2005 to 2004, the MTC trail project will need to be advertised in two separate bid packages. The first would be done in September 2004 for approximately 1.5 miles of trail and the second would be in January 2005 for the remaining two miles. By doing these relatively small segments separately, the City limits the potential of economies of scale for the contractor and increases the costs associated with mobilization of crews/materials due to the need to stage two separate projects at different times.

The MTC bicycle/pedestrian trail system will be a significant enhancement for the Fort Collins community, offering a convenient north/south route for cyclists and pedestrians along the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad corridor. The MTC trail system will be designed as a shared bicycle and pedestrian facility with signalized street crossings at Harmony, Horsetooth, and Drake roads. The City will continue to pursue any funding options that include federal, state and local sources, as well as public-private partnerships, to further enhance the project with such features as bicycle/pedestrian grade-separated structures (underpasses) in the future.

The City will not be proceeding with the other elements of the MTC at this time, such as the Bus Rapid Transit system, improvements through Colorado State University, or conversion of Mason and Howes Streets to two-way travel in the downtown area.

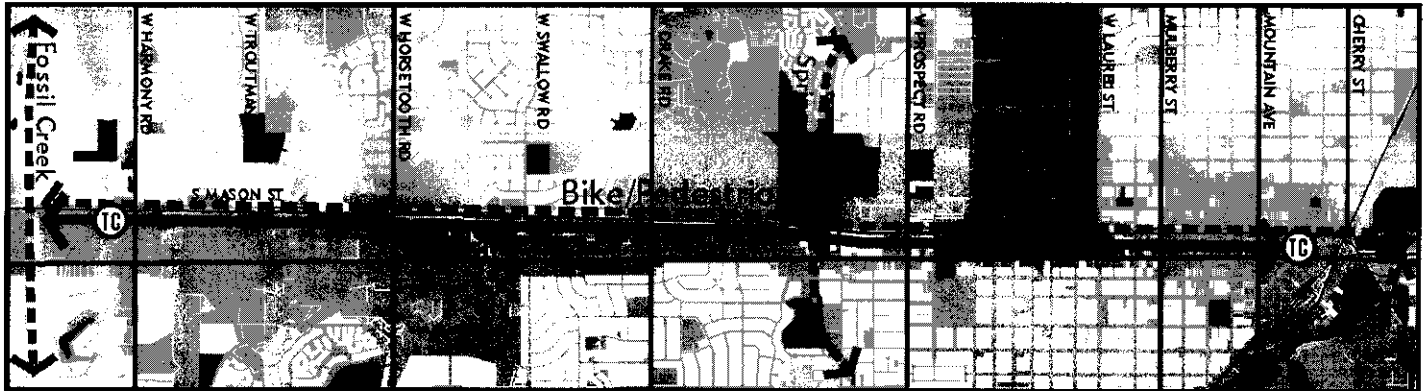
The MTC trail was committed to and funded by the 1997 "Building Community Choices" 1/4 cent sales tax and by a Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grant from the Colorado Department of Transportation and the North Front Range Transportation and Air Quality Planning Council. In addition, the MTC trail project has been awarded additional grant funds from Great Outdoors Colorado.

MTC Trail Cross Section
Looking South from Swallow Road



Map of MTC project

City is only pursuing the Bike/Pedestrian Trail portion of the project
from the Spring Creek Trail to the Fossil Creek Trail



RESOLUTION 2004-095
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS
AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT
WITH THE STATE BOARD OF THE GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO
TRUST FUND IN ORDER FOR THE CITY TO RECEIVE GRANT
FUNDING FOR THE MASON TRANSPORTATION
CORRIDOR TRAIL PROJECT

WHEREAS, the City is nearing completion of the engineering phase of the Mason Transportation Corridor (MTC) bicycle/pedestrian trail and it is anticipated that construction bids will be advertised in September 2004 and that the construction process will be completed by Spring, 2005; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund (GOCO) has awarded an \$80,000 grant to the City to assist in building the MTC trail project; and

WHEREAS, the Council has determined that it is in the best interest of the City that the Mayor enter into an agreement with GOCO in order for the City to receive the \$80,000 in grant funding for the MTC trail project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS that the Mayor is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with the Colorado State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund in order for the City to receive a grant in the sum of \$80,000 to assist in the funding of the Mason Transportation Corridor bicycle/pedestrian trail project.

Passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council held this 17th day of August, A.D. 2004.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

ORDINANCE NO. 129, 2004
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS
APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO THE BUILDING COMMUNITY CHOICES
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND, MASON TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR
BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN TRAIL PROJECT, FROM THE STATE BOARD
OF THE GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO TRUST FUND

WHEREAS, on April 8, 1997, the voters of the City approved Ordinance No. 30, 1997, authorizing the imposition of a quarter cent sales and use tax for the purpose of generating revenues to construct certain transportation projects described in the "Building Community Choices" ("BCC") capital improvement program; and

WHEREAS, one such project approved for funding by the voters was the Mason Transportation Corridor project, Phases 1 and 2; and

WHEREAS, included within the scope of the Mason Transportation Corridor project is the construction of a bicycle/pedestrian trail (approximately 3.5 miles) along Mason Street from the Spring Creek Trail to the Fossil Creek Trail, offering a convenient north/south route for cyclists and pedestrians along the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad corridor, and including signalized street crossings at Harmony, Horsetooth, and Drake Roads (the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, the State's Great Outdoors Colorado ("GOCO") program has awarded the City an \$80,000 grant to help build the Project; and

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted Resolution 2004-095, on August 17, 2004, authorizing the City to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund for the receipt of GOCO funds to be used for construction of improvements to the Mason Transportation Corridor project; and

WHEREAS, Transportation Services is nearing completion of the engineering phase of the Project and staff anticipates advertising for construction bids in September 2004 and the construction process being completed by Spring 2005; and

WHEREAS, the Project budget is approximately \$2.8 million based upon the most recent engineering estimate for the project and of the construction budget, approximately \$1.8 has already been appropriated in the 2004 budget from BCC and Colorado Department of Transportation ("CDOT") grant funds; and

WHEREAS, Article V, Section 9, of the Charter of the City of Fort Collins permits the City Council to make supplemental appropriations by ordinance at any time during the fiscal year, provided that the total amount of such supplemental appropriations, in combination with all previous appropriations for that fiscal year, does not exceed the current estimate of actual and anticipated revenues to be received during the fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, City staff has determined that the appropriation of proceeds from the Great Outdoors Colorado grant as described herein will not cause the total amount appropriated in the Capital Projects Fund - Mason Transportation Corridor project to exceed the then current estimate of actual and anticipated revenues to be received during the fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Council to appropriate the sum of \$80,000 from the GOCO Board for the purpose of designing and constructing the MTC Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS as follows:

Section 1. That there is hereby appropriated for expenditure from unanticipated revenue in the Building Community Choices Capital Projects Fund, Mason Transportation Corridor Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail Project, the sum of EIGHTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$80,000) from the State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund, for the purpose of designing and constructing the MTC Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail Project.

Introduced, considered favorably on first reading, and ordered published this 17th day of August, A.D. 2004, and to be presented for final passage on the 7th day of September, A.D. 2004.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Passed and adopted on final reading this 7th day of September, A.D. 2004.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

ORDINANCE NO. 130, 2004
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS
APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO THE BUILDING COMMUNITY CHOICES CAPITAL
PROJECTS FUND, MASON STREET TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR
BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN TRAIL PROJECT, FROM THE GENERAL FUND RESERVES ON
A TEMPORARY BASIS TO ALLOW THE CITY TO CONTRACT FOR ALL OF THE
CONSTRUCTION IMPROVEMENTS TO THE MASON TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR
TRAIL PROJECT IN 2004

WHEREAS, on April 8, 1997, the voters of the City approved Ordinance No. 30, 1997, authorizing the imposition of a quarter cent sales and use tax for the purpose of generating revenues to construct certain transportation projects described in the "Building Community Choices" ("BCC") capital improvement program; and

WHEREAS, one such project approved for funding by the voters was the Mason Transportation Corridor project, Phases 1 and 2; and

WHEREAS, included within the scope of the Mason Transportation Corridor project is the construction of a bicycle/pedestrian trail (approximately 3.5 miles) along Mason Street from the Spring Creek Trail to the Fossil Creek Trail, offering a convenient north/south route for cyclists and pedestrians along the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad corridor, and including signalized street crossings at Harmony, Horsetooth, and Drake Roads ("Project"); and

WHEREAS, Transportation Services is nearing completion of the engineering phase of the Project and staff anticipates advertising for construction bids in September 2004 and the construction process being completed by Spring 2005; and

WHEREAS, the Project budget is approximately \$2.8 million based upon the most recent engineering estimate for the project and of the construction budget, approximately \$1.8 has already been appropriated in the 2004 budget from BCC and Colorado Department of Transportation ("CDOT") grant funds; and

WHEREAS, on August 20, 2002, City Council adopted Resolution 2002-081, adopting a strategy for long-term transportation capital funding for the City; and

WHEREAS, one of the elements for funding transportation capital projects, included in the aforementioned Resolution, was an annual General Fund allocation of \$1,000,000 to be used for transportation capital projects, including the improvement and extension of the Mason Transportation Corridor project; and

WHEREAS, staff is recommending using the proceeds from the \$1,000,000 from General Fund prior year reserves designated for transportation capital, and \$1,720,000 in existing unspent and unencumbered appropriations in the Building Community Choices - Mason Street Corridor project to construct the Project improvements; and

WHEREAS, the City's 2005 Annual Appropriation Ordinance will include an appropriation of \$1,373,051 in the Building Community Choices - Mason Street Corridor project, from 0.25 cent sales and use tax, of which \$1,000,000 will be used to reimburse the City's General Fund for the use of the prior year reserves recommended for funding the Project in 2004; and

WHEREAS, Article V, Section 9, of the Charter also permits the City Council to appropriate by ordinance at any time during the fiscal year such funds for expenditure as may be available from reserves accumulated in prior years, notwithstanding that such reserves were not previously appropriated; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Council to appropriate the sum of \$1,000,000 from General Fund prior year reserves, to be used with existing appropriations, totaling \$1,720,000, to be used for construction of bicycle/pedestrian trail improvements to the Mason Transportation Corridor project, from the Spring Creek Trail to the Fossil Creek Trail.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS as follows:

Section 2. That there is hereby appropriated from prior year reserves in the General Fund, the sum of ONE MILLION DOLLARS (\$1,000,000), for transfer to the Capital Projects Fund - Building Community Choices - Mason Street Transportation Corridor project, and appropriated therein to be used for construction of bicycle/pedestrian trail improvements to the Mason Transportation Corridor project, from the Spring Creek Trail to the Fossil Creek Trail.

Introduced, considered favorably on first reading, and ordered published this 17th day of August, A.D. 2004, and to be presented for final passage on the 7th day of September, A.D. 2004.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Passed and adopted on final reading this 7th day of September, A.D. 2004.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk